

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Autumn 2016
Newsletter
Issue No. 384



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

Well, summer is almost ended and autumn cannot be far away. We have enjoyed wonderful weather this year although it has to be said that our gardens could do with a good downpour to revive the grass. It is only three months since the last Newsletter but, in that short time, so much has occurred which has resulted in so much in the world feeling different. Of course, I am referring to the Referendum held on 23rd June. Overnight, once the result of the Referendum had been declared, we had entered a new world. David Cameron resigned immediately as Prime Minister and Theresa May became our new Prime Minister within a few days without any involvement of the public. Theresa May insists that 'Brexit means Brexit' but no-one seems to know what Brexit means. As a nation, we will have to wait and see what the outcome of this means to each and every one of us. The Referendum divided the nation and it would seem that many of those who voted did not fully appreciate the consequences of their actions.

Before we say goodbye to this year's summer, I thought that members might like to be reminded of spring by the article on page 5 showing photos of the flowering cherry blossom in Westgate Bay Avenue in early May. This year's display was the best that I can remember. Sadly, heavy rain finished off the display within a week of the photos being taken. If you haven't seen this display of flowering cherry blossom, do make a note of looking out for it next spring. It is surely something to look forward to seeing next year.

But before then, do take advantage of this year's Heritage Open Days from Thursday, 8th September to Sunday, 11th September. The number of places/events in the area that will be open to the public without charge is greater than ever. Many of the places are not normally open to the public and so this is a great opportunity to find out more of our local history, heritage and culture. Thanet District Council has produced a superb brochure listing all of the places/events throughout Thanet which are participating in this year's Heritage Open Days. TDC has also put the information on the web for those with internet access. Those places/events in our area are listed on page 3 of the Newsletter and TDC's poster promoting Heritage Open Days is reproduced on page 2 which provides information on accessing the full information electronically. But remember, many of the places/events are open only on a specific day and at a specific time. Copies (free) of the brochure can be obtained from Droit House or any of TDC's other visitor information centres. Do get yourself a copy.

I do hope that members will enjoy this Newsletter. Contributions from members are always welcome. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new member who has recently joined the Society:

Uwe Derksen

Roger Hayes
Membership Secretary

The Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

will take place at the Walpole Bay Hotel on Thursday,
6th October 2016

Any proposals or nominations should be submitted as
soon as possible before the meeting to the Secretary at:

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

Geoff Orton
Secretary

Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2016 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 6th October 2016) are effective from 1st October 2016 and are shown on the back page of this Newsletter. It has, unfortunately, become necessary to increase the subscription rates to offset higher postage rates, etc. The proposed increase in subscription rates is £1.00 for each of the categories (excluding Juniors and Corporate members). 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 after the AGM 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

Roger Hayes
Membership Secretary



heritage open days



Waterloo Tower – Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House and Gardens



Steam Tug Cervia, Ramsgate

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS THANET

8th - 11th September



St Peter's Village Tour



Tudor House, Margate

Welcome to England's Favourite Heritage Festival!

With over 30 sites taking part around Thanet it's a great opportunity to explore our fantastic history, architecture and culture – all for FREE!

To find out more visit:

www.heritageopendays.org.uk | www.visitthanet.co.uk/heritageopendays

Or pick up a brochure from your local Visitor Information Centre

In partnership with



National Trust



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Linking together Thanet's coast and heritage.
www.visitthanet.co.uk/thanetcoast



Heritage Open Days 2016

Thursday, 8th September to
Sunday, 11th September

Thanet District Council, supported by the Coastal Communities Fund, and working in partnership with groups and sites all over Thanet has brought together an exciting programme of free events celebrating our fantastic local history, architecture and culture for this year's Heritage Open Days. TDC has published a superb brochure containing full details of each of the sites participating year complete with opening times. Copies of this brochure are available from the Visitor Information Centre at Droit House. Full details are also available on the web - see poster on the opposite page. TDC deserve congratulations for the production of this brochure with special thanks to TDC's Heritage Engagement Officer, Emily Greenaway.

