

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Spring 2017  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 386



Margate Civic Society is a  
Founder Member  
of Civic Voice

This is the time of year when the council tax bills for next year will shortly be dropping through our letter boxes. Undoubtedly, the size of the increases over the current year's bills will cause concern to many households at a time when inflation is beginning to bite following the devaluation of sterling as a consequence of Brexit. Household incomes are not rising at anything near the rate of inflation which means, of course, that more households will have to tighten their belts even more that they have had to do over the last few years.

But that does not seem to worry Westgate-on-Sea Town Council which has recently approved an increase of 41.07% in its precept. That increase is on top of the increase last year of 5.14% which itself was above the rate of inflation. The combined effect is to increase the precept by nearly 50% over two years. One can only question whether the residents of Westgate would have been in support of having their own parish council (as it was initially) three years ago had they known! Furthermore, Westgate's precept for 2017/18 has been held down by using its cash balances. Consequently, all things being equal, there will be yet another large increase in the precept for 2018/19 to make up for the absence of such balances in a year's time.

But there is good news for Margate's council tax payers as the Margate Charter Trustees approved a reduction in their precept for 2017/18 over that for 2016/17 of 50%.

However, we also know that KCC are increasing their precept by 3.99%, that TDC are increasing their precept by 2.30%, that the Kent & Medway Fire & Rescue Authority will be increasing their precept by 1.87% and that the Police & Crime Commissioner for Kent precept will be increasing by 3.29% over its 2016/17 level.

There is much talk of a 'super district council' coming into existence for east Kent in place of Thanet, Canterbury, Dover and Shepway District Councils. Such a reorganisation of local government in our area is considered unlikely to occur within the next two years but already there is talk of the need for a Margate Town Council to be created. The whole idea of the 'super district council' is to streamline administration and to cut down the number of senior administrative jobs. It could be said that any savings that might arise from the 'super district council' could be expended on the new jobs that would be created to serve Margate Town Council and to meet the aspirations of parish and town councils that see an opportunity to provide some of the services currently provided by the district councils with the consequential need for those councils to employ more of their own senior administrative staff. □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

## Welcome to new members

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

Gilbert Sowerby  
Mr & Mrs Disleris-Beck

**Sally Whitworth**  
Membership Secretary

## RAISING THE PROFILE OF MARGATE CIVIC SOCIETY

Good news! Following my submission of a funding application to the KCC Combined Members' Grant Scheme, I am delighted to report that confirmation has now been received from Kent County Council, confirming that £478.00 has been awarded to our Society.

This funding will support the reprography costs of our updated tri-fold brochures, A5 coach-trip fliers for 2017/18, newsletter publishing and associated distribution costs for 2017.

This project will aim to "spread the word" and hopefully increase membership, attracting younger and new members to come forward and get involved.

My grateful thanks to KCC Member, Mo Eleanor, for recommending this application.

**Pamela Pople**  
Chairman

## Civic Day 2017

Saturday, 17th June

Please make a note in your diaries that the Society is planning to, once again, participate in this year's Civic Day events which are being held throughout the country. This year, the Society is planning an event possibly in conjunction with Margate Museum.

Civic Voice are encouraging local civic societies to get involved in this national event and I encourage our members to go along to our local event on Saturday, 17th June 2017 and give their support to the Society in its endeavours.

Full details of our local event will be published in the Summer Newsletter and on the Society's website [www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk). □

**Pamela Pople**  
Chairman

# Nominations for Town Pride Awards 2017

Supported by



This year, the Society received nine nominations for Town Pride Awards. All of the properties nominated for the 2017 Town Pride Awards are shown below:



*15 Carroway's Place, Margate*



*The Old Kent Market, Fort Hill*



*125 High Street, Margate*



*32 Addington Street, Margate*



*39-41 High Street, Margate*



*3 Arnold Road, Margate*



*23, 24 & 25 Grotto Gardens, Cliftonville*



*38 Fort Hill, Margate*



*147 Northdown Road, Cliftonville*

*All of the photographs on this page are courtesy of Mike Wilton*

The results of the judging for the Society's 2017 Town Pride Awards will be announced at our meeting to be held on Thursday, 11th May 2017 when presentations of the Awards will be made to the winners. □

## The Society's forthcoming day-trip to Arras - 23rd May 2017

In 2015, the Society organised a most successful visit to Dunkirk and last year we organised a visit to Bruges which, again, was a success - although not without mishap!

Now, in 2017, the Society has organised yet another visit to the Continent, this time to Arras in northern France. Anyone who has visited Arras will know of its magnificent architecture and history. One hundred years ago, during the Great War, the British Army took part in the Battle of Arras which opened on Easter Monday, 9th April 1917 and it was on that day that the Canadian Corps successfully took Vimy Ridge which was considered to be the strongest defensive position in north-western France. After the war, the Canadian Government erected a magnificent memorial at Vimy Ridge in memory of the 60,000 Canadians who gave their lives in that war. The names of more than eleven thousand soldiers who have no known grave are inscribed on the memorial which was unveiled by King Edward VIII on 26th July 1936. The architect of this majestic and inspiring memorial was Walter S. Allward, a Toronto sculptor. On 9th April 2017, 100 years to the day, the Canadian Government will be opening a new state-of-the-art Visitor Education Centre nearby to mark that centenary. We will be stopping at Vimy Ridge on our way to Arras and there will be plenty of time to visit both the Canadian Memorial and the new Visitor Education Centre. Many regard the Canadian Memorial at Vimy Ridge as being the most beautiful memorial, along the whole of the Western Front, to those who gave their lives in that dreadful war.

We will then drive the short distance to Arras where there will be time for sightseeing, shopping and refreshments before our return home. The whole day promises to be a most memorable one and one not to miss.

At the time of writing, there are just two spaces available. If you wish to join us, please contact Mike Wilton, our Treasurer and Webmaster, who has very kindly organised the trip for us entirely voluntarily. For Mike's contact details, see the accompanying poster. But do not delay as it is expected that the two remaining spaces will be 'snapped up' very quickly.

