

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Autumn 2019
Newsletter
Issue No. 396



Margate Civic Society is a
Founder Member
of Civic Voice

That Margate is now a thriving art hub cannot be in question. What with Turner Contemporary being chosen to host this year's Turner Prize over the next few months, The Margate School offering a variety of arts facilities and Tracey Emin opening her new art studio in the former Thanet Press building in Union Crescent, Margate has to be regarded as a major centre in the world of contemporary art. Four artists have been shortlisted for the prestigious Turner Prize and Turner Contemporary will be exhibiting their works from 28th September to 12th January 2020. The opening of the shortlist competition later this month will coincide with Margate NOW, a festival - it is reported - 'of 500+ artistic openings, happenings and pop-upenings'. Indeed, Turner Contemporary now claims to be the UK's leading art gallery - a bold claim yet few would question the gallery's massive contribution to the regeneration of Margate since the gallery opened a little over eight years ago. The gallery still offers free admission so do take the opportunity to go along to see the shortlisted artists' works. The winner of this year's Turner Prize will be announced in December 2019 on BBC's News at 10.

Our Society is holding its 50th Annual General Meeting on 3rd October followed by Amber Butchart (the fashion historian of TV fame) giving a talk (see details on page 15). Do come along to our first meeting of our 2019/20 programme of lectures and give your support to our Society.

There are still a few remaining places on our trip to Chatham Dockyard on Sunday, 22nd September for the Dockyard's 'Salute to the '40s Festival'. Details of this exciting trip are shown on page 3.

And lastly, we all still await to find out what Brexit does actually mean for the United Kingdom. By the time the next Newsletter is published, things just might be a little clearer after yet another two months of who knows what. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor



Nos. 34, 34A and 34B (Brompton Villas) Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea - the winner of our Society's Town Pride Awards for 2019 proudly displays its Town Pride plaque

Welcome to new members

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

Ross & Nickie Holding

New Corporate member: David Gorton,

Managing Director, for and on behalf of The Old Cottage Pub Ltd, 19 High Street, Margate

Sally Whitworth
Membership Secretary

The 50th Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

will take place at the Walpole Bay Hotel
on Thursday, 3rd October 2019

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 2019 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. Please note that the subscription rates for 2019/20 remain the same as for 2018/19 and are shown on the back page of this Newsletter. 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, or shortly after, the AGM to me at:

C/o 25 Norman Road
Westgate-on-Sea
Margate CT8 8RR

We also offer the facility of membership payment by electronic transfer. For details of this facility, please see our website: www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Sally Whitworth
Membership Secretary

See pages 4 & 5
for details of
this year's
Heritage Open
Days


heritage open days

Proposed demolition of 'The Orb' Public House, Chapel Hill

- Margate Civic Society lodges planning objection

Our Planning and Conservation representative on the Committee, Mike Thompson, composed the following objection to the proposal which was sent to Thanet District Council for the attention of Ms Emma Fibbens, Planning Officer by our Secretary, Geoff Orton on 19th August 2019:

Dear Ms Fibbens

F/TH/19/1025 'THE ORB INN' 243 RAMSGATE ROAD, MARGATE - OBJECTION TO PROPOSAL TO ERECT RESIDENTIAL NEW-BUILD AFTER DEMOLITION

Margate Civic Society wishes to object in the strongest possible terms to the proposed loss of this long-standing and most attractive local landmark. The proposal seeks to demolish 'The Orb' and replace it with a pair of buildings containing a total of 14 flats with the sole aim of maximising the financial return from the site.

The existing structure has graced the site for almost 200 years and deserves better than this. We note that the developer has submitted carefully prepared Statements from Shepherd Neame and Canterbury Archaeological Trust Limited to support the application.

The comments from Mr Barnes on behalf of Shepherd Neame merely relate to the current lack of viability of the premises as a Public House, the decline of which business is not in question. His Report concentrates solely upon the financial implications of commercial operation as this is his sphere of expertise but he completely fails to address the visual and architectural merits of the building and the contribution it makes to the visual amenity of the local area.

Canterbury Archaeological Trust report that the building has early 19th Century origins but their efforts seem aimed at determining a construction date of post 1830 - presumably to avoid the possibility of the building being worthy enough to earn a 'Listed' status and thereby threaten the prospects of demolition. 'The Orb' is in fact believed to occupy the site of the oldest hostelry in Margate, dating from the 15th century. However, be that as it may, the architecture and choice of materials used in the construction of the present building are quite stunning in their own right.

The CAT Report quotes as follows: 'The former Orb Public House is a building of some charm and historical interest, albeit only of local significance.' *Precisely* : 'of local significance' – that is critical surely when the proposal to demolish is brought into play. The Report finishes by stating: 'If the building were to be demolished, much of its evidential value could be preserved by historic building recording, undertaken ahead of and during demolition and informed by further documentary research', Charming ! I wonder if such a similar final paragraph has ever been incorporated within a Report relating to a building actually located within their 'home area' of Canterbury City centre and whether any such comments have ever been accepted by Canterbury City

Council when dealing with an historic building under threat of demolition ?

There is much contained within the developer's Planning Statement claiming that the proposal complies with planning policy but absolutely nothing to mitigate or justify the destruction of an historic and attractive building.

At paragraph 5.2.1 within the Statement it was confirmed that during pre-application discussions between the developers and Officers at Thanet District Council that the Public House was likely to be a 'non-designated heritage asset'. It is the opinion of Margate Civic Society that this is precisely what the building is and that its wanton destruction should be resisted at all costs.

There are remarkable similarities between this application and the recent attempts at Acol relating to the proposed demolition of the former 'Crown and Sceptre' Public House. These efforts resulted in failure for precisely the same reasons that are applicable to 'The Orb' and it is to be applauded that Thanet District Council took enforcement action in Acol which has now resulted in the reversal of the partial demolition that had already taken place and that building is set, once again, to grace the street-scene,

Margate Civic Society notes that the proposal now under implementation at Acol provides for the building to be converted into two houses, one of four bedrooms and one of two bedrooms. The Society would fully support similar proposals for 'The Orb' : with some imagination and flair, together with the use of appropriate materials, it should be possible for 'The Orb' to be sympathetically converted and even extended to provide units of accommodation that respect the setting and style of this attractive building which has stood on the site for almost 200 years.

For the above reasons, Margate Civic Society respectfully requests that the present application be refused and that the applicant be encouraged to reconsider his plans for the site and to resubmit a new application retaining, converting and adding to where appropriate, thereby still contributing to the local housing stock.

Thank you for your attention.

