

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)  
Registered Charity No. 257884



Autumn 2006  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 344

*"The love of our town leads us"*

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

Chairman: Mr Steve Vilette

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We end the Society's year with the sad passing of two of the Society's stalwart members – Dr Alan Kay and Daphne Handscomb, the wife of our President. Both made major contributions to the success of our Society. Tributes to both Alan Kay and Daphne Handscomb are contained in this issue of the Newsletter.

Alan Kay's name will always be associated with the history of our town and, in particular, with the history of the oldest house in the town – the Tudor House. It is more than fifty years ago that Alan Kay, together with Francis Shea, wrote a pamphlet entitled *The Old House, King Street* which outlined its historical background with a description of the restoration work which, at that time, had only recently been completed. Copies of this booklet were sold at the Tudor House. Alan Kay was only too well aware of the extent of the restoration work which the former Margate Corporation had commissioned in the name of its 1950-51 Mayor, Alderman C. B. Hosking JP.

The importance of the Tudor House is, once again, becoming recognised by local councillors and the Old House has attracted large numbers on the three occasions that it was open during the recent summer months. A report on its being open on Heritage Day this year is contained in the issue of the Newsletter.

As a tribute to Alan Kay, it would seem appropriate for Thanet District Council to republish the original pamphlet on the Tudor House and for copies to be on sale at both the Tudor House and at Margate Museum.

Our meeting in October will be our Annual General Meeting when the election of the committee for 2006-07 will take place. All of the present committee members are willing to stand for another year and no other nominations have been received. However, nominations can still be put forward at the AGM should anyone else be willing to stand for election.

This issue of the Newsletter includes a super three-page article on Margate's Art Deco cinemas contributed by the Margate Museum team headed by Bob Bradley. It is easy to forget that Margate once had three Art Deco cinemas – in addition to a number of other large cinemas – and this article will, I feel sure, bring back memories to many of our older members of those good old days when Margate was still a leading seaside resort attracting huge numbers of visitors each year and cinemas were well supported.

Lastly, on behalf of the membership, I must express a big 'thank you' to Harold Tipton for his much-valued help over very many years in both producing and distributing our Newsletter. Members will recall that his late wife, Ruth, also served the Society well for over 30 years. □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

## *Welcome to new members*

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

Damien Cooke  
Joanna Cornford & John Harrison  
Lynda Gooda & Humphrey Dawson  
Neville & Maureen Hudson  
Mr & Mrs Alan Sales  
Mr & Mrs Ron Wassell

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## *Subscriptions now due*

Our new year commences on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2006 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. Once again, there is no change in the yearly subscription rates – they remain at only £5 for individual membership and £8 for joint membership. I feel sure that you will agree that these represent very good value for money. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. Members can renew at our meetings or by post to me at 34 Royal Esplanade, Margate CT9 5EG (but not to our Treasurer please as I need to keep an up-to-date record of our membership).

We currently have 293 members. The total fluctuates obviously with deaths and non-renewals but we have had a good number of new members during the past year which bodes well for the future of our Society.

Anyone is welcome to bring visitors along with them to our meetings but there will be a charge of £1 for visitors in future. There is, of course, no charge for members to attend our meetings but please remember to bring your membership card, which is currently coloured pink, with you. Next year's membership card will be yellow. □

**Pat Snow**  
Membership Secretary

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## ***Letter from our President, Ralph Handscomb***

Dear Friends

Another year has gone and we are that much older and, I hope, wiser! Your Committee has been very active over the past year and I must congratulate and thank them for their hard work and achievements.

Chairman Steve Villette has been keeping an eye on planning matters and had some success: the most important was making Thanet District Council think again of their plans to build on land in Dane Park.



*Ralph Handscomb*

Secretary Tony Snow – a non-stop bundle of energy – his walks with Colin Bridge have gone from strength to strength and brought in some new members who we welcome. His work with other groups in Margate has been extremely productive and continually brings our organisation in front of the public. I must also mention his brilliant work with the Town Pride and Town Shame awards and also his team who selected the winners.