The Battle of Arras continued to the middle of May. At least ten soldiers from Margate lost their lives in the Battle of Arras. Their names are amongst those inscribed on Margate War Memorial. One of those from Margate killed

**Margate Civic Society**

Our next coach trip is to

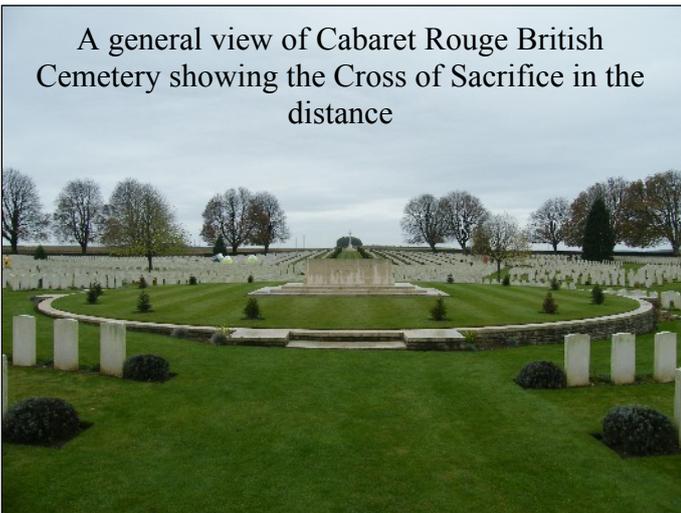
# ARRAS

Tuesday 23rd May 2017  
Tickets £33  
Leave Margate 7.00am  
Travel via Eurotunnel with Carol Peters

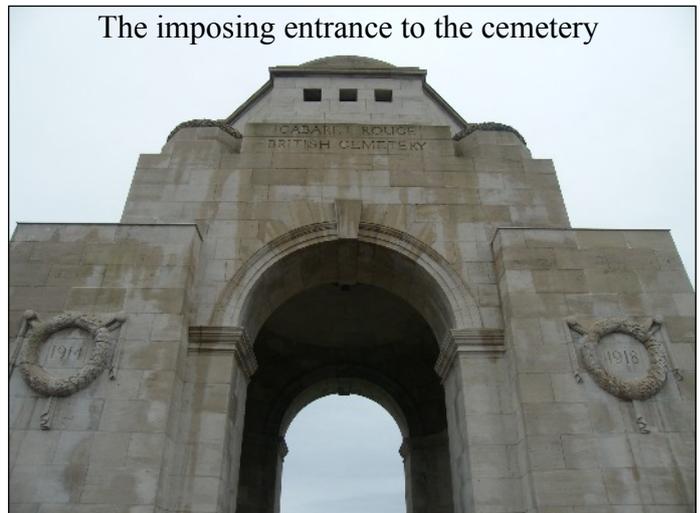
For tickets or further details, please contact enquiries@margatecivicsociety.org.uk or telephone 01843 844717

in action on 9th April was 24-year-old Pte William Bailey who was serving with the 6th Battalion, The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). He has no known grave and is commemorated by the CWGC on the Arras Memorial to the Missing. Another soldier from Margate killed in action that same fateful day was 30-year-old Pte George Baker who was serving in the The Queen's (Royal West Surrey) Regiment but had previously served in The Buffs. His grave is in Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery (see photographs of that cemetery below). Both soldiers - like so many others who gave their lives in the Great War and are buried in foreign fields - had volunteered to serve in Kitchener's Army. Let us not forget them. □ **JB**

A general view of Cabaret Rouge British Cemetery showing the Cross of Sacrifice in the distance



The imposing entrance to the cemetery



## Three more images of Margate's Piers

Following on from the article on Margate's Piers and Jetties published in the last Newsletter (No. 385), Anthony Lee has very kindly given permission for the following historic images from his website [www.margatelocalhistory.co.uk](http://www.margatelocalhistory.co.uk) to be reproduced in this issue of our Newsletter. Do visit Tony's superb website if you have not yet done so. It is very highly recommended. □



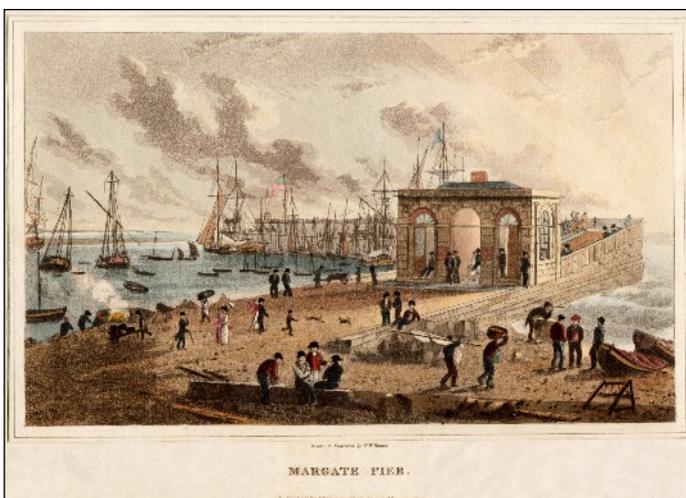
MARGATE

An undated watercolour of Margate Pier at low water (must be early as it shows the old pier)



MARGATE

Outer View of the Pier, Coast of Kent &c from Fort Cliffs  
Drawn and etched by John Raphael Smith. Aquatint T Sutherland  
Pub. London 1 June 1805 by C Richards, Strand



MARGATE PIER

Published by William Garner, Garner's Library, High Street, Margate  
1819

Drawn and engraved by W H Timms

## CORRESPONDENCE

Dear Mr Brazier

I congratulate you on 'Memories of Margate's Pier and Jetties', which appeared on page 10 of Newsletter No. 385. If you are so minded, and in support of your conclusions, I would like the enclosed to be included in a future issue. Although not mentioned in the text please note that the illustration, as sourced, refers as a plan or map to 'A view of the Pier of Margate'.

With all good wishes.

**Dr John Whyman**  
Almeria, Spain

*Dr John Whyman's very welcome contribution follows:*

### PIER NOMENCLATURE IN THANET

As a life member of Margate Civic Society, now living in Spain, and having completed a University of Kent Ph. D. Thesis on 'Aspects of Holidaymaking and Resort Development within the Isle of Thanet, with particular reference to Margate, circa 1736 to circa 1840', I read with interest 'Memories of Margate's Piers and Jetties', sound in its content and conclusions.

Nomenclature generally throughout England distinguishes between quays, as solid stationary artificial landing-places lying alongside or projecting into water for loading and unloading ships, including fishing vessels; jetties, constructed to defend or protect harbours; and piers, as structures of iron or wood raised on piles, used as landing-stages and promenades, embellished often with amusement arcades, etc.