The sites in the Margate area participating this year are:

Margate

- Margate Theatre Royal
- RIBA Sandcastle Challenge
- Margate Museum
- Tudor House
- Drapers Windmill
- Dalby Square Townscape Heritage Initiative
 - Site tour of 12 Arthur Road *
 - Walking tour of Dalby Square *
 - Exhibition in the Gardens
- Sea Bathing Heritage Exhibition (at Resort Studios, Athelstan Road)
- Thanet Press - Union Crescent
- A Clifftop Wander - Margate Coastal Park Celebration 2016
- Dreamland *

* Pre-booking required for these

Westgate-on-Sea

- Westgate Heritage Centre
- Town Hall Buildings

Birchington

- Powell-Cotton Museum

In addition, there are also a range of attractions at Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Manston participating in this year's Heritage Open Days. Full details of all of them are available from the brochure or from the website. Amongst those at **Ramsgate** are:

- St Edward's Presbytery
- St Lawrence College Chapel
- Montifiore Synagogue

Many of the places/events participating in this year's Heritage Open Days are only open on one day during the three-day event and their opening hours vary from place to place. To take full advantage of these attractions and to avoid disappointment you should obtain a brochure in advance and plan your visits with great care.

These Heritage Open Days deserve to be supported and our members are recommended to take advantage of the opportunity to visit some of these places/events. □ **JB**

Dr Dawn Crouch made Westgate's first Freeman in recognition of her many years of service to Westgate

We would like to congratulate Dr Dawn Crouch, our Consultant Historian, on becoming the first ever Freeman of Westgate-on-Sea. At a ceremony in the Town Hall Buildings, Councillor Martyn Pennington, Vice Chairman of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council presented the award to Dawn and Sir Roger Gale MP was the Guest of Honour at the event. Dawn was given the award for her many years of service to Westgate-on-Sea including:

1988-2000 Foundation Governor of St Saviour's

C of E Junior School Westgate

1988-2004 Member of St Saviour's PCC

1988-2004 represented St Saviour's on Thanet

Deanery Synod

1993-2004 and 2007-2010 Churchwarden of St Saviour's Church

2004-2012 Chairman of the Friends of St Saviour's

1995-1999 Postgraduate research on history of Westgate

1999 Awarded PhD by University of Kent

2005 Started the Westgate Heritage Centre

2008 Westgate Heritage Centre put on an official footing – opened by Roger Gale MP

2012 handed over the administration to Committee

2012 to date "Consultant Historian" for the Westgate Heritage Centre

Dawn said the award was completely unexpected and she was delighted and very moved to be rewarded in this way. After the ceremony, Douglas Neve co-ordinated a new quarter-peal on the bells of St Saviour's Church which, in honour of Dawn, was called the Dawn Crouch Doubles. □



Dr Dawn Crouch proudly holding her Freeman's scroll with Cllr Martyn Penning (Vice-Chairman of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council) and Sir Roger Gale MP in Westgate's Council Chamber

Aerial photograph of Margate dated by Chris Sandwell



The aerial photograph of Margate on the left was published in the Spring 2016 Newsletter and readers were invited to date the photo. Chris Sandwell very kindly responded as follows:

Lovely aerial photo of Margate, I can give you a time span for this photo. On the west slipway, the Eliza Harriett can be seen and she was on station at Margate until the autumn of 1927. Demolition of that slipway commenced on the 18th April 1928 and was completed by the end of May.

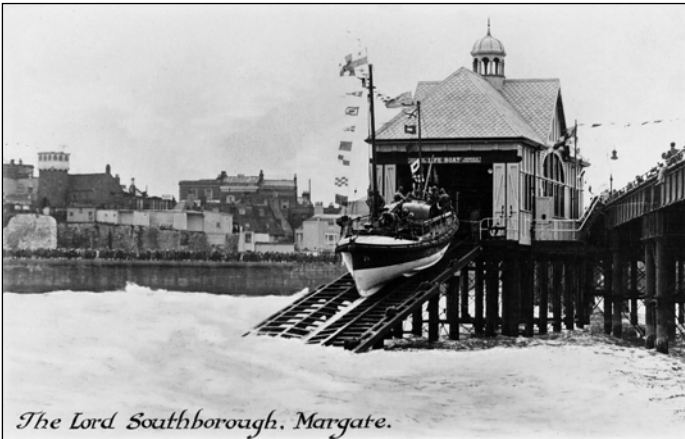
The boathouse for the Lord Southborough, on the east side of the Jetty, was completed by March 1925. So, in short, the photograph must have been taken between March 1925 and the autumn of 1927.