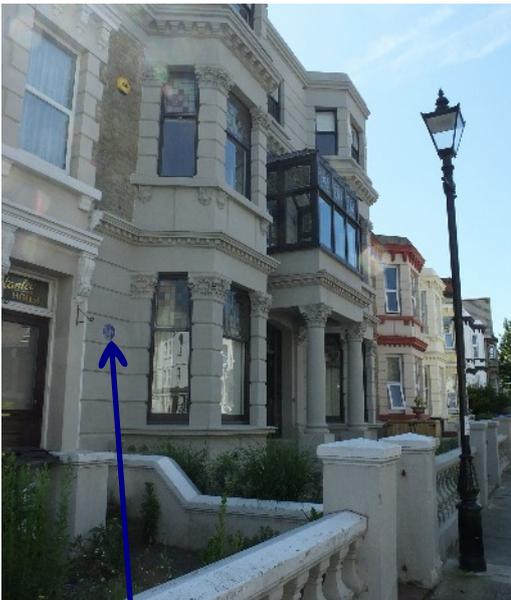
Yours sincerely

**G M Orton, Secretary
Margate Civic Society**



This early photograph (c. 1900) of 'The Orb' Public House is from the collection of the late Mick Twyman

Civic Day (22nd June 2019) at 12 Arthur Road, Cliftonville



Once again, Margate Civic Society successfully stewarded the opening of 12 Arthur Road to mark Civic Day. There were many visitors to the house that day including the Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr Mick Tomlinson (proudly wearing the Mayor's gold Chain of Office), and TDC's Heritage Advisor, Nick Dermott, who has been much involved in restoring this grand Victorian house to its former glory. The house will again be open to the public during this year's Heritage Open Days (see page 4) If you haven't yet visited the house, do go along during Heritage Open Days to see how good the restoration has been. □ **JB**



Our Town Pride plaque awarded to 12 Arthur Road as winner of the 2018 Town Pride Award is now proudly displayed on the front of the house as can be seen in the above photo



Two of the beautiful leaded-light windows in the first-floor conservatory at 12 Arthur Road



There are a few remaining places available for our coach trip to Chatham Dockyard on 22nd September. Please contact Mike Wilton (details below) if you wish to join us on our trip

Margate Civic Society

Our Autumn 2019 coach trip

CHATHAM HISTORIC DOCKYARD 'SALUTE TO THE 40S' FESTIVAL

Sunday 22nd September

Leave Margate 9.30am

Return from Chatham 5.30pm

TICKET PRICE £27

which includes Dockyard admission

All the usual Dockyard attractions plus one of Britain's best vintage festivals



Coach pick-ups at Wheatsheaf, Clock Tower, Hussar, Summerlands and Birchington Square

Tickets on sale at our meetings or contact Mike Wilton on (01843) 844717 or email treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS - SEPTEMBER 2019

This year, the three civic societies in Thanet – Margate Civic Society, The Ramsgate Society and the Broadstairs Society - have again acted together with TDC to produce the brochure showing those properties in Thanet which are participating in this year's Heritage Open Days during the period 13th September to 22nd September. Further details of those properties in Margate and its environs which are participating in this year's HODs are shown below.

MARGATE

HORNBY VISITOR CENTRE WITH THE MARGATE SCHOOL

Unit H1-H2 Westwood Margate CT9 4JX

Tel: 01843 233524 Email: visitorcentre@hornby.com

Saturday 14th, 10am – 4pm

The Centre includes fascinating displays featuring rare vintage products including from the Scalectrix, Airfix and Corgi archives. You can track the history of iconic model trains and the development of the legendary slot-car racing system together with Airfix models and much else.

Note: The Margate School is presenting a small exhibition of vintage Hornby material as a 'taster' for the Visitor Centre. Fifty FREE TICKETS tickets for the Visitor Centre will be available from Droit House on a first-come first-served basis.

Full facilities including shop, cafeteria and disabled access.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH

Victoria Road, Margate CT9 1LN

www.stjohnschurchmargate.org.uk

Saturday 14th, 10am – 5pm

Participation in the East Kent Churches Ride and Stride Event and the Church is open between 10am and 5pm. At 2.30pm, historian Robin Colyer will lead a tour of the Church and its environs – meet by the West Door. Light refreshments available and a Vintage Stall.

Sunday 15th, 2pm – 4pm

Open for visitors between 2pm and 4pm.

Churchyard or local street parking. Entry and exit via Victoria Road.

There is a WC in the Church and disabled access.

OLD TOWN WALK

Meet at Droit House Visitor Information Centre by the Harbour

Sunday 15th, 2pm

Local historian and Vice-President of Margate Civic Society, Robin Colyer, will conduct a gentle and informative walk round the Old Town. Duration about two hours.

ARCHAEOLOGY 'POP-UP' MUSEUM

Droit House Visitor Information Centre, Margate Harbour

Saturday 14th, 11am – 4pm

The Trust for Thanet Archaeology will be mounting a display of local finds in 'The Drum' and the professionals invite the general public to bring along their own finds and learn more the most 'archaeologically intensive' part of the country

DANE PARK ECO-EXPEDITION WALK

Meet at the Grade II listed fountain in the Park, Park Road CT9 1RN

Pre-booking required at colourfulmargate@gmail.com

Sunday 15th, 2pm

Find out about the variety of trees in Dane Park, hear their stories and what makes them special. Led by David Carey of Kent Tree Wardens and Stephanie Nsom of Colourful Margate we will find out why trees are so important to our general wellbeing. Up to two hours.

Facilities available in Northdown Road

MARGATE MUSEUM WITH THE TUDOR HOUSE

Market Place CT9 1ER

Email: friendsofmargatemuseum@gmail.com

www.margatemuseum.wordpress.com

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th AND Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd, 11am – 4pm (last entry)

Come and see the new shop and entrance. Exhibitions are planned to complement the Turner Prize coming to Margate this year with a satellite exhibition at Holy Trinity Church in Cliftonville

Access very limited for wheelchair users. Toilet and parking facilities nearby

12 ARTHUR ROAD

Cliftonville CT9 1DA

www.thanet.gov.uk

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th, 1pm – 4pm

Stewarded by Margate Civic Society – more rooms are now available for show and to inspire visitors with the ongoing regeneration of Cliftonville especially the Dalby Square Heritage Lottery Fund Townscape Initiative Project of which this former 'Hotel Cecil' 1895 is the Jewel in the Crown.

Not suitable for wheelchairs and there are stairs to surmount.

No toilets available and parking in street may be difficult

DRAPERS WINDMILL

St Peters Footpath, Margate CT9 2SR. Tel: 01843 291696

www.drapperswindmill.homestead.com

Saturday 14th and 21st: 12pm – 4pm

Demonstration grinding and flour will be produced. There will be light refreshments available.

Sunday 15th and 22nd: 2pm – 4pm

Guided tours. For those who don't want to climb, the ground floor now has CCTV so that you may sit and observe what is going on throughout the mill.

Toilet facilities available and local street parking.