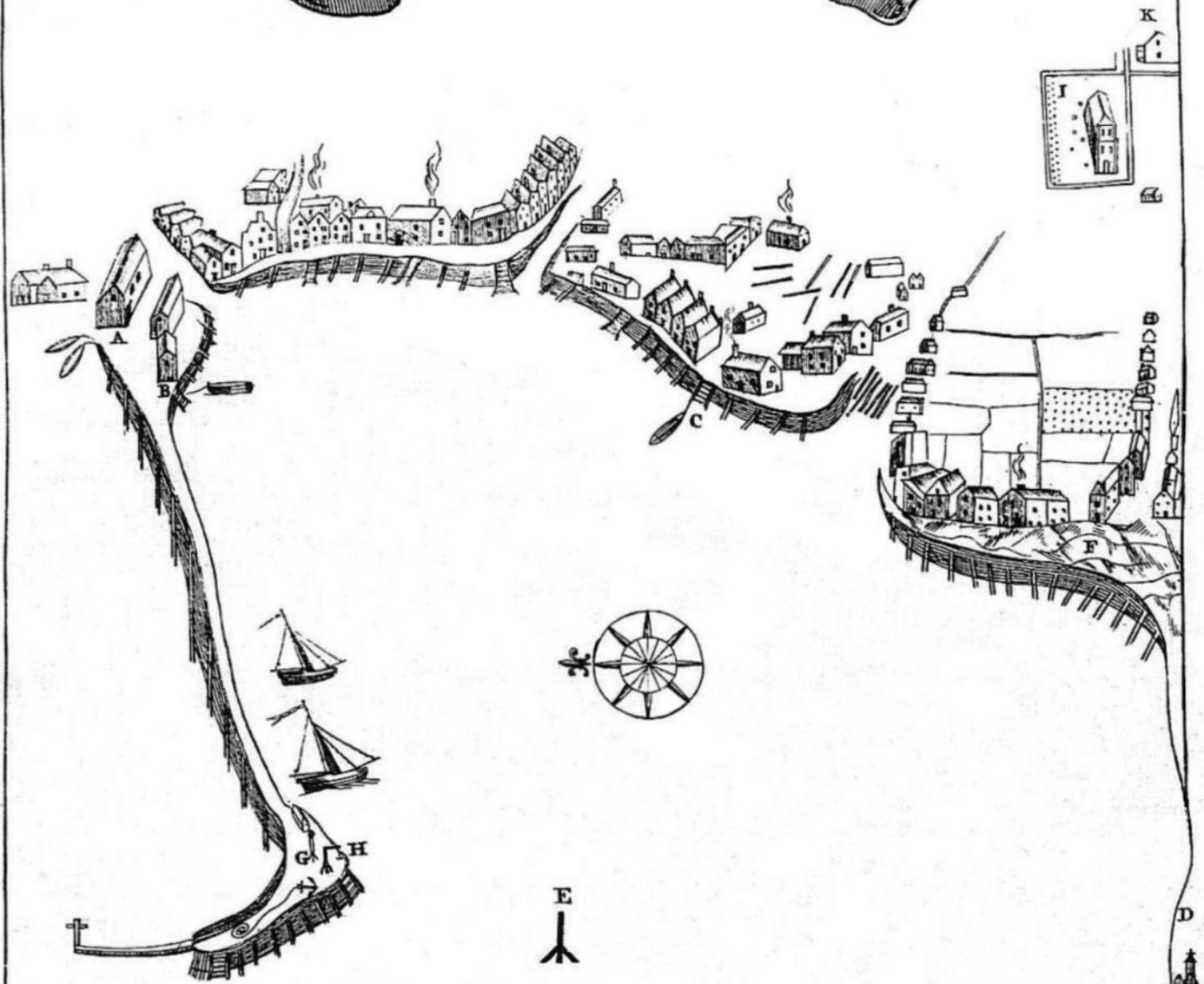
In Thanet, the word pier has often been very specific in its meaning, since the sixteenth century at least, and our starting point is Ed: L. Toulmin Smith, *The Itinerary of John Leland in or abouts the Years 1535-1543* (1964). As a famous English antiquary (c. 1506-1552), born in London, being made "King's antiquary" in 1533, he proceeded to collect 'a whole world of things very memorable', according to *Chambers Biographical Dictionary* (1988).

It was c. 1540 that he observed how "Margate lyith in St John's parochie, yn Thanet, a V myles upward fro Reculver, and there is a village and a peere for shyppes, but now sore decayed." Ramsgate too had a "smaul peere for shyppis". Precisely when Margate's first pier or harbour was constructed remains unknown, and subsequent contemporary sources offer few clues, but in support among the Harleian MSS at the British Museum is a very crude 1646 sketch of Margate, showing a wooden pier, resembling in shape and position what we still see today, following a semi-circular course from south-east to north-west, believed to be the oldest harbour plan of Thanet.

Broadstairs did not miss out, a local family by the name of Culmer constructing a pier sometime during the reign of Henry VIII (1509-1547), and probably not very different from the one we see today. Mid-eighteenth century visitors or holidaymakers to Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate would have encountered piers and harbours which by then were at least two-hundred years old.

**Dr John Whyman**

A VIEW of the PIER of MERGATE



In the Parlor window of  
S<sup>t</sup> JOHN'S Vicarage in



- A King's Watchhouse & Warehouse
- B Warehouses
- C K. George's Stairs
- D Glasshouse & Storehouses
- E The Mooring Post
- F Chalk Clifts
- G Lamp on the Pier Head
- H Crane
- I S<sup>t</sup> John Baptist
- K The Vicarage

I. Ames delc

I. May delc

**MEDWAY QUEEN**  
**Ship & Visitor Centre**



Open from 11am to 4pm (last admission strictly 3pm) on most Saturdays from 11<sup>th</sup> February to 16<sup>th</sup> December 2017. Admissions via Visitor Centre.

Admission to the Visitor Centre is free. For ship access an annual ticket costs £5.00 per adult; accompanied children under 16 free.

**“Review of the Fleet” Model boat show on board Easter Saturday and Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup> April.**

From 27<sup>th</sup> May “Memories of Dunkirk” exhibition in the lower aft saloon

Medway Queen Visitor Centre, Gillingham Pier, Pier Approach Road, Gillingham, Kent. ME7 1RX. (01634 575717, office hours Monday-Thursday)

Please note that ship access may be affected by restoration work and other factors. Terms and conditions apply, see our website. Annual tickets are non-transferable and are valid for 12 months from the date of first visit. The MQPS reserves the right to change any arrangements without notice.