Thanks to Chris's expert knowledge of Margate's lifeboats, we now know within just a few months just when the photo was taken.

I have located another aerial photo of Margate which was probably taken around the same time. Can any of our readers date it? The photo shows Cobb's Brewery and children can be seen in the playground at Holy Trinity School and there is much activity at the Lido swimming pool. How Margate has changed since those days! □ **JB**



The former Margate Lifeboat 'Eliza Harriet'



The Lord Southborough, Margate.

The launch of the former Margate lifeboat 'The Lord Southborough' from the boathouse on the east side of the Jetty



The magnificent display of flowering cherry trees in full bloom along Westbrook Avenue this May

These photographs were taken on 3rd May but, sadly, within a week of taking them, virtually all of the blossom was gone as a result of heavy rain. Each year, when the trees are in full bloom, it is a clear sign that spring has well and truly arrived!



Margate's sole surviving former K6 Telephone Kiosk

Its last 10 years in pictures

The K6 telephone kiosk on the Stone Pier (referred to by many as the Harbour Arm) has featured on a number of occasions in the Newsletter since 2008. As it is ten years since I first photographed this telephone box and it seemed appropriate, when I saw the state of the telephone box in early June of the year, that the telephone box should again feature in the Newsletter with some photos taken from 2006 to 2016. The first photo was taken in March 2006 when the K6 was in its original location in Norfolk Road outside the Norfolk Hotel. My memory tells me that it was still in use at that time. The second photo shows it, I believe, still in use after the Norfolk Hotel had been demolished and the area behind the K6 boarded up. By the time the third photo was taken in March 2010, the K6 had been taken out of use and it had been vandalised with windows broken and much litter both inside and outside the kiosk. It was around that time that Margate Charter Trustees 'adopted' the kiosk from British Telecom. Since that time, it is understood

responsibility for the upkeep of the K6 lies with the Harbour Arm Company Ltd. The kiosk is not a listed building (it is the only K6 in Thanet that is not listed). Since its removal from Norfolk Road to the Stone Pier in 2010, it has been vandalised and misused on many occasions. Broken panes of glass have had to be replaced on numerous occasions and fresh coats of paint applied to cover the graffiti. As these photos show, the K6 was a real credit to the town in 2013 but, regrettably, it has continued to be subject to vandalism and misuse. In early June of this year, it was found to be in an unsightly state once more but I am pleased to report that when I visited it on 12th August I found it in good order. This K6 certainly serves as a heritage feature and adds interest to the Harbour area. It is good that action was taken by Margate Charter Trustees six years ago to 'adopt' the K6 and to find a suitable new home and use for it. Let's hope that it will be treated by everyone with the respect that it deserves. □ **JB**



7th March 2006



12th November 2008



16th March 2010



In its new location on the
Stone Pier
2nd June 2010

The three photographs above show the K6 in its original location in Norfolk Road, Cliftonville



29th August 2010



10th October 2010



8th February 2011



2nd March 2011



12th March 2011



10th April 2011



16th April 2011



6th October 2013



8th June 2016



12th August 2016

The former Parade Cinema re-opened as The Old Kent Market earlier this year

It is good to see this lovely building restored and once again, open to the public. If you haven't yet visited it, do so - you will not be disappointed. It even contains an old London bus which has been converted to serve as a cafe.



The facade of the building has been beautifully painted with the decorative features picked nicely picked out.



These photographs of some of the decorative features on the front of the building were taken in October 2013 when the building was not in use. □ **JB**

One of Margate's fine Arts & Crafts houses which no longer exists. Can you identify its exact location?



STANDERWICK, NORTHDOWN AVENUE, MARGATE.

