
The Next Meeting

will be held at Westgate Public Library at 7.30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 14th. 1969.

Two films, loaned to us free of charge by the Civic Trust, will be shown. The first (which we propose to discuss afterwards because it relates to a town which, like the borough of Margate, is situated along the coast) is a 20-minute black and white film entitled "YOU CAN CHOOSE".

Produced by the Hove Civic Society in 1967, this film stresses the need to curb the impact of traffic on environment, to dispel public apathy, and to convince the public that they have a choice where their environment is concerned. It makes brief reference to the Society's dispute with the Borough Council over a proposal to create a six-lane highway along the sea-front; and makes a plea for the construction of by-passes for all resorts on the South Coast (and in Sussex in particular) and for more emphasis on the segregation of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

"TREES ON THE MOVE" (19 minutes in colour) is the second film. Industrialisation and urban development over the last hundred years have led to the destruction of many of England's trees. Yet trees properly placed can grace our daily lives. Encouraged by the success of the work of the Civic Trust, the Opencast Executive of the National Coal Board introduced into this country techniques for moving mature trees more easily than in the past. Instead of being destroyed, mature trees can now be re-positioned to improve industrial and urban landscapes. This film, made by the National Coal Board Film Unit in 1965, shows how this is done.

Each Month

we hope to include an article which should be of general interest to all members. This article - about Hawley Square - is contributed by Mr. D. G. Scurrrell, one of our committee members.

David Scurrrell has lived in Margate since 1931 and is assistant lecturer in the department of building and engineering at the Thanet School of Art. From 1931 to 1962 he was connected with scouting, firstly as scoutmaster and group scoutmaster at St. Paul's, Cliftonville, and latterly as warden of the camp site at Minster. He is at present secretary of the Isle of Thanet Archeological Society and also the Thanet local secretary of the Kent Archeological Society. He is a sidesman and parish church counsellor at St. John's Church, Margate, where he is regarded as the church historian.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF HAWLEY SQUARE

The earliest reference to the central part of Margate suggests two settlements, one by the pier and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile inland a village around St. John's Church, both within the ancient Parish of St. John the Baptist in the Isle of Thanet. The pier has probably been here since the 13th. Century. Leland wrote in his itinerary in Henry VIII's reign "Margate lyth in St. Johns Paroche yn Thanet V miles upward from Reculver and there is a village and a peere for shyppes, but now sore decayed". In the eighteenth century Pennant wrote "The passage from England to Holland was often made from this place". The Parish Church dates mainly from 12th. - 14th. century and includes much good work and many monuments of the Georgian period. However, none of the **mediaeval village** remains, but some 18th. century houses remain in Charlotte Square nearby.

The town of Margate became a fashionable resort soon after 1760. Its great deficiency at first was its lack of good houses. Development of Cecil Square took place soon after this date as a result of the initiative of Mr. Edward Cecil, Sir John Shaw and Sir Edward Hale and several other gentlemen. Soon afterwards Hawley Square was laid out on a piece of ground then belonging to Sir Henry Hawley.

In 1770 Robert Kidd bought land from Mary Smith for £49 on which 52 Hawley Square was built. In 1786 Bettisons Library was built at the north west corner, to be demolished in the 1930's to make way for the Thanet School of Art. At the north east corner stands the Theatre Royal. In 1784 Charles Mate petitioned Parliament to authorise its erection and in 1786 its foundation stone was laid in the presence of the Duke of Cumberland. The Towers, a slightly later house was built about 1810 and is still standing. It is said to have been an Inn and stopping place for coaches at first, but for most of the century was used by wine merchants, the building having a "large range of cellars". Sarah Thorne, the famous actress lived here for many years.

Hawley Square and its environs is the only piece of substantial Georgian development remaining in Margate. The gardens in the square are the only green public open space in the central area apart from the seafront area. Together the gardens and the surrounding houses are fine examples of the best period of English domestic architecture as well as being an object lesson in organic civic design. Within the accepted architectural language of the time the buildings as a group display a lively variety. They are not the work of one hand which results in an extremely interesting street facade. This is particularly true of the western and northern sides of the Square. The recognised architectural quality of the area can be judged by the number of "listed" buildings situated in it.

HISTORICAL SECTION OF HAWLEY SQUARE