[www.medwayqueen.co.uk](http://www.medwayqueen.co.uk)

Medway Queen Preservation Society  
(New Medway Steam Packet Co. Ltd.)  
UK registered charity 296236



**Another Ordnance Survey  
Benchmark located at Westbrook**

Some of the old Ordnance Survey benchmarks in our area have featured in recent issues of our Newsletter. These benchmarks can be found in all sorts of locations and, this time, we feature the benchmark that can be found along the cliff tops towards Westgate. The promenade at this location was constructed in the early 1930s when it is believed that this pathway leading down from the cliff top to the promenade was built. As can be seen from the accompanying photographs, the pathway wall is constructed of brick with a concrete covering. The concrete covering was probably considered to be a less expensive version of the once-popular Pulhamite which can still be seen at Cliftonville at Newgate Gap, at a number of locations at Ramsgate and elsewhere throughout the country. □ **JB**



*A close-up of the benchmark*



*The benchmark can be seen near the base of the front of this end-of-wall*

At our February meeting, we were privileged to have Pam and Mark Bathurst from the Medway Queen Preservation Society come along and give our members a most interesting talk ‘The Medway Queen - Heroine of Dunkirk’. The talk was not only illustrated but was also contained a number of interesting sound recordings which added much to the story of this grand old paddle-steamer. The above leaflet is reproduced in our Newsletter for those members who wish to visit this historic ship. The upcoming “Review of the Fleet” model-boat show on board the *Medway Queen* in April might well be an ideal opportunity for members to support the restoration project and to see for themselves how this historic ship has been so far restored to its former glory.



*This photograph should enable anyone to easily locate this benchmark which is at the point of the arrow*



*The Medway Queen in Ramsgate Harbour on 20th May 2015 for the 75th anniversary of the evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940*

The Birchington Heritage Trust featured a number of interesting benchmarks in Birchington in their latest Newsletter following on from earlier articles in our Newsletter. It is good to see that others are also looking out for these now obsolete markings in their areas.

## Heritage Open Days - 7th to 10th September 2017

In 2016, Thanet District Council organised a most successful Heritage Open Days featuring 33 properties and events throughout Thanet taking part - a significant increase over the 11 that took part in 2015! Indeed, it was agreed by all that the 2016 programme was the most successful Heritage Open Days ever held in Thanet. Unfortunately, the member of staff who achieved so much in 2016, Emily Greenaway, is no longer employed by TDC and the current constraint on TDC's budget simply means that funds will not be available for TDC to employ a replacement for Emily Greenaway.

But all is not lost. The three civic societies in Thanet - the Margate Civic Society, the Ramsgate Society and the Broadstairs Society have agreed to act together to organise events in an endeavour to achieve a repeat of the undoubted success of Heritage Open Days in 2016. TDC has promised some funding which ought to ensure that no cost will be falling on any of the three societies.

An initial meeting was held on 11th February at Ramsgate which was attended by representatives of each of the three societies. John Walker, Chairman of the Ramsgate Society agreed to act as co-ordinator.

At that meeting, it was agreed that representatives of all those properties and events that participated last year,

together with representatives from a number of additional properties which might wish to participate in the 2017 Heritage Open Days, would be invited to a meeting to be held at The Yarrow Hotel, Broadstairs on Friday, 10th March 2017 to learn of our plans.

That date recognises the opening date for registration of participating properties of 8th March and the closing date of 1st August.

Heritage Open Days is overseen by the National Trust and has become an important date in the diaries of anyone interested in architecture. If you did not take advantage of the many properties that participated last year, do make every effort to visit as many as possible of those that will be taking part this year.

Developments will be reported on the Society's website and in our Newsletter. □ **JB**



## The Blessing of the Sea Ceremony - 8th January 2017

The Greek Orthodox Church's annual Blessing of the Sea ceremony took place on the Marine Sands on 8th January 2017. The congregation included many bishops and priests. The ceremony also attracted 95 civic guests from all over Kent and from London. This year's ceremony was the 52nd held at Margate.

The first Blessing of the Sea at Margate was held in 1965 and the numbers attending the ceremony have grown year by year. Do look out for this ceremony next year.



These two photographs of this year's ceremony were kindly supplied by the Mayor of Margate, Cllr Robin Edwards. As can be seen from the one above, the Confederation of Cinque Ports was well represented at the ceremony with many mayors and their town sergeants carrying their maces. Some of the Greek Orthodox Church bishops and priests can be seen in the other photo in which the Mayor of Margate in his robes can also be seen on the extreme right-hand side. □ **JB**

# Wellington House School



*A postcard showing Wellington House school as it appeared in the 1920s. Note the addition of the pitched roof above the bay window in replacement of the castellated brickwork that can be seen clearly in the print on the Mauchlinware box*

This Mauchlinware box probably dates from the late-1870s. It contains two compartments which might have been for postage stamps or possibly even for cuff-links. Items such as this box were manufactured to meet the demand for souvenirs for visitors to take home with them. They were made of sycamore wood and the transfer print of a local view was applied before the wood was varnished. These souvenirs were made in Scotland and were sold throughout the country. Interestingly, the print is captioned THE COLLEGE, WESTGATE ON SEA. The College became known as Wellington House in 1886. Wellington House school closed in July 1970 and the building and its contents were sold at auction. The buildings were demolished in 1972 and development took place on the site and on the playing field on the opposite side of Rowena Road. Before the demolition of the school chapel, the school's war memorial boards were transferred to St Saviour's Church where they can be seen either side of the West Door.

The date 1877 can just be seen above one of the upper front windows in the photograph of the school reproduced at the top of this page.

Dr Dawn Crouch, Westgate Heritage Centre's Consultant Historian, writes:

The first principal of the school was William Thornton Bullock, MA Oxford. In 1879, he changed the name of the school from Westgate College to Ringslow College

which it retained until it closed in 1885. The 1883 copy of *Grant's Directory to the Isle of Thanet* contained an advertisement for Ringslow College High Class Preparatory School for Boys between the ages of seven and fifteen, at one hundred guineas per annum, for the sons of clergy. He overstretched himself financially - bought more land at the back of the school - and a boy fell over the cliffs and was killed which didn't do the school's reputation much good. So, he went bankrupt and the building was vacant and the Bull brothers, Herbert and Reginald took it on - they were housemasters at Wellington College and A. B. Mitford was the chairman of governors.