The "Victory" Luger Memorial on the Stone Pier - an update

This memorial tablet has featured a number of times in our Newsletter in recent years. It was unveiled on 27th April 2013 and, with two years, the lettering had weathered badly. The lettering was re-done at the end of May 2015 but has already become illegible in places as can be seen in the bottom photograph below. □ **JB**



27th April 2013

18th March 2015



9th June 2015



12th August 2016



Local authority boundary disputes at Westgate!

Thanet District Council's decision in 2014 to create a parish council for Westgate following TDC's community governance review continues to reverberate and cause much controversy at Westgate. The primary purpose of that community governance review was, of course, to determine whether a town council for Margate should be created in place of the Margate Charter Trustees. There was a distinct lack of support from the townspeople of Margate for that proposal but there was some support for a parish council to be created for Westgate which TDC interpreted as a desire for Westgate to secede from the Charter Trustees and to have its own parish council (as it last did in 1935).

A parish council for Westgate came into being by TDC formally making The District of Thanet (Reorganisation of Community Governance) (Westgate Parish Council) Order 2015 which came into force on 1st April 2015. Subsequently, the parish council resolved to change its name to Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council and TDC later endorsed a further change of name to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council.

The boundary of the new parish council was shown in a plan attached to the Order. Criticism of that plan by a local resident resulted in TDC subsequently issuing a replacement plan which showed more clearly where the new authority's boundary lies. That plan showed very clearly that Essex Road, Chester Road, Queens Road and Hockeredge Gardens were outside the new authority's area. I expressed concern to TDC regarding this anomaly and received a most helpful reply from TDC's then Democratic Services & Scrutiny Manager, Glenn Back, on 8th April 2015 which read:

The boundary of the Westgate parish is exactly the same as the boundary of the existing District Ward of Westgate-on-Sea. The District Council does not have the power to alter Ward boundaries, and that would have to be considered as part of a 'periodic electoral review' of the District, which is undertaken via the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. When undertaking the Community Governance Review, reports that were prepared made it clear to Councillors that any suggestion that a Ward boundary be altered would greatly complicate the review and take elements of it outside of the powers delegated to District Councils under the 2007 Act. Accordingly, no such amendments were suggested or agreed.

You might be aware that the Council is committed to undertaking a District-wide periodic electoral review after the May 2015 election and before May 2019. That review would indeed consider Ward boundaries (and the number of Councillors serving in each) so that any changes can be implemented for the May 2019 elections.

The issue of the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council's eastern boundary once again came up at the August meeting of the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association meeting when a Westgate resident raised the matter of the graffiti in Chester Road. The Chairman of the Town Council (Cllr Tom King) was present at that meeting and he responded, at length, on the amount of graffiti in Westgate and what the Town Council is going to do about it. I then informed

the meeting that Chester Road is not in the Town Council's area as it is in Westbrook Ward - along with Essex Road, Queens Road and Hockeredge Gardens. Cllr King argued otherwise and insisted that Chester Road and the other roads named above were all within the CT8 postcode area and therefore within the Town Council's area. The Chairman of the Residents' Association, Cllr Mick Tomlinson, who is one of TDC's councillors for Westbrook Ward, then entered the fray by confirming that the four roads fall within Westbrook Ward. Cllr King steadfastly refused to accept that he was wrong. Later that evening, when the Town Council's proposed acquisition (by way of an annual licence) of both the hut and a small area of land at the St Mildred's Bay Games Centre was raised by Cllr King, Cllr Tomlinson expressed serious concern that, as the games centre was in Westbrook, he had not previously been made aware of the Town Council's proposal to encroach into Westbrook. Once again, the issue of the Town Council's eastern boundary came up with the erroneous claim being made by Cllr King that the St Mildred's Bay Car Park falls within the Town Council's boundary.

Later on in the meeting, Westgate's eastern boundary came up for the third time that evening when the matter of where the old Borough of Margate sign, that TDC had earlier this year removed - at the request of the Town Council - from the edge of the golf club's car park in Canterbury Road, was to be reinstated.

Cllr Tom King served as a TDC district councillor for Westgate-on-Sea Ward until the May 2015 elections. In Glenn Back's reply (see above), he had stated:

...reports that were prepared made it clear to Councillors that any suggestion that a Ward boundary be altered would greatly complicate the review and take elements of it outside of the powers delegated to District Councils under the 2007 Act. Accordingly, no such amendments were suggested or agreed.