Access to mill itself limited, as the stairs are very steep

Members are strongly recommended to take advantage of Heritage Open Days

MARGATE (Continued)

THEATRE ROYAL

Hawley Square CT9 1PW. Tel: 0845 130 1786

Saturday 21st, 10am – 4pm

'The second oldest theatre in the country'. For further details of Guided Tours please visit the website:

www.margate-live.com

BIRCHINGTON

POWELL-COTTON MUSEUM

Quex Park, Park Lane CT7 0BH

Tel : 01843 842168

Email: enquiries@quexmuseum.org

www.quexpark.co.uk

Saturday 14 and Sunday 15th

Museum and Gardens 10am – 5pm

House 1pm – 4pm

Thanet's own 'stately home' which hosted King William the Third on his journeys to and from Holland. Extensive gardens with developing 'heritage conservatory' plans and a unique wildlife museum.

Generally accessible for the disabled and less mobile and there are toilet/parking facilities

BIRCHINGTON HERITAGE CENTRE

Burley Gallery, Birchington Library, Alpha Road CT7 9EG

Tel: 01843 449004

www.birchingtonheritage.org.uk

Saturday 14th, 10am – 1pm

An extensive display of village heritage with many vintage photographs

WESTGATE-ON-SEA

WESTGATE HERITAGE CENTRE

Town Hall Buildings, St Mildred's Road CT8 8RE

Email: curator@westgateheritagecentre.org.uk

www.westgateheritagecentre.org.uk

Saturday 21st, 12pm – 4pm

An exhibition on 'The Day War Broke Out' to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of WW2. Short talks by Dr Dawn Crouch at 12.30pm and 2.30pm on memories of local people collected in 2010.

Light refreshments will be available.

Self-guided walking trail of significant buildings and residences and their purpose during WW1.

Limited access as the exhibition is on the first floor and stairs are steep

MONKTON NATURE RESERVE

Canterbury Road, CT12 4LH

Tel: 01843 822666

Email: monktonnaturereserve@hotmail.com

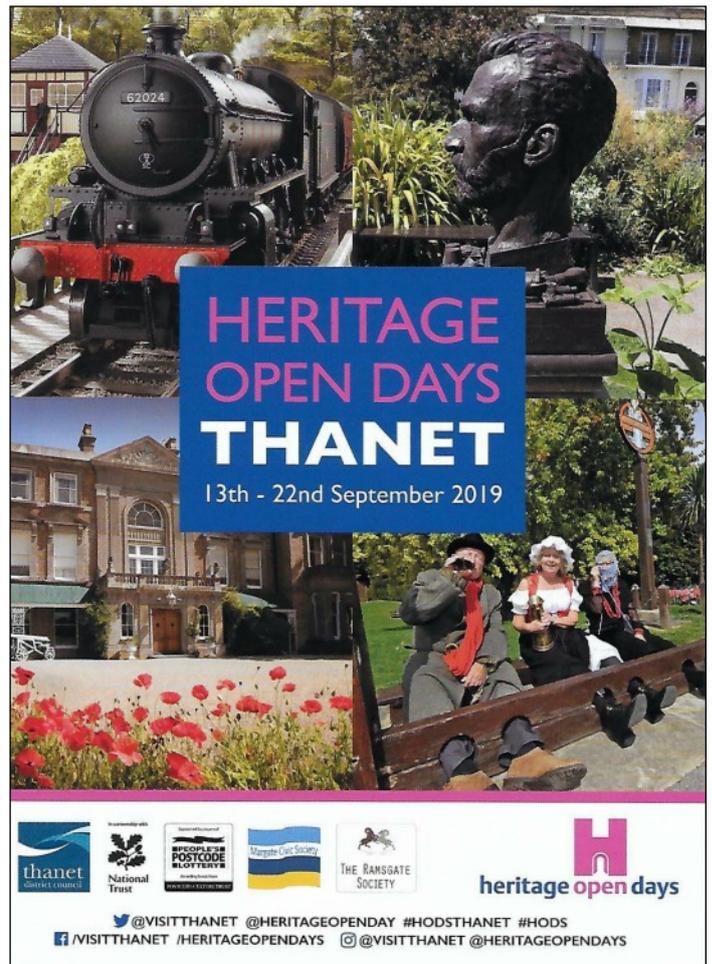
www.monkton-reserve.org

Sunday 15th, 11am - 5pm

Thanet's premier inland nature reserve and home of Thanet Observatories. 16 acres of diverse wildlife habitats with two wildlife ponds, 26 species of butterfly, eight species of rare orchids and a variety of adventure trails.

Refurbished Museum Room and extensive second-hand bookshop.

New accessible paths for the disabled and less mobile especially to Damsel fly Pond



The front cover of the brochure produced for this year's Heritage Open Days in Thanet. In addition to the attractions in the Margate area, the brochure also contains detailed information on the attractions participating in this year's Heritage Open Days in both the Ramsgate and Broadstairs areas

Appeal to our Members

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. □

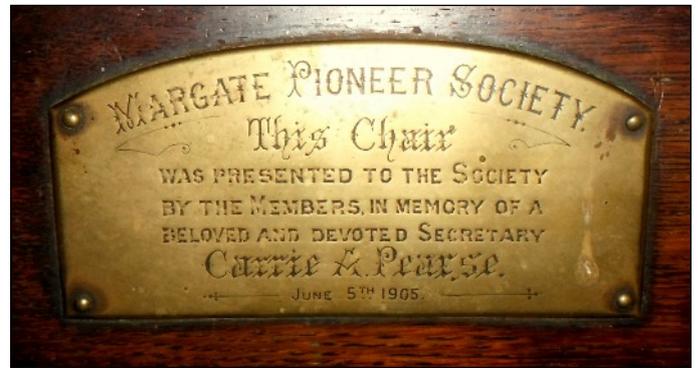
Pamela Pople, Chairman

Remembering Margate Pioneer Society



The now-defunct Margate Pioneer Society has featured in our Newsletter on a number of occasions recently. The Society was founded in 1897 by a number of local women who wished to promote the role of women in society. It was associated with the suffragette movement which culminated with the vote being given to some women in 1918 and, in 1928, to all women over the age of 18. The Margate Pioneer Society folded in the late 1990s - some 100 years after it was founded. Artefacts from the Society manifest themselves on occasions. The Past Presidents' board and the Society's banner were donated to Margate Museum last year (see MCS

Newsletter 392) and members' enamel badges sometimes come on to the market. More recently, an oak carver-chair bearing a brass plaque with a most interesting inscription on it came up for sale at a local auction house. The chair failed to attract many bidders and it was 'snapped up' by a local historian. The superficial condition of the chair was not good as it appeared to have been painted with some form of wood stain (possibly to make it look as if the chair was made from mahogany). After removing all the evidence of such treatment and polishing the brass plaque, the chair was restored to its original appearance.