Wellington House school was founded in 1886 by the Rev Herbert Bull. Herbert Bull served on Westgate Parish Council for nineteen years during which he was chairman for sixteen 16 years. Herbert married and then Reginald left and set up his own school in Southborough and the rest is well known!

School Close and Wellington Close take their names from the school.

With grateful thanks to Dawn Crouch for sharing this fascinating historical information with us. □ **JB**



*A fine photo of the school chapel with the school building behind. The chapel was built in 1898*



*Looking west from the school building showing the chapel on the left and the house known as Ledge Point on the right. All now gone!*

## Some old photographs of Westgate's famous annual 5-Mile Race



*They're off! The Seniors begin their 5-Mile Race at the St Mildred's Road end of Cuthbert Road. The winner of that year's race was Bob Tuppen who can be seen second from the left*



*Bob Tuppen breaks the tape at the finish of the Seniors Race*

The last Newsletter (No. 385) contained an article on the two silver trophy cups that were passed over to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council last October by Margate Charter Trustees as part of the splitting of the Charter Trustees' assets. That article also featured three old photographs of other Westgate-related cups and readers were asked if anybody could identify any of the winners.

Kevin Fletcher very kindly provided me with the names featured in this article

It is not known what happened to all this silverware. It seems to have simply vanished. One of the cups was known as the Cornford Cup (named after Alderman Frederick Cornford) and it is most probable that the Cornford Cup is one of the cups shown in these photographs. The annual 5-Mile Race was first held in 1909 and started, in later years, at the junction of St Mildred's Road and Cuthbert Road and turning left into Domneva Road and continuing to Birchington. Then around Quex Park and along Shottendane Road to Minster Road and finishing just past the Bridge Hotel in St Mildred's Road as seen in the above photo.

There has been a development regarding the two cups that were handed over to the Town Council last October

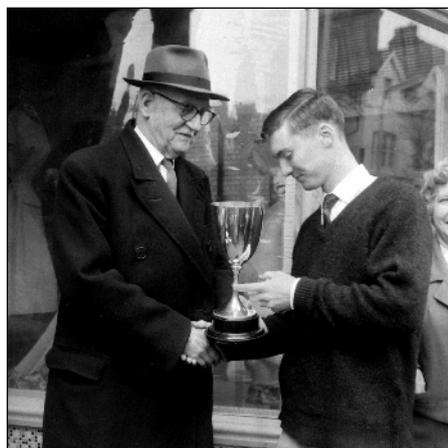
by Margate Charter Trustees. It appears that the St Mildred's Cup was being held in safekeeping by the Charter Trustees and that the cup actually belongs to Margate Bowling Club. If that is correct, the Charter Trustees ought not to have handed it over to the Town Council. After all the pomp and ceremony when the two cups were handed over to the Town Council, one must wonder whether there will now be a discreet ceremony to return the Westgate Cup to the Charter Trustees in the hope that everyone will simply forget all about this embarrassing *faux pas*.

Returning to the photographs on this page, it is hoped that readers might be able to date the photos on this page and, possibly, to identify some of the other runners and winners shown. □ **JB**

*Dr Dawn Crouch kindly supplied this additional photograph shortly before this issue of the Newsletter was finalised*



*Bob Tuppen is the lad in the centre but the other two have yet to be identified*



*Alderman Frederick Cornford presenting a cup (probably the Seniors Cup) to Bob Tuppen*



*Colin Osborne being presented with a cup (probably the Juniors Cup) by Alderman Frederick Cornford in another year*

# Memories of Westgate's once annual Pancake Day Race

These Pancake Day photographs are believed to date from around 1967 - half a century ago. Westgate's Pancake Day race was an annual event held on Shrove Tuesday for many years and attracted a good number of runners and spectators. The last year that the event was held was 2014 - just a few weeks before the new Westgate Parish Council was created. The races were unfortunately cancelled in 2015 due to expected bad weather (which did not materialise) and the race did not take place in 2016 due to failure to complete all the necessary paperwork to close the road, etc. The new Parish Council - now renamed as Westgate-on-Sea Town Council - undertook to organise the 2017 race but, sadly, never actually got around to doing so possibly as a consequence of the many changes of Town Clerk that have occurred since the creation of the new Council nearly two years ago.

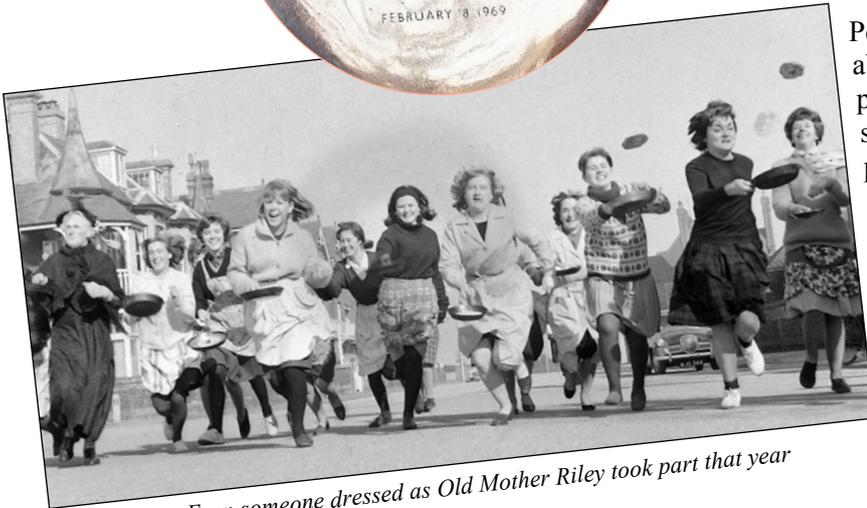


*This photo of the trophy was taken through the window of Angelo's delicatessen in Station Road in March 2014 when Angelo used to successfully organise the races each year*



The underside of the copper frying pan trophy bearing the inscription:  
 JIF PANCAKE RACE  
 CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY  
 AWARDED TO  
 THE LADIES SOCIAL SECTION  
 OF THE WESTGATE-ON-SEA  
 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
 SHROVE TUESDAY  
 FEBRUARY 18, 1969

Under starter's orders! The race is about to start with frying-pans at the ready. Note that Wellington House School can be seen in the background on the left-hand side of this photo. Also, note that, in the early days, the race was held in St Mildred's Road. In more recent years, the annual race was held in Station Road



*Even someone dressed as Old Mother Riley took part that year*

Perhaps Westgate-on-Sea Town Council will be able to successfully organise the race to take place on Shrove Tuesday in 2018. As can be seen from these photos, the event was very popular and fostered considerable community spirit. □ **JB**