Despite Cllr King's dedication to the creation of a separate authority for Westgate, it would seem that he was not aware of the decision to adhere to the use of the District Ward boundary as the boundary for the new parish council (later to become the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council).

Perhaps the time has arrived for the Town Council to hold a Beating the Bounds ceremony just as Margate Borough Council did in 1935 when Westgate was 'swallowed up' by Margate. Such an event might result in Westgate's town councillors - and particularly the Chairman of the Town Council - having a better knowledge of where the Town Council's boundary currently lies (at least, until it is possibly changed in time for the May 2019 elections). On reflection, it must be regretted that a Beating the Bounds ceremony was not held shortly after the new local authority came into being. Had it been done so - as I had suggested when I gave my talk at the United Reformed Church at Westgate to the Westgate Heritage Centre members on the 1935 Beating the Bounds ceremony - these acrimonious boundary disputes could have been so easily avoided.

Who was it that ever said that local government was dull? Well, whoever it was, was wrong! □

JB

The latest news in the saga of the signs in Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea



The photograph shows the location of all three signs that stood just inside the Westgate & Birchington Golf Club's car park at the junction of Canterbury Road and Domneva Road. The photograph was taken prior to May 2016



This photograph - taken in May 2016 - shows the removal of the large Margate sign but with the Cinque Ports sign still in place



This photograph - taken in July 2016 - shows that the two scaffolding poles along with the Cinque Ports sign were removed subsequent to the taking of the second photo on this page. This photo also shows the 'Down to Margate' poster considered by some to be ungentle and unsuitable for Westgate-on-Sea

These three signs standing just inside the Westgate & Birchington Golf Club's car park on Canterbury Road have featured a number of times in our Newsletter. The two signs on the right seen in the first paragraph probably date from the late-1960s/early-70s and almost certainly pre-date the reorganisation of local government in 1974 when Thanet District Council was created. The Westgate sign seen on the left was put up by the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association some six years ago. The coat-of-arms design used on the Westgate sign was a creation of the crested china manufacturers in the early-1900s and was used by a number of Westgate organisations and clubs since that time on their stationery and publications.

When TDC made The District of Thanet (Reorganisation of Community Governance) (Westgate Parish Council) Order 2015 which created Westgate Parish Council, one of the first decisions which the parish council made was to instruct TDC to remove the Margate sign (along with the Cinque Ports sign) because the Canterbury Road boundary of the reduced Margate had moved eastwards to just beyond the Quex Road junction. It would seem that the parish council did not seek approval from Margate Charter Trustees to the removal of the two Margate signs. It is hoped that these two signs will be re-erected near the Margate boundary in the near future but it is likely that KCC as the highways authority will first need to give their approval to the re-siting of the signs. This saga is likely to run for a long time yet but, in the meantime, the Theatre Royal have put up their advertising notice for their show 'Down to Margate' very near to where the Margate signs were previously.

At the meeting of the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association held on 8th August 2016, the Chairman of the Westgate-on-Sea Town Council (Cllr Tom King), in response to a question about the Margate signs, reported that he expected TDC to re-erect the Margate signs further along the Canterbury Road, possibly near The Hussar at Garlinge. Cllr King also reported to the meeting that the existing Westgate sign will be changed to incorporate the logo (see below) approved by the Town Council last year. The logo is based on the design that can be seen on the south side of the Town Hall Buildings in Westgate. When the parish council (as it then was) decided to use this design as their logo, the view was expressed that the Westgate sign should be re-located to the western boundary at the Hengist Road junction. The involvement of four local authorities (the Town Council, the District Council, Margate Charter Trustees and Kent County Council) in the relocation of these signs will almost certainly result in this saga running for a long, long time yet. □

JB

Westgate-on-Sea
Town Council's
logo



The Queen's 90th Birthday Celebrations at The Piazza, Margate on Sunday, 12th June 2016



This special flag celebrating the Queen's 90th Birthday was flown during the occasion from the flagstaff at the Nayland Rock