MARGATE PIONEER SOCIETY

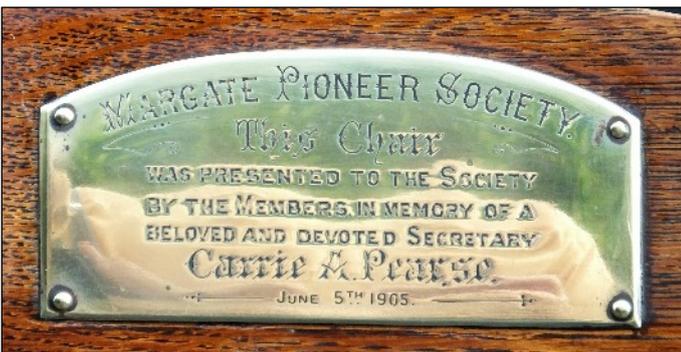
This Chair

**WAS PRESENTED TO THE SOCIETY
BY THE MEMBERS IN MEMORY OF A
BELOVED AND DEVOTED SECRETARY**

Carrie A. Pearse.

— June 5th 1905 —

Caroline Ann Pearse was born at St Pancras, Middlesex in 1851. She is shown as employed as a draper's assistant in the 1881 Census and as a milliner in the 1891 Census when, on both occasions, she was living with her family in Islington. In the 1901 Census, she is shown as a boarding-house keeper living at 38 Grosvenor Place, Margate with her younger sister, Charlotte Elizabeth Pearse. Caroline died, aged just 54, in the second quarter of 1905 at Thanet. She was evidently highly thought of by fellow members of the Margate Pioneer Society. What a lovely idea it was to present a chair to the Society in memory of her just eight years after the Society had been founded. One can only imagine who might have sat on the chair during its long life! Perhaps Christabel Pankhurst sat on it when she came to Margate on 2nd July 1910. The hand-crafted solid-oak carver-chair is a product of the Arts and Crafts Movement which was fashionable at that time. What a find! □ **JB**



TALES FROM THE RAILS

By Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI

The renowned filmmaker and designer of Margate Railway Station's tiled T.S. Eliot mural relates his life's journey from the steam train to the electric train, from Margate to Hollywood...and back again.

BACK TO SCHOOL

My career in the visual arts was sparked off by a brief encounter at Margate's Railway Station.

It was 1952 when the acclaimed newspaper caricaturist Ralph Sallon, a guest at my parents Cliftonville hotel, was visiting Margate to cover the Trade Union Congress at the Winter Gardens Pavilion for his national newspaper. On learning of my passion for drawing I was thrilled when he asked if I would like to accompany him to the Congress.

On arrival at The Winter Gardens we sat in the wings of the packed stage of delegates while Sallon sketched its senior members. We then took a taxi to Margate Railway Station, where from the station's telephone booth he called his newspaper to inform them that he was sending his drawing on the train to London.

The next morning I was impressed to see in the Daily Mirror Sallon's caricature of Herbert Morrison that I had witnessed him draw the previous day.

I believe that magic moment decided my future journey into the visual arts, resulting in the following five years of study at the local art schools.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

On graduation I was conscripted to serve two years as a National Serviceman in the army. The day came when I received my railway warrant to report for basic training at depot The Buffs, Canterbury.

The train journey from Margate to Canterbury West Railway Station seemed to take an eternity. By the time the train reached its destination I had nervously torn off two of my blazer jacket buttons.

On alighting from the train, I noticed I was not alone in this new adventure as there were a number of other recruits stepping down onto the platform.

I was surprised to note that several of them carried tennis racquets and golf clubs! The sporting expectations of this future Paardeberg Platoon was not received well by the unwelcoming corporal as he shouted orders for us to climb into the back of the two-and-half ton army truck.

THE TRAIN HAS LEFT THE STATION...

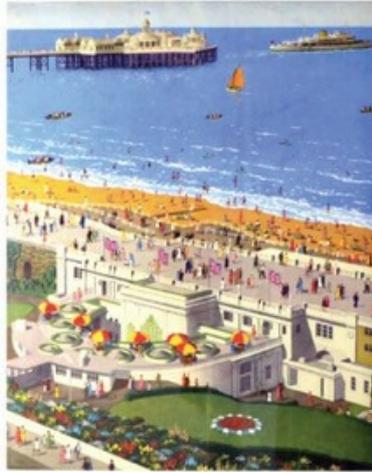
Following my basic training I was transferred to the Royal Army Educational Corps School of Education in Beaconsfield. The Buckinghamshire posting allowed me the welcomed weekend furloughs back to my home in Margate.

Each Sunday night my mother would insist that I stay at home as long as possible, which resulted in me having to get the last train to London.

On arrival at Victoria Station I would make a dash for the Underground to catch the Tube to Fenchurch Street Station for my onward journey to Beaconsfield. Unfortunately on each of these occasions I would reach the platform just in time to see the day's last train leave the station.

The next train was not due until 5am the following morning, so I spent the night sleeping on the waiting room table. That year was an extremely cold winter; unfortunately the waiting room's coal fire was not always lit.

The next morning I would alight from the train at Seer Green Halt (formerly Beaconsfield Golf Links Halt), which was a shortcut back to camp. There I would wend my way across the course back to RAEC headquarters. Still dark and in sometimes heavy snow I would scurry across the golf course to find myself disappearing into the deep bunkers, emerging each time resembling a snow man!



MARGATE
FREQUENT FAST TRAINS FROM LONDON
BRIGHTON RAILWAYS THROUGH TRAINS FROM THE MIDLANDS
GUIDE FROM INFORMATION BUREAU DEPT. I.R.C. MARGATE
Railway poster – The Winter Gardens Pavilion

TRAIN SPOTTING

It became something of a relief when I was eventually transferred to the 1st Battalion The Royal Sussex Regiment in Germany.

Our Regiment was soon to be posted to South Korea. After three weeks of embarkation leave, the day had come for us to leave for the Far East. Under cover of night, a specially chartered train took us from Brentwood Railway Station through the Home Counties to join H.M. troopship "Empire Orwell" at Southampton for our six-week voyage to "The Land of the Morning Calm".

As the train slowly crawled through the suburbs of London and the branch line stations of the Kent countryside, the steam locomotive stopped at the tiny station of East Malling. There the lone person standing on the station's platform was a very pretty teenage girl.

As you can imagine this brought about a thousand wolf whistles from the men on the train, who were all vying for her attention. She was probably the last western female the men were to see for the next year.

Among the myriad of heads thrust out of the train's windows sporting their Kangol shrunken berets, the girl spotted a familiar face. "Arnold, Arnold" she called out, much to the disbelief of my fellow warriors. It turned out the girl that had recognized me was one of my former art school colleagues. This incident added much to my future popularity among my fellow comrades in arms.

STRANGERS ON A TRAIN

Following my demobilization, I was employed as a graphic designer by a London broadcast television network. Early each morning I would make my way from my home in Cliftonville down to Margate Railway Station for my daily commute to the capital.

During one of these return journeys on a very hot and humid summer's day I sat in a compartment situated outside Victoria Station's giant canopy.

The sun streamed through the "No Smoking" signed window, so in order to shield my face from the sun's rays, I placed my copy of "Everybody's" magazine over my face.