Pat Snow, who has taken over from Jack Pilcher as Membership Secretary, is doing a sterling job. Jack is still helping with the organising of the distribution of the newsletters.

James Brazier has made great improvements with the newsletter. Only four issues a year but each issue is full of useful information and great articles of interest. He is also making very good use of the camera we bought last year and using many of the photographs in the newsletter. His walk around Margate Cemetery following his talk to the Society last November was very successful and was received with plenty of enthusiasm.

Phil Johnson, Treasurer, is making use of her expertise in ‘keeping the books’ and monitoring our cash flow.

Harry Scobie is doing an excellent job as Vice-Chairman and regularly chairs the Committee meetings keeping order (*this sometimes is difficult*).

Margaret Main has been sitting on various committees, her principal one being the Green Flag project. She also helps me when I chair the quarterly meetings of Thanet District Council’s Property Consultation Forum. This Forum is proving to be successful in providing the Council with projects that need to be attended to, not only in our area but also in both Ramsgate and Broadstairs – in other words, in Thanet. Amongst the completed projects are Mill Lane multi-storey car park, The Oval Bandstand,

Newgate Bridge, Foreness Old Café, the Review of War Memorials, the renovation of Newbury Hotel, the public shelter at the north end of Fifth Avenue and the Jubilee Clock Tower. Among the ongoing projects are the Compton Organ at Dreamland Cinema, Hoser’s Corner, Cliff Terrace, 77 Eastern Esplanade, Dalby Square, The Lido and a number of the public conveniences throughout Thanet. They are just some of the projects in our area that we have been – and are still – dealing with. There are also numerous projects in both Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

Daphne Rowley represented us at various functions that others on the Committee otherwise find it hard to attend.

Garry Cowans is at the moment busy helping Mike Wilton set up a website for the Society. (Mike is one of our members and a volunteer at Margate Museum where he has recently set up a very successful website for the Museum.) In addition to taking over the running of the raffle at our meetings, Garry and Margaret Main also ‘showcase’ the Society at local events.

The programme of meetings for the forthcoming season is now complete. I hope that you will enjoy my choice of speakers. I have been organising the speakers for a good number of years now and it doesn’t get any easier. I have been hoping that someone will come forward to take over this task but, so far, there have been no volunteers. If anyone has any suggestions for the following year, please let me know but remember that we try to keep the subject as local as possible. □

**Ralph Handsomb**

### **Daphne Handscomb**

It is with great sadness that the death of Ralph Handscomb’s wife, Daphne, on Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006 is reported. Daphne passed away peacefully at her home in Eastern Esplanade after a long illness. Daphne and Ralph both joined the Society in the late 1980s and Daphne soon joined Ralph in becoming a committee member. Daphne was appointed Assistant Secretary (to Ruth Tipton) in 1997 and, two years later, became Minutes Secretary. Daphne later resigned from the committee due to her ill health but continued to organise the raffle at our meetings with great success until finally giving up that role last year. The Society was well represented at her funeral on 6<sup>th</sup> September and our sincere condolences go to Ralph and family for their sad loss. □

## Dr Alan Kay – an appreciation



*Dr Alan Kay*

It is with much sadness that I have to report that Alan Kay passed away suddenly at the age of 86 on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2006 in Eastbourne General Hospital: he had earlier suffered a heart attack. Alan was a founder member of Margate Civic Society and had served the Society for very many years: first as Hon Secretary and subsequently taking on the roles of Newsletter Editor, Chairman and, finally, President – a position which he fully deserved and held for many years. His wife, Violet, died in 2003 and he subsequently moved from Birchington to live near his son, Ian, and his daughter-in-law, Sue, at Chiddingly in East Sussex. During his ‘retirement’ at Chiddingly, Alan continued to be a member of the Society and kept in touch with many of his friends in our area. Shortly before moving to East Sussex, he very kindly and generously donated much of his local-history archive to Margate Museum.

Throughout his lengthy period of active membership of the Society, Alan contributed innumerable articles for our Newsletter of immense interest and wide appeal. Most notable, perhaps, were his series on ‘Corners of Old Margate’, ‘Margate: A to Z’ and Margate – The Decades’. In earlier years, Alan had also written several ‘Margate – The Year...’ booklets for the Society.