The Mayor with The Rev Dr Denise Yeldham (Priest-in-Charge, St John's Church). Cllr Rosamund Dixon (Deputy Mayor), Dorothy Collins (Mayoress) and Geoffrey Dixon



The Mayor, Cllr Robin Edwards, proudly waves a handful of Union Flags on her Majesty's 90th Birthday

The children from local schools were each provided with a box containing, sandwiches, cakes and other goodies

Margate Charter Trustees provided an afternoon of fun and food for a number of schoolchildren from each of Margate's junior schools. □ **JB**



Each of the children's boxes was decorated with a Union Flag. The boxes were not to be opened until the word was given. Then the serious business of feeding themselves duly commenced



Gordon Clarkson entertained the children in his inimitable way and proved very popular with the children



These three girls with their faces painted red, white and blue added colour to the occasion

CARNIVAL TIME AT MARGATE

- Sunday, 28th August 2016



The Mayoral party enjoyed a grandstand view of the procession from the balcony of Sands Hotel



The procession was led by this monster of a truck to the delight of many spectators

A large number of spectators lined the route of this year's carnival parade from Palm Bay to Royal Esplanade. This year's carnival was reported to be the largest in Kent: it had 84 floats compared with 68 last year and yet the growth in the number of floats was despite funding cuts of some 60 per cent. The parade was loud and colourful but the absence of any live bands in the parade was, for many in the crowds, disappointing. For some reason, the parade came to a halt in



This WWII American Jeep added interest to the parade

Marine Drive and was at a standstill for some twenty minutes, which was unfortunate for everyone.

As a spectator, I

would comment that it was not obvious what the collection of donations was in aid of. Indeed, one could be forgiven for thinking that some of the collection buckets were in support of the individual floats which the collectors accompanied. The carnival was organised by the Margate Carnival Group. □ **JB**



This Lifeguards decorated vintage VW Beetle float proved popular with the crowds



The Herne Bay Cozy Crew float which was awarded First Prize in the Best Decorated Vehicle class



Detail of the hand-knitted and crocheted artwork

Dreamland Pleasure Park



These photos were taken in July of this year and showed the Dreamland Pleasure Park in full operation. It was good to see the Scenic Railway operating once again and to see a long queue waiting to ride on it. There was a good atmosphere in the Pleasure Park with everyone enjoying themselves. □ **JB**



Dreamland's decision to allow free entry into the Pleasure Park certainly made a difference to their number of visitors and, importantly, to the improved level of takings. It does seem that the management itself is experiencing something of a 'roller-coaster ride' but let us all hope that Dreamland will prove to be a success for our town. It certainly adds another attraction for the town which, judging from the number of visitors to Turner Contemporary, is certainly experiencing a very welcome revival. Margate has so much to offer to visitors as is evidenced by the content of our newsletter.



The above photo shows the information desk near the entrance to the Pleasure Park. The building, in the past served at the Garden Cafe for many years and also as the Skating Rink. But it is believed that it was originally an airship hanger acquired by Dreamland shortly after the end of the First World War when it became surplus to requirements. It measures 200 feet long and is believed to have been originally ordered by the US Coastguard Service during WWI. The building was once the largest of Dreamland's restaurants



The photo on the right shows the Hall by the Sea which was built in the 1850s originally to serve as a railway station but was never used as such. Later it became Dreamland Ballroom and, in 1975, was converted to provide squash courts



Margate remembers those who fell in the Battle of the Somme in 1916



The Mayor of Margate, Cllr Robin Edwards (right) with the Deputy Mayor, Mrs Rosamund Dixon (left) with Geoffrey Dixon, the Deputy Mayor's Consort (centre) at Margate War Memorial on 1st July 2016



The wreath laid by the Mayor on 1st July 2016 to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme which started at 7.30am on 1st July 1916

Just before 7.30am on 1st July 2016, three members of our Society - Tim Keenan, James Brazier and Susan Brazier - assembled at Margate War Memorial to remember those who fell in the Battle of the Somme. At 7.30am precisely, those three persons blew whistles just as the officers had done in France that day 100 years previously as the signal for their infantry soldiers to go 'over the top' and begin their attack on the enemy's trenches. The British Army was to suffer its heaviest casualties on a single day ever; nearly 18,000 were killed in action that day with nearly 40,000 wounded. There is hardly a war memorial in the country which does not contain the name of someone killed in action

on that fateful day. Margate War Memorial is no exception with the name of Pte Edward Everest inscribed on the memorial. He was serving as a private in 'C' Company, 7th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Edward Everest was born at Margate and was aged 23 when he was killed in action. According to the 1911 Census, he was an only child and was living in Clifton Gardens. At that time, he was employed as a motor engineer and was not married. He had answered Lord Kitchener's call to arms and, like so many other soldiers, his name is commemorated on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing as he has no known grave.