Soon the afternoon's heat sent me to sleep. Finally I woke up when the train came to a stop at Chatham. Now with my magazine across my lap, I noticed that I was the object of the gaze of the "Something in the City", black-jacket-and-striped-trousers gent sitting opposite me, with his bowler hat, umbrella and briefcase on the rack above him.

Slowly leaning towards me, in a quiet whisper he remarked, "If I was you sir I would take a look in a mirror".

This must have brought a bright blush to my face as I slipped away to the train's toilet. There to my horror I discovered that due to the perspiration on my face, just like a tattooed fairground attraction, not only had the printed type from my magazine offset onto my face, but also the illustrations!

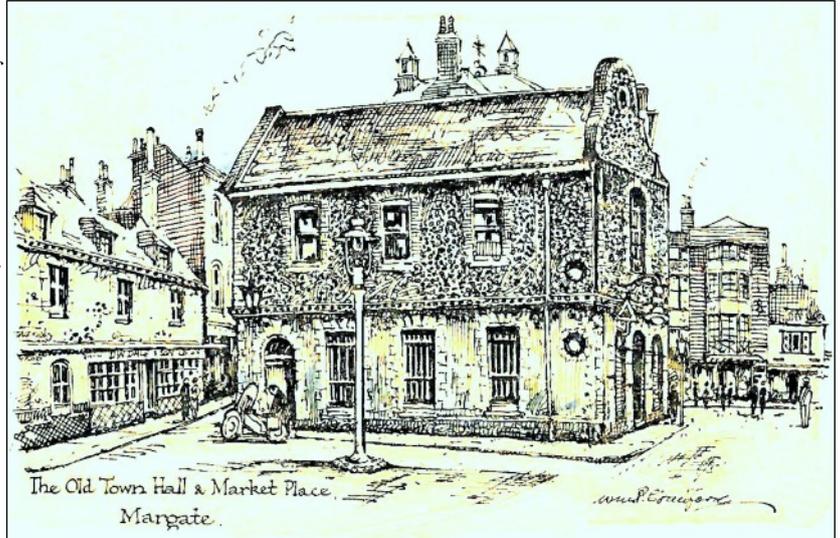
I likened my life's journey to that of being on a train turntable, bringing me back to where I started 67 years ago – at Margate's Railway Station. On 14 September 2019 I returned once again from my home in Hollywood to Margate to attend the unveiling of my T.S. Eliot mural.



A 1960s sketch of The Old Town Hall and Market Place by local artist - William Crawford

Older members of our Society will remember the series of line-drawings by local artist William Crawford that were published in *The Isle of Thanet Gazette* in the 1960s and, as I recall, in the 1970s. Some of the line-drawings were later reproduced as postcards.

The accompanying image shows the Old Town Hall still in use as the town's Police Station. Little has changed as regards the architecture of the buildings although much has changed as regards the use of the buildings. Not only was a new Police Station built on Fort Hill in the late 1960s but the use of the Town Hall Extension for meetings of Margate Borough Council ceased on the creation of Thanet District Council in 1974 and the construction of the new Council Offices in Cecil street later that same year.



Note the Velocette motor-cycle outside the Police Station. The Velocette LE was a motor-cycle made by Velocette from 1948 to 1970. The designation LE stood for "little engine". Used by over fifty British Police forces, the police riders became known as "Noddies" because they were required to nod to senior officers, and the LE was nicknamed "the Noddy Bike". Source: Wikipedia

Note also the D W Dale & Son sign above their butcher's shop at No. 6 Market Place - c. 1965 □

JB

A date for your diary - Saturday, 14th September 2019

At 11 o'clock on the morning of Saturday, 14th September, a ceremony will take place at Margate Railway Station when His Worship the Mayor of Margate, Cllr Mick Tomlinson, will cut the ribbon to formally 'open' the magnificent T.S. Eliot mural designed by Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI.

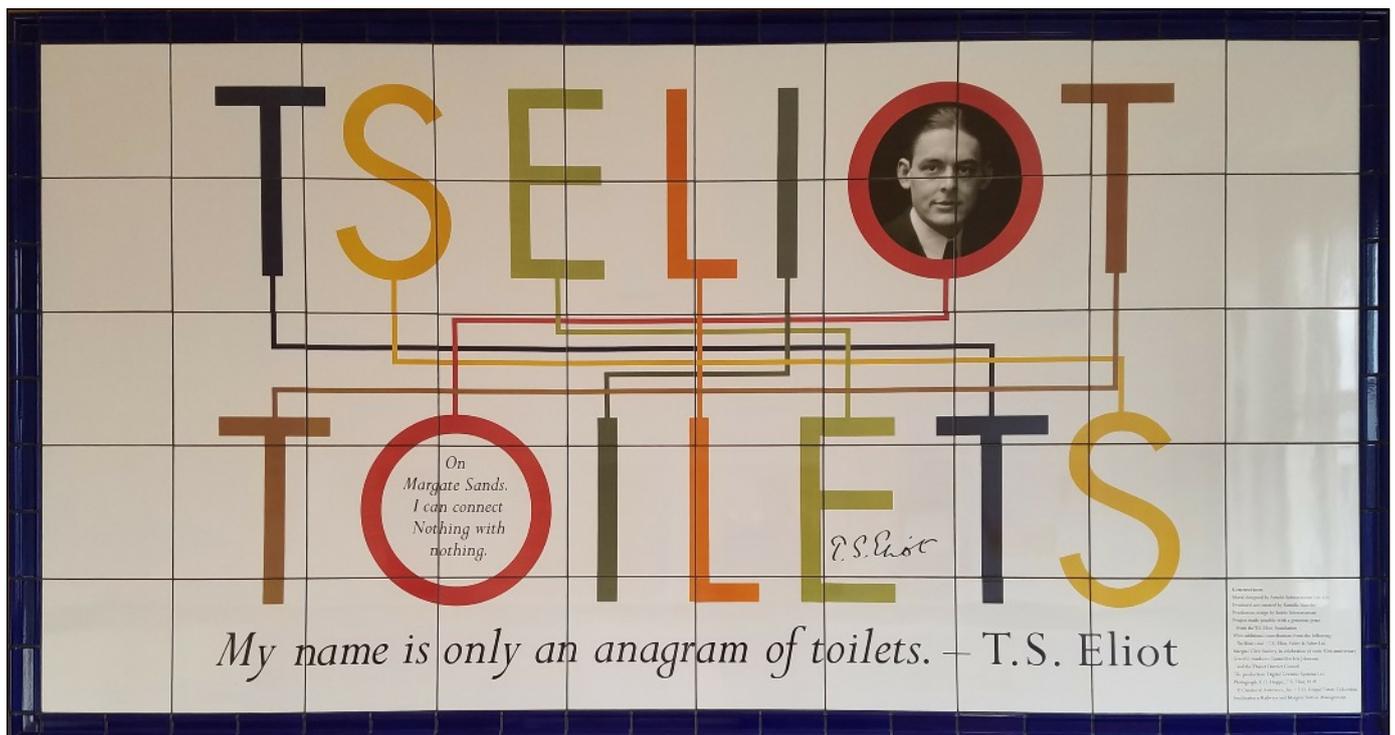
Arnold, together with his charming wife Isolde, will be attending the occasion on another of their many visits to our town from their home in Hollywood, California.