In addition, Alan wrote ten local-history books, his schoolmasterly touch of dry humour and quiet authority always standing him in good stead in the

rough and tumble of historical research and publication! As well as championing Margate’s history as a leading seaside resort, Alan was especially interested in the history and fortunes of Margate Football Club.

Alan was also instrumental in forming the ‘Friends of Margate Museum’ and co-ordinated volunteers from the Civic Society to enable the Museum to re-open to the public. He was on the first committee of the Margate Historical Society and, more recently, was involved in the launch of the Birchington Heritage Trust.

His funeral took place at Eastbourne Crematorium on 4<sup>th</sup> August and the Society was represented by Jack Pilcher (one of our Vice-Presidents who worked closely with Alan for many years on our Newsletter), Jack’s wife, Anne, (who ‘word-processed’ four of Alan’s books) and myself. He will be sadly missed. □

**Steve Vilette**

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## Cliftonville West Renewal Area

An invitation was recently received from Thanet District Council for someone to represent Margate Civic Society at a meeting being held to discuss proposals to restrict the development of one-bedroom flats, bedsits and houses of multiple occupancy in the Cliftonville West Renewal Area. As you probably know, that area has been greatly blighted by these types of accommodation and, indeed, by some of the residents which they have attracted. I thought that I would go along to represent the Society at the meeting as what has happened in Cliftonville West has much affected the image of our town.

As a result of the Council having no proper policy controlling accommodation in Cliftonville West, flats now represent 60% of all accommodation in that area. Furthermore, 45% of all accommodation in the area is occupied by one-person households and the turnover of ‘residents’ is increasing year on year. If Thanet District Council were able to draft a policy it would curtail further increases of one-bedroom flats and the like and would show that, at last, they are getting to grips with the situation.

It was quite evident at the meeting that the ‘regular’ residents were very angry about the present state of affairs with great concerns about bad neighbours and their complete lack of care for the area. There was a good representation of residents who do care and many of them had a great deal to say being very frustrated that despite tremendous effort by local people to get the situation under control, very little – if any – improvement has been seen to-date.

Government policy is to provide more and more one-bedroom properties so Thanet District Council is gathering evidence to support an appeal by the Council against such policy. I think we can only encourage this initiative by the Council to stop the situation getting any worse.

Can they pull it off? Think positive. We can only hope that they do.

If you would like to comment of the Council’s proposals, please contact Colin Fitt, Strategic Planning & Conservation Officer, Thanet District Council, Council Offices, Cecil Street, Margate CT9 1XZ or, if you require more information, please contact Hazel Thorpe at Thanet District Council by telephone on 01843 577120. □

**Tony Snow**

## Report on Heritage Open Day in Margate

Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> September was the date of Margate Civic Society's contribution to this year's Heritage Open Days. We organised three events this year. Robin Colyer gave two well-received tours around the ancient parish church of St John. There was also a guided walk through the streets and history of Margate Old Town plus our biggest event which was an open day at Margate Tudor House. This was a great success being attended by 241 visitors who were thrilled to see inside what is one of the town's greatest – yet most undervalued – treasures which is, as you know, very rarely open to the public.

The success of the event was entirely due to the enthusiastic help of the Civic Society volunteers with the bonus of local-historian Mick Twyman giving guided tours for those visitors who wanted in-depth information on the Old House. Mick's knowledge was of particular interest to a large number of school-children because they are studying the Tudors as part of the National Curriculum. Another 'extra' was the wonderful perfume pervading throughout the building just as it might have done in Tudor times thanks to the large bunches of lavender and rosemary kindly provided by Vera Jenkins. Additional atmosphere was provided by music played by Colin Bridge and his clarinet group.

The staff at Margate Museum have played a large part in keeping the Tudor House from closure by opening the Old House on several occasions – all of which were well attended. Unfortunately, Margate Museum is restricted in what they can do by lack of funds so this year the Civic Society resolved to try to help them out. On their behalf, we sold a considerable number of souvenirs supplied by the Museum and additionally received voluntary donations from our evidently happy visitors which, of course, we passed on to Margate Museum as a contribution from the Civic Society to help them in their endeavours to look after the heritage of our town.