*Note: Jif is the name of a product packaged in a squeezable container shaped like a lemon.*



*Note Herga, the former Wellington House School annexe, at the junction of St Mildred's Road and Westgate Bay Avenue in the background*



*The Mayor of Margate, Alderman Alfred Adams, presents a prize (including, suitably, a bag of flour) to one of the finalists. Do any of our readers recognise the young lady who received this prize or, indeed, any of the other participants shown in these photographs?*

## Westgate-on-Sea Town Council - News

On 6th February 2017 - just ten days before its by-election - the town council decided (for four votes to three) that progress should be made to implement the council's wish to improve the standard of street cleansing in the town by appointing two part-time operatives. Appointments are expected shortly and those appointed are likely to be seen working in the town within a few weeks. It will be interesting to see how well the service operates. Certainly, at the February meeting of the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association, the chairman of the town council, Cllr Tom King, reported that the higher standard of the street-cleansing service in Westgate will be such that anyone entering Westgate from Westbrook will immediately notice the higher standard of street cleansing. That is a very high claim indeed and it will be interesting to see whether it will ever materialise.

Since May 2015, the new council has had seven Town Clerks - although one of them never even reported for duty after having been appointed. Admittedly, the first of those seven was Richard Styles, the Town Clerk of Ramsgate, who agreed to take on the role of Acting Town Clerk until such time as a permanent Town Clerk was appointed by the new Westgate-on-Sea Town Council. Jacqueline Williams was the first permanent Town Clerk but she stayed for only six months or so. Roy Wade was then appointed as Acting Town Clerk until a permanent Town Clerk was appointed. I understand that new Town Clerk was then appointed except that she never reported for duty on her first day last April. Roy Wade stepped in once more as Acting Town Clerk until a replacement Town Clerk - Jill Frankland - took up her permanent appointment later that month but she also lasted only six months or so and Roy Wade was once again called back to serve as Acting Town Clerk. For a short while, Iris Osbourne also served as Acting Town Clerk when Roy Wade was unavailable. Eventually, another Town Clerk - Julie Pilbeam - was duly appointed who took up her duties on 9th January 2017. Let's hope that the new Town Clerk will stay longer than all of the others put together! One can only wonder the reason for the high turnover in the post of Town Clerk in such a short length of time.

Perhaps that reason might also have contributed to the resignation of two of the ten town councillors last November/December which necessitated the holding of a by-election on 16th February 2017. Four candidates stood for election to fill the two vacancies. All four stood as Independents and the election results were extremely close with only six votes difference between the top three candidates. The turnout was only 17.04% which is extremely low for a by-election. The result was, however, controversial as the chairman of the council, together with the former vice-chairman, had openly canvassed in the town in support of two of the candidates in the run-up to the election. Indeed, on election day the chairman of the council had stood outside one of the two polling stations in the town wearing huge rosettes with the names of his favoured candidates emblazoned upon them. Regardless of the ethics of such actions, Westgate-residents Helen Page and Sonia Stewart were duly elected and immediately took

up their new roles as town councillors when they both attended the meeting of the Planning, Environment and Highways Committee just four days later. The two new town councillors became the first properly-elected councillors to the new Westgate-on-Sea Town Council as the election of the original ten councillors in May 2015 was not contested. The last election of councillors to the former Westgate Parish Council took place in 1933 - 84 years ago.

For the first time since May 2015, all ten councillors are residents of Westgate (former councillors Richard Charlton and Ash Ashbee both lived outside the town boundary).

It will be interesting to see what changes are made on the council resulting from the election of 'new blood' into the council chamber. One hopes that the newly-elected councillors will contribute to the council making more progress than has been achieved to date - even if that is to only bring back the annual Pancake Day Races after an unfortunate hiatus in the holding of this historic event in the town.

It has only been in the last month that there has been any communication between the council and the people of Westgate as to what the council has achieved to date and what it hopes to achieve in the future. Furthermore, no explanation has been given as to the reasons for the resignation of both Ash Ashbee and Richard Charlton from their former roles as town councillors.

Although the town council meetings are open to the press and public, very few members of the public attend those meetings but those who have attended the meetings know how acrimonious the meetings can become. Sometimes the anger and frustration boils over and the discussion can become extremely heated - even, on one occasion, with the chairman threatening to call in the police! Why is it that the councillors on Westgate-on-Sea Town Council seem unable to work together for the benefit of the town? It surely cannot be for reasons of party politics as only one of the original ten councillors stated on their nomination forms that they belonged to a political party: all of the other nine described themselves as Independent - as did each of the four candidates for the February by-election.

The town council did not do well with their first-ever statutory Annual Return which was published last autumn showing an overstatement of the council's assets at the end of the financial year 2015/16 by £50,643. This major error was drawn to the then Acting Town Clerk's attention by a member of the public but the error was refuted by the council's internal auditor. The error was then drawn to the attention of the council's external auditor by the same member of the public who had raised the matter with the Acting Town Clerk. After some months of investigation, the external auditor agreed that the assets had indeed been overstated in the council's Annual Return by £50,643 and reported that the error would be rectified in the council's Annual Return for 2016/17. The admission of the error was subsequently put up on the council's website. The error had earlier been drawn to the council's attention back in September 2016 but had been simply dismissed. A good example of 'egg on faces all round' but not good for the reputation of the fledgling council! □ **JB**

# Birchington War Memorial - now Grade II Listed

On 21st February 2017, notification was received from Historic England that the Birchington & Acol War Memorial has been added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest and the memorial is now listed at Grade II. Just six days later, notification was received that the Westgate-on-Sea British Legion War Memorial had similarly been listed at Grade II (see page 13). These two war memorials join Margate War Memorial in being listed at Grade II. Margate War Memorial was added to the list in August 2010.

The listing of a war memorial helps us to mark a building's significance and celebrate its special architectural and historic interest. It brings protection so that its special interest can be properly considered in managing its future.

Margate Civic Society was consulted over the then proposed listing of the Birchington & Acol War Memorial and gave the application its full support. Congratulations to those who submitted the successful application for the memorial to be listed.

The listing of Birchington & Acol War Memorial includes the Second World War plaques and the railings surrounding the war memorial.