We are very fortunate to have Arnold as a member of our Society and to serve as Patron of the Clock Tower Time-Ball Restoration Appeal.

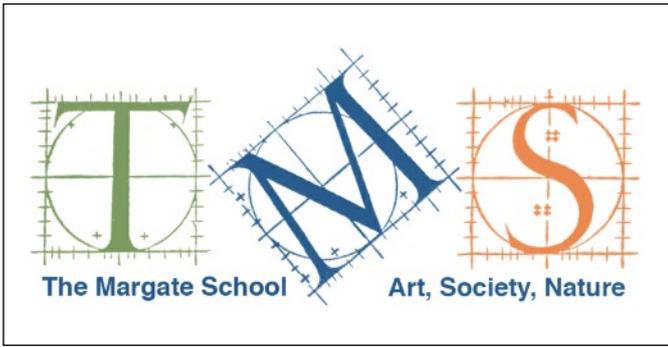
It is fitting that the ribbon-cutting event takes place over Heritage Open Days as the mural supplements Margate's rich heritage.

It would be good if other members of our Society were go along to witness this historic event. □

JB



TMS shaping up nicely thank you



When The Margate School was launched last December it remained desperately uncertain where its eventual home would be but, come the spring, matters began to gel and through the good offices of The Sands management TMS now has the whole *three* floors of the Old Woolworths building empty these last dozen years or so and with acres undreamt of to explore and exploit.

Director Uwe Derksen has been putting in seemingly 25-hour days and endless pairs of socks on elementary non-artistic matters such as electrics and plumbing (he now has his own iconic toilet block to rival Nayland Rock's). With his left-hand, he has been constructing a series of 'line gallery' exhibitions (which have drawn in close to 3,000 visitors already – just what our poor High Street needs) and running and composing experimental short courses and workshops in subjects such as video-editing and abstruse (to me) things like 'coding'. Plus taking opportunistic advantage of Steve Alexander's offer to run a Children's Master Class in Drawing ('no such thing as bad drawing, just drawing' per Chris Alexander!). From little acorns etc and employers really appreciate evidence of 'creativity' according to recent reports.

Nothing but compliments about 'delighted to see some community space being productive at last' plus plenty of nostalgia about what the High Street used to look like and 'when are you going to open up Andrews Passage to encourage people off the beach?' (Not in our hands – seems to have got lost among 'bureaucracy' years ago as a bit of a *Jarndyce v Jarndyce*. Sad.)

To my philistine mind, the most exciting innovation at TMS, starting this autumn, is the inauguration of the Master of Arts in INTERNATIONAL FINE ART validated by the Rouen/Le Havre School of Art & Design (as approved quite recently by the French Ministry of Education). Uwe's own international background with his 30-odd years at the University of the Creative Arts is starting to reap dividends. The course really is innovative and will include periods 'over there' for students.

Personally, I want to capitalise on our budding 'Europeanness' and institute an Annual Calvados & Camembert Week - just what Margate (and our friends in Ramsgate and Broadstairs) needs to consolidate its attractions for all those health-minded 'staycationers' and increase 'footfall' just as the Coastal Community Fund intends.

Earlier in the year, Lord Bassam of Brighton produced a Report on Seaside Regeneration and commented on the need for resorts to continually reinvent themselves. We all

know that our High Street was the original 'Ghost' so accordingly MCS with TMS is holding a *Reinvention Symposium* in October to address 'issues'. Civic Voice HQ will be kicking-off with details of the new consortium formed with the Institute of Place Making and others to explore strategies for High Streets, It is Civic Voice's tenth anniversary in 2020 and they are stepping up the pace.



There will also be input from Historic England ('What Heritage Can Do For You'), from the co-founder of Creative England (Prof Emeritus John Newbigin) on the 'importance of creative industries to the national effort' (it's huge), SE Local Enterprise Partnership on plans for upskilling and reskilling, Prof Gill Youngs on 'Threats and Opportunities in the Digital Age'. And what 'Studios' have done for Brighton, Fab Labs for Plymouth, and the intriguing Urban Room concept.

Margate aims to be the role model for reinvention *par excellence et sans doute!* Keep abreast of the fast-changing TMS work-in-progress by checking out their website and social media. The long-held gleam in Patron Arnold Schwartzman's and Uwe's eyes is finally coming to fruition.

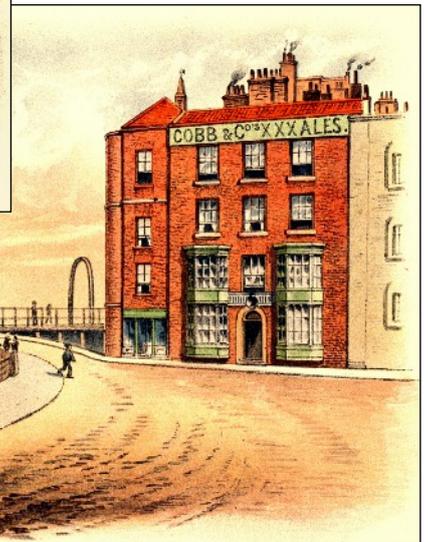
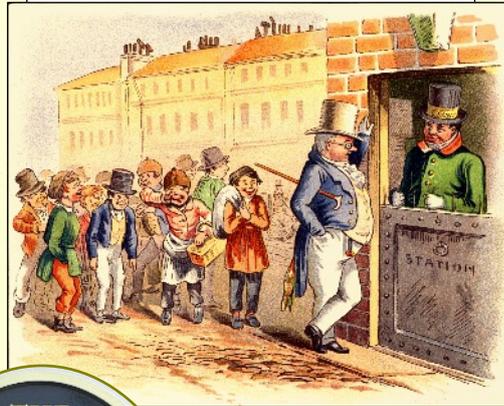
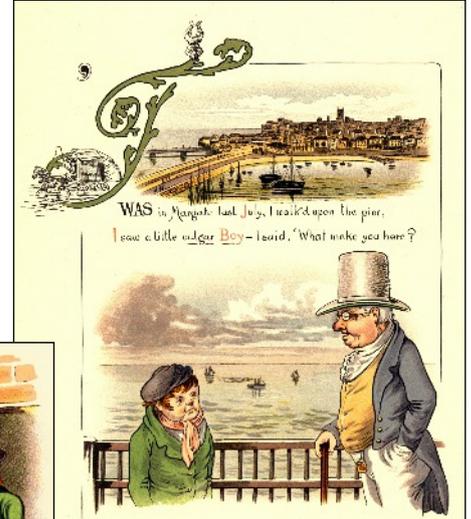
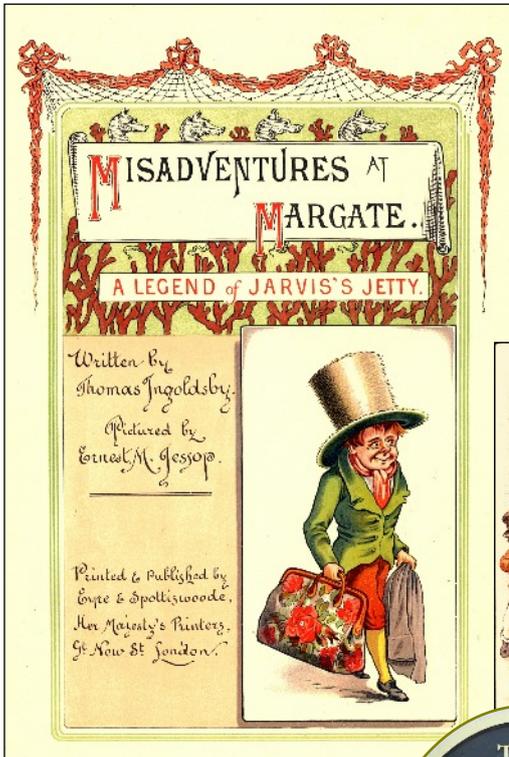
As ever, Upwards & Onwards! □