The annual Heritage Open Days event throughout the country is co-ordinated by The Civic Trust. The event culminates in their publicity programme of buildings made open to the public organised as a result of the freely-given time of thousands of volunteers throughout the country. This year, after all the hard work had been done by groups such as ours, The Civic Trust suddenly announced that they would not be publishing a printed programme saying that those who wanted information could find it by consulting the relevant website. In times of so much political correctness, surely this must count as some sort of discrimination which disadvantages those amongst us who are not 'electronically connected'. What do you think? □

**Tony Snow**



*Margate's beautifully restored sixteenth-century Tudor House  
(in King Street) which is a Grade II\* listed building*



*Tony Snow who organised the  
opening of the Tudor House*

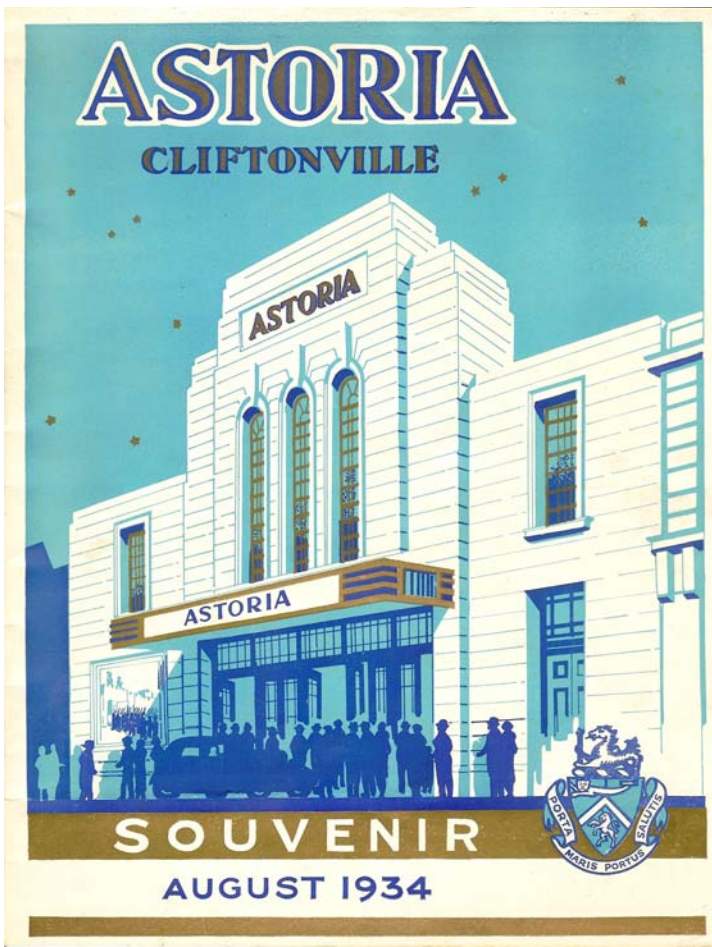
### **Come and join us**

Nominations are invited from any members of the Margate Civic Society who would like to join the committee in their interesting and rewarding work.

For more information, please contact the Hon Secretary or, if it is a last-minute decision, just put your hand up at our Annual General Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October. □

# Margate's Art Deco Cinemas

Many of us have admired the Art Deco Dreamland cinema building on Margate seafront, but how many know that there were once two other Art Deco cinemas in Margate – the Astoria in Northdown Road and the Regal in Cecil Square? The three cinemas were all built in the 1930s; the peak years of Art Deco architecture and all were opened within a few months of each other. The first to open was the Astoria which had been built on the site of the Palladium Garage on the western corner of Wyndham Avenue and Northdown Road, Cliftonville and which opened on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1934. This was closely followed by the Regal, in Cecil Square, which gave its first performance on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1934. Three months later, the new Dreamland cinema opened on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1935; the new one was built on the site of an earlier cinema which had opened on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1923. Thus, within eight months