Birchington & Acol War Memorial was unveiled on 28th March 1920 by Lord Harris who, on 5th November 1922, also had the honour of unveiling Margate War Memorial. □ **JB**



*The Birchington & Acol War Memorial Cross as it looks today. The two Second World War plaques listed the names of the WWII fallen can just be seen either side of the back wall. The spire of All Saints Church makes a fitting backdrop to this view. The names of the 74 men who lost their lives in the Great War are inscribed on the four panels on each side of the pedestal supporting the cross. Unusually, the names of the officers who died in the Great War are listed on the war memorial separately from the names of the 'other ranks'*



*The unveiling of Birchington War Memorial on 28th March 1920*

The listing of Birchington & Acol War Memorial has been accomplished through the Government's First World War Memorial Programme - Centenary War Memorial Listing Project



*The two Second World War plaques listing the names of the men from Birchington and Acol who lost their lives in the Second World War. The names of the civilians from Birchington who lost their lives in that war are inscribed on Margate War Memorial*

# Westgate-on-Sea British Legion War Memorial - now Grade II Listed



*Westgate-on-Sea British Legion War Memorial in Sea Road opposite the junction with St Mildred's Road*



*Another view of the memorial showing the additional tablet at the base of the memorial recording Marc Lawrence's name who lost his life in the Iraq War in 2003*

An application for the Westgate-on-Sea British Legion War Memorial to be added to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest was submitted to Historic England a few days before last Christmas. Just as this issue of the Newsletter was in its final stages, a letter was received from Historic England stating that the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport has decided to add the memorial to the List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. The memorial is, therefore, now listed at Grade II. This is very timely and exciting news.

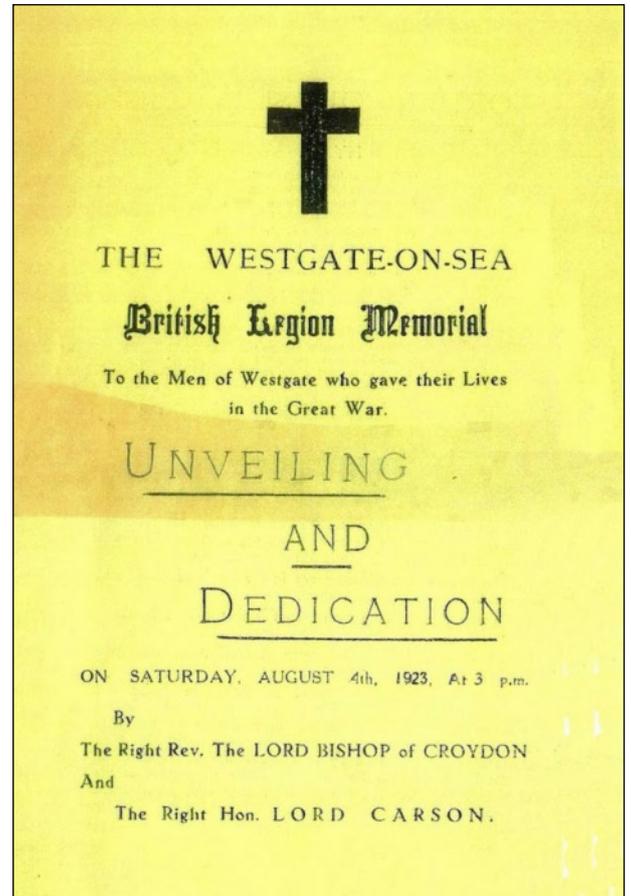
Formal discussions about a suitable war memorial for Westgate-on-Sea began in February 1919. In 1920, four-and-a-half acres of land on Lymington Road were bought to be a recreation ground as a memorial to the men of Westgate who gave their lives in the Great War. In October 1920, the deeds were conveyed to the local authority (the former Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council). Members of the former Westgate-on-Sea Branch of the British Legion, however, wanted a monument as a focus for annual Remembrance Day parades, and so erected this war memorial on Sea Road in 1923.

The original memorial is a huge block of rough-hewn granite surmounted by a cross, on a base of granite slabs and surrounded by iron railings. The inscription on the front of the memorial reads:

BRITISH LEGION MEMORIAL  
"LEST WE FORGET"  
1914 – 1918

and is followed by 79 names listed alphabetically in two columns.

On 4th May 1952, a new plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Margate, Mrs B. M. Giles, commemorating the 29 fallen of the Second World War. A further tablet was unveiled on 10th August 2014 inscribed with the name of Marc Lawrence who died in the Iraq War in 2003. Shortly before that tablet was unveiled, Thanet District Council undertook repairs to the metal posts surrounding the memorial. □



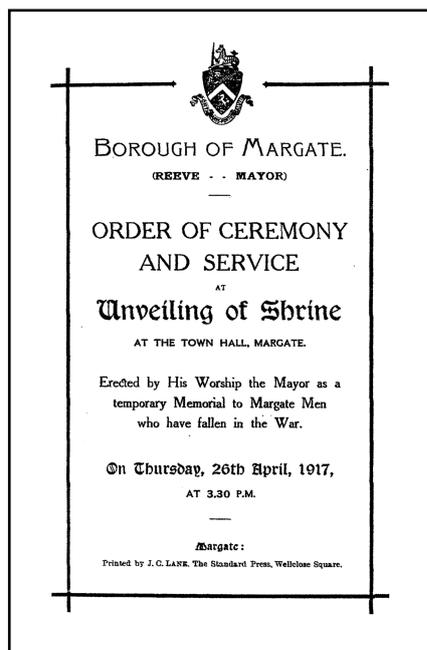
*The front cover of the Order of Service for the unveiling and dedication of the memorial on 4th August 1923. On the day, Lord Carson was unwell and the Lord Bishop of Croydon performed both tasks*

# Margate's War Shrine

We are fast approaching the centenary of the unveiling of Margate's War Shrine on 26th April 1917. As printed on the front of the Order of Service for the unveiling, the War Shrine was erected by the Mayor of Margate, Alderman William Booth Reeve. The War Shrine was intended as a temporary memorial to those who had fallen in the Great War of 1914-18.

The War Shrine Movement began in August 1916 and rapidly spread throughout the country. Most of the War Shrines took the form of street shrines and were exposed to the elements. Margate's War Shrine, however, has always been protected from the weather although, in its earliest days, it was fixed to an outside wall of the Town Hall under one of the overhanging shelters that existed in those days. For as long as anyone can remember, the War Shrine has been affixed to an interior inside what is now Margate Museum. Today, there are very few of these War Shrines in existence throughout the country as most were discarded once permanent memorials had been erected shortly after the end of that war.