Geoff Orton
Secretary



The magnificent 'logo' of the former Isle of Thanet Electric Tramways & Lighting Company (1901-1937) featuring the coats-of-arms of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate. Oh, happy days!

Remembering Richard Harris Barham otherwise known as Thomas Ingoldsby



The above superb chromolithograph illustrations are from Thomas Ingoldsby's book *Misadventures at Margate: A Legend of Jarvis's Jetty*. The book was published in 1877 and tells a morality tale of a young boy's visit to Margate. Copies of the book were sold for six shillings each which, in 1877, would have been a considerable sum.

THE THOMAS INGOLDSBY

Richard Harris Barham was born in 1788 at 61 Burgate, across the road from this Wetherspoon pub. Using the pen name Thomas Ingoldsby, he wrote The Ingoldsby Legends which first appeared in 1840 in a periodical edited by Charles Dickens.

These premises were refurbished by J D Wetherspoon and opened in May 2018.

The entrance to Jarvis's Jetty can be seen in the background.

Interestingly, Thomas Ingoldsby died in 1845 yet one of the illustrations above shows the ticket office at Margate Sands

Station which did not open until 1846. Thomas Ingoldsby lived for a time at a house on The Parade, Margate now graced by the Blue Plaque shown here. He was born at Canterbury and his father was, at one-time, Mayor of Canterbury. The recently-opened Wetherspoon's in Burgate has been named after him and a plaque erected in his memory there (above). An earlier plaque also can also be seen in Burgate (left and below). □ **JB**



Dedication of two WWI Memorial Benches at Westgate



The memorial bench at St Mildred's Bay before the ribbon was cut by Jacqueline Ingram

On the afternoon of Tuesday, 11th June a group gathered at St Mildred's Bay in Westgate-on-Sea to take part in a short ceremony to remember some of those who served in the Great War, but who are so often forgotten. The Chairman of the Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre, Dr Graham Field, presented the Chairman of Westgate-on-Sea Town Council, Cllr Martyn Pennington, with a bench to commemorate the Royal Naval Air Service Station Westgate, which was based at St Mildred's Bay between 1914 and 1920.

A ribbon had been tied across the bench, inscribed with the words: "Donated 2019 by Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre to commemorate Royal Naval Air Service Station (RNAS) 1914-20 and all who flew from St Mildred's Bay to defend our shores."

Before a short Act of Remembrance led by the Rev Karen Gooding, Priest-in-Charge of St Saviour's Westgate, and the Rev Susan Wing, assistant priest to St Saviour's, the ribbon was cut by Jacqueline Ingram.

Jacqueline is the great-granddaughter of Sir William Ingram, a leading figure in Westgate's history from 1878 to 1924, and the granddaughter of his eldest son, Herbert Ingram, who, as an officer in the RNAS, was responsible for the setting up and administering of the base at St Mildred's throughout the war years.

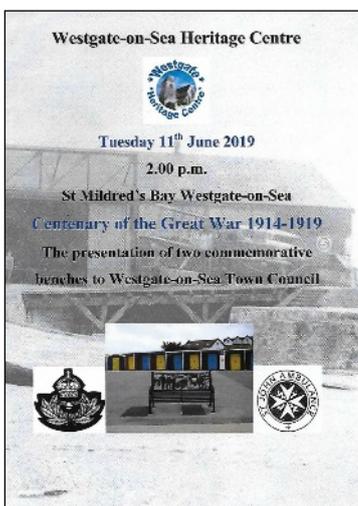


The Rev Karen Gooding and the Rev Susan Wing walking along the promenade at St Mildred's Bay

Her grandmother, Hilda Ingram, was a VAD nurse who served in the High Beach VAD hospital in Sea Road.

A second bench was presented to Cllr Pennington in the gardens in Sea Road in front of where High Beach Hospital used to be (the house was demolished and replaced by apartments). It is near to Penrhyn Lodge, which was also a VAD Hospital.

The inscription on the bench reads: "Donated 2019 by Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre to commemorate 61 ambulancemen and 48 nurses of the Westgate Division of the St John Ambulance Brigade Voluntary Aid



The Order of Service



The scene at St Mildred's Bay during the Act of Remembrance

Detachments who cared for more than 2,000 sick and wounded servicemen in the Westgate VAD hospitals 1914-1919.” The ribbon was again cut by Jacqueline.

She made special mention of her grandmother and other relatives who had served in the hospital, which had been fully equipped, even with an operating theatre and X-ray unit, by the people of Westgate.

They had also supplied a motorised ambulance, as shown in the decoration on the bench.

The Heritage Centre was able to purchase the benches using a generous grant awarded last November from the Co-op Local Community Fund.

As the amount of the grant depended on local shoppers voting for the Heritage Centre, the benches are a true community gift to the town and it is hoped that they will give enjoyment to residents and visitors alike - as well as giving pause for thought. □



Jacqueline Ingram cutting the ribbon at the second memorial bench

**Dr Dawn Crouch
Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre**



Jacqueline Ingram with Dr Dawn Crouch 'christening' the new memorial bench at St Mildred's Bay after the short service



Dr Dawn Crouch, who made all the arrangements for the Heritage Centre's commemoration of the centenary of the Great War during the period 2014 to 2019, was made Westgate-on-Sea's first Honorary Freeman in 2016



The scene in the gardens along Sea Road during the Act of Remembrance

Yet more changes at Westgate-on-Sea Town Council

Exactly two years ago, it was reported in our Newsletter (No. 388) that four of the councillors of the then recently-formed Westgate-on-Sea Town Council Westgate had resigned within the first two-and-a-half years of the Town Council's existence. Originally, only ten residents had put their names forward to serve as councillors and, because there were just ten vacancies, all ten were considered duly elected although no-one actually voted for any of them.