Another of Margate's men who fell in the Battle of the Somme in 1916

Men from all walks of life gave their lives for King & Country during the Great War. Death had no regard to privilege or to one's station in life. In my monthly column in the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* during the centenary of the Great War, I have treated each of those who fell equally. However, I felt that it was appropriate for our Newsletter to select an officer who was killed in action on 18th August 1916 and whose loss would have been felt particularly in Margate. Captain Charles Harland Skey as killed instantly when a bomb struck him in the head when he was leading his company in an attack on High Wood near Bazentin-le-Petit. He was aged 24 and serving as a Captain in the Black Watch. He was the son of Lt-Col E. O. Skey who was the principal of Cliftonville College, Arthur Road. Charles Skey was born at Margate and educated at Clifton College, Bristol and Queen's College, Cambridge. Prior to the war, he was a schoolmaster at St Lawrence College, Ramsgate. He had enlisted at the outbreak of the war and was wounded in January 1916 when serving with the Royal Fusiliers.

His father, Lt-Col Oscar Skey, had commanded 'G' Company of the 4/Buffs for many years at Margate.

Like so many of those who fell in the Battle of the Somme, Capt Charles Harland Skey has no no known grave and his

name is inscribed on the Thiepval Memorial to the Missing, France. □ **JB**



Tablet in memory of Capt Charles Harland Skey in the original Holy Trinity Church. This tablet was lost when the church was destroyed by enemy action on June 1, 1943

Ordnance Survey Benchmarks

I recently obtained a copy of this new book from Michael's Bookshop (at 72 King Street, Ramsgate) and it opened up a whole new world to me. I simply could not believe that I had walked past so many of these Ordnance Survey benchmarks without previously noticing them. Once you know what you are looking for and where you might expect to find these marks, it makes walking an even more pleasurable and interesting experience.

The recently-published book *Fading Benchmarks: Thanet's Ordnance Survey Benchmarks* was written by Steve Moore who, until he retired last year, served as a planning officer for Thanet District Council.

The 32-page A5 book is priced at only £3.99 and will provide hours of pleasure to anyone interested in heritage features. The

book is very well illustrated with examples of the different forms of benchmarks which can be found around Thanet. Whilst the exact location of some of the benchmarks illustrated on the book is given, there are also a number of benchmarks illustrated where the location is referred to as 'Cliftonville' or 'Newington' as examples. No doubt these

fantastic illustrations are included in the book to encourage readers to seek out those benchmarks, and other benchmarks, for themselves. The purpose of these Ordnance

Survey benchmarks was to provide local altitude reference points for site development and engineering projects such as drainage works and road construction. Ordnance Survey ceased maintaining

these benchmarks in the early 1970s although the author does say that a few additional benchmarks were put in place to address gaps in the network including in Thanet in the late-1970s/early-1980s. Some benchmarks can be located on the older large-scale Ordnance Survey maps but be warned, many of the benchmarks marked on such maps no longer exist for a variety of reasons.