Margate's War Shrine started life as a triptych but soon had to be enlarged to accommodate the ever-growing list of names of the fallen. The War Shrine was enlarged by the addition of a fourth panel which necessitated the repositioning of the four panels. As time went on and the list of names grew even longer, it became necessary to construct a second War Shrine which took the original triptych form of the original War Shrine (see images below).



*Alderman William Dalby Reeve served as Mayor of Margate throughout the whole of the Great War. At the end of the war, he was awarded the MBE for his services to Margate during the war. He kept a scrapbook throughout the war in which he mounted all sorts of ephemera of local interest relating to the war. The scrapbook is a fascinating record. It also contains the list of names of men serving their country early in April 1918 to receive a copy of the 'Mothers Letter' from Queen Mary at that crucial time in the war*

The Mayor wrote to the editor of the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* towards the end of January 1917 asking whether the local paper would be kind enough to announce that the War Shrine was being prepared by Messrs Paramor & Son and requesting names of those 'gallant men from Margate' who had laid down their lives for their King and country.

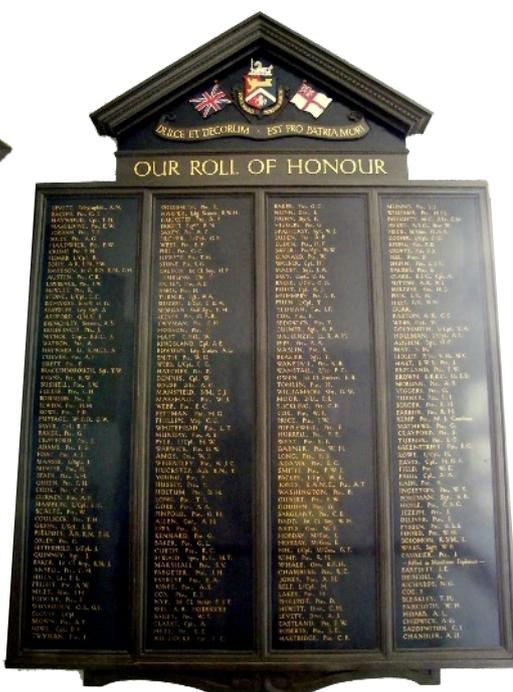
The War Shrine was unveiled by the Mayoress, Mrs W Booth Reeve. JB

The first of the three images below is a digital depiction of how the original Roll of Honour triptych might have looked before the addition of the fourth panel. The second and third images show the War Shrine as it is today as two Roll of Honour boards. Apologies for the light reflection in the images but, when the photos were taken, it was unavoidable.

*How the original War Shrine might have looked before the addition of the fourth panel. Of course, when it was unveiled, it would have shown a relatively small number of names*

*How the original War Shrine (as enlarged to make a four-panel Roll of Honour) looks today*

*How the second War Shrine looks today*



# What's On

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

**Date**  
**2017**

- 6th April 'Dalby Square Townscape Heritage Initiative and Margate Coastal Park' by Sam Causer (Lecturer & Architect) - for further details, see box below
- 11th May Town Pride Awards (Note: The evening will be wholly devoted to the 2017 Town Pride Awards)

## **Message from our Chairman, Pamela Pople:**

Sam Causer writes:

No. 12 Arthur Road, take in the Dalby Square Gardens, and lead out into Margate Coastal Park, No. 12 Arthur Road is not yet complete, but is in the final stages and looking very good.

[http://www.samcauser.com/Sam\\_Causer\\_Dot\\_Com/CECIL\\_HOTEL.html](http://www.samcauser.com/Sam_Causer_Dot_Com/CECIL_HOTEL.html)

Dalby Square Gardens are just outside No. 12 Dalby Square - we're dealing with the north end only, replacing the current car park for a garden.

[http://www.samcauser.com/Sam\\_Causer\\_Dot\\_Com/Dalby\\_Square.html](http://www.samcauser.com/Sam_Causer_Dot_Com/Dalby_Square.html)

This leads out into the Margate Coastal Park Area, which we hope this year to extend out to the Margate boundary at Westbrook, subject to funding and interest from Westbrook.

[http://www.samcauser.com/Sam\\_Causer\\_Dot\\_Com/Margate\\_Coastal\\_Park\\_1.html](http://www.samcauser.com/Sam_Causer_Dot_Com/Margate_Coastal_Park_1.html)

I am sure you would enjoy accessing the above links that Sam has forwarded and also reading about these fascinating projects.

**Pamela Pople, Chairman**



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

Our Summer season 2017 begins Saturday 6th May, when the Heritage Centre will be open each Wednesday from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm and each Saturday from 10.00 am to 12 noon. On the first Saturday of each month, there will be a talk by one or more of our members at 10.30 am. Do come and see our Collection. Home-made refreshments are available at our meetings

**Date**  
**2017**

- 4th March The Heritage Centre's Fourth Annual General Meeting  
Progress of the Centre over the previous year, including reports by the Management Committee officers. Followed by a short talk on the pews in St Saviour's Church by Dr Dawn Crouch
- 1st April 'Westgate-on-Sea in the 1950s' - an illustrated talk by Sally Whitworth, the Heritage Centre's Newsletter Editor
- 6th May 'Danehurst and William Bennett Rogers' - an illustrated talk by Dr Dawn Crouch on a house and the man who built it. William Rogers, auctioneer, valuer and trusted agent of Coutts' Bank, had a huge influence on the development of Westgate-on-Sea
- 3rd June 'A walk further along Sea Road' - an illustrated talk by Sally Whitworth on a few more of Sea Roadhouses of special interest.
- Wednesday 21st June at 7.30 pm 'Correspondence from Westgate-on-Sea' - a 'Victorian Evening' of readings from letters written by early Westgatonians. This is a social and fund-raising event. Tickets at £5 each include a glass of wine, or other drink, and light refreshments
- 1st July 'A Westgate Artist' - an illustrated talk by Jean Osikoya on either Henry Weigall RA or Louis Wain
- 5th August 'Westgate-on-Sea in August 1917' - a talk by Dr Dawn Crouch, based on original archives, on how the town was coping on the Home Front after three years of war

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

# Margate Civic Society

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



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 2016/17:

**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:** Ms Sally Whitworth, C/o 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 07949 835777)  
(e-mail: [whitworthandbird@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:whitworthandbird@hotmail.co.uk))

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

✂.....

## Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £ .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

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

## Subscription rates for 2016/17:

	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, Ms Sally Whitworth, C/o 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR

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