Since that report, Pauline O'Connor was co-opted as a councillor and a by-election held at which Sonia Stewart was duly elected. However, Sonia Stewart then resigned after serving only a little over one year as a councillor and the vacancy caused by her resignation was then filled by the co-option of Robert Micallef to serve as a councillor from October 2018.

Thus, by the time of the election of councillors in May 2019, there had already been five resignations - equivalent to 50% turnover. However, a further two of the original councillors (Tom King and Ron Rolfe) then decided not to stand for re-election in the May elections. Because eleven names had been put forward to fill the ten councillor positions in the May 2019 elections, a full election was held at which eight of the then existing councillors were re-elected and both David Wallin and David Donaldson were elected to serve as councillors both for the first time. Then, in July 2019 it was widely reported that Robert Micallef had resigned after serving less than nine months as a councillor. Whether the vacancy thus created by his reported resignation will be filled by co-option or by another by-election has yet to be determined. The result of all these changes is that only four of the original ten councillors remain as councillors and it is understood that one of those four is expected to resign in the near future.

The cost to Westgate council-tax payers of holding all these elections must surely already well exceed £10,000 at



78 St Mildred's Road - the Town Council's offices have occupied the ground-floor of these premises since July 2019

a time when, nationally, local government expenditure is under greater pressure than ever.

But not only have there been changes in the membership of the Town Council, the Town Council also decided to move its offices from 11 Ethelbert Square to 78 St Mildred's Road after occupying the Ethelbert Square premises for only two years of a reported seven-year lease. What the financial consequences will be of that move remain

to be determined. The Town Council's first offices were in the Town Hall Buildings from May 2015 to July 2017.

The Town Council has also employed a number of persons to serve as its Town Clerk, or Interim Town Clerk, since May 2015. The present incumbent (Gill Gray) has been in post for approaching two years - which, it has to be said, is a record for the Town Council.

In the light of experiences at Westgate since the Town Council was created a little over four years ago, the campaign for creating a Town Council for Margate to replace the Margate Charter Trustees seems to have lost what little momentum it ever had. I feel sure that many Margate council-tax payers will be relieved by that as it is almost certain that a Margate Town Council would add considerably to the council tax bills of Margate residents. □

JB

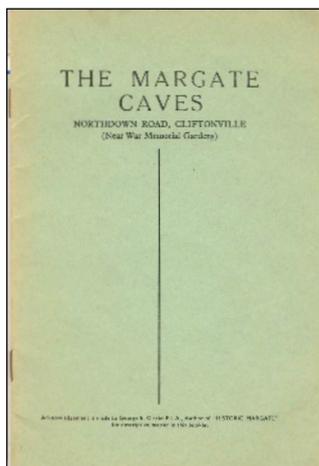
CAN YOU HELP IDENTIFY THIS SCENE?



Steven Alexander has asked whether any of our members can identify the location of this sketch drawn by his father, Christopher Alexander, between 8th June and 20th September 1956. Richard Clements has suggested that it might show the gas-lamp that was outside the Randolph Hotel in Zion Place. It would be good if we could positively locate the scene for Steve as it is such an appealing scene of 'Old Margate'. Please pass any suggestions to the Newsletter Editor. □

The Margate Caves re-opened on 22nd August 2019

Margate now has another attraction to offer to both visitors and residents alike. A new community building has been opened to the public after months of work at the historic



An old guide-book to Margate Caves published in the 1950s

underground caves although much work still needs to be done. The community building has taken shape and will include a large community room as well as an interpretation room which will contain a museum with tales about the history of the caves. The caves were closed in 2004 after a prohibition notice was issued by the Health & Safety Executive. Do visit the caves and see for yourself the underground treasure there. □

JB

What's On

Margate Civic Society (talks all start at 7.30pm at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville)
Guests: £3.00 nominal fee (unless otherwise specified)

Date Subject

2019

- 3rd October AGM followed by 'Nautical Chic: High Style on the High Seas' by Amber Butchart (Fashion historian and author working across cultural heritage, broadcasting and academia) (Guests £4.50 nominal fee)
- 7th November 'Doing Our Bit' by Steve Hookins (a presentation given in character about the roles carried out by some of the Home Front's unsung heroes in WWII)
- 12th December Christmas Soirée - with poetry readings by Anthea & Harry Preston, music, quiz, raffle and refreshments (Guests £4.50 nominal fee)

2020

- January No meeting
- 5th February Talk by Felicity Stafford, Vice-President, Margate Civic Society (subject of talk to be confirmed)
-



Westgate-on-Sea Heritage Centre Autumn Programme 2019

Please note that from October the Heritage Centre at the back of St Saviour's Church will be open only on the first Saturday of each month (except October) from 10.00am to 12.00 noon with a talk being given starting at 10.30am as listed below. Refreshments available

Date

2019

- 7th September "The Day War Broke Out" - Memories of Sunday 3rd September 1939 as told to Dr Dawn Crouch in 2009
- 12th October Talk by Dr Dawn Crouch "Streete Court Boys' School and its literary link". In 1934, a government official described Westgate as a "Place for Schools". What did he mean and how did Streete Court fit in? (Note: Church unavailable on 5th October)
- 2nd November Illustrated talk by James Brazier on "Trench Art" "*They shall beat their swords into ploughshares*" (Isaiah 2 v.4). How weapons of war were turned into works of art.
- 7th December Illustrated talk by Dave Morrish, who is a civil engineer "Westgate's Sea defences"

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



Birchington Heritage Trust - Forthcoming events

All events are held at 'The Centre', Alpha Road, Birchington at 7.30pm on the following Thursdays:

Date

2019

- 26th September 'A Schoolgirl's War' by Mary Smith
- 24th October A Magic Lantern Show by Dr Jocelyn Marsh
- 28th November A Musical Evening with Colin Bridge

Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Supported by



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity and a founder member of Civic Voice. It was also both an affiliated member of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and a member of the Kent History Federation but, sadly, both those organisations have recently been wound up.

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

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

Committee for 2018/19:

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

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

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

Secretary: Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085) (e-mail: ortong14@gmail.com)

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

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

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

Planning and Conservation issues: Mr Mike Thompson, 7 Seymour Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5HT (Tel: 01843 832834) (e-mail: mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com)

If you are interested in joining our Society, please fill in the enrolment form below:

✂.....

Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £

Name:

Address:

Tel: **e-mail:**

Subscription rates (£) for 2019/20:

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

Please note that Life Membership subscription is no longer available

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

* A Paper Newsletter means that a black-and-white printed copy of the Newsletter will be delivered to you

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