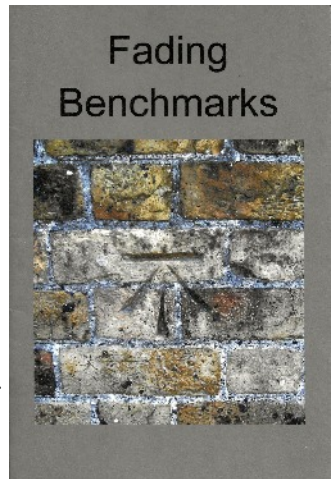


The cut benchmark on the side of the building at the corner of Addington Street and Hawley Square



The cut benchmark on the side of the Royal Mail Collection Office on Addington Road

The Ordnance Survey benchmarks can be found in various forms. The most common seems to be the horizontal line, approximately four inches long, cut into brickwork with an arrow, also cut into the brickwork, beneath pointing to the benchmark. In his book, Steve Moore shows illustrations of a range of other forms of benchmarks including a rivet benchmark which can be found at Palm Bay Public Shelter. I have to admit that I do not think that I would ever have found this particular benchmark without the assistance of the illustration in the book. With the exception of the book's front cover illustration, all of the photos on this page were taken by James Brazier.



The front cover of the book by Steve Moore



Postscript: Steve Moore is also the author (jointly with his father, Alan Moore) of the book *Moaning Minnie: Thanet's Civil Defence Sirens* which is also published by Michael's Bookshop at £6.99.

Sadly, Margate's once sole surviving air-raid siren that stood at Dane Valley seems not to have survived. □

JB



The cut benchmark on the side of the building at the corner of Victoria Road and Thanet Road

The rivet benchmark on Palm Bay Public Shelter



Close-up of rivet benchmark also showing an incised the arrow mark



What's On

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

Date	Subject
2016	
6th October	'Civic Voice' by John Walker, Deputy Chairman, Civic Voice/President, Kent Federation of Amenity Societies/Chairman, Ramsgate Society
3rd November	'Quex Gardens' by Sue Harris, Head Gardener, Quex Gardens
8th December	Christmas Soiree (details to be confirmed)
2017	
January	No meeting
2nd February	'The Medway Queen - Heroine of Dunkirk' by Pam & Mark Bathurst, Medway Queen Preservation Society
2nd March	'The Rites of Passage: Birth, Marriage & Mourning' by Lee Ault, Curator of Dickens Museum/President, Broadstairs Society
6th April	'The Secret Gardens of Sandwich' by Steve Edney, Head Gardener, The Salutation, Sandwich (Steve Edney and his team of five gardeners and one student have transformed and restored to their former glory the historic gardens at The Salutation designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens)
11th May	Town Pride Awards

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



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

On the first Saturday of each month, at **10.30am**, there will be a talk by one, or more, of our members. Also, during the **Autumn/Winter season 2016/17**, the Heritage Centre will be open on Wednesday morning from 10.00am to 1.00pm on 12th October, 9th November, 7th December and 11th January. Do come and see our Collection. Home-made refreshments are available at our meetings

Date	Subject
2016	
8th October	A chance to see the film taken of the ceremony held on 25th June when Dr Dawn Crouch was appointed the first Honorary Freeman of the town of Westgate-on-Sea
5th November	'Sir William Quiller Orchardson RA 1833-1910' - an illustrated talk including readings from his daughter's book about life with her father, a well-known portrait painter, friendship with their in-laws, the Moxons, when both families lived in Sea Road
3rd December	Special guest speaker Hugh Gault (Kingsley Wood's biographer) and Jane Gallagher (Senior Special Collections Assistant at the University of Kent) will tell us about Kingsley Wood, who was MP for Woolwich, Chancellor of the Exchequer and citizen of Kent. He was MP for Woolwich West from 1918 to his death as Chancellor of the Exchequer in September 1943. He worked alongside Churchill, Chamberlain, Baldwin and Lloyd George, amongst many others. Kingsley Wood had a house in Westgate-on-Sea during the 1920s
2017	
2nd January	'The story of another postcard' - back by popular demand. Graham & Brenda Field will show how the back of a postcard and painstaking research can often tell a fascinating story of other people's lives

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



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

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

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

Committee for 2015/16:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb, 14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 01843 293169)
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Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople, Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 01843 221689)
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Secretary: Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085)
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(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:**

Proposed subscription rates for 2016/17 (subject to approval at the AGM to be held on 6th October 2016):

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£12.00	£16.00	£4.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£10.00	£14.00	£2.00	£20.00

Please note that Life Membership subscription is no longer available

and send it to the Membership Secretary, Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ

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Electronic Newsletter means you will have a full-colour copy e-mailed to you which you can view on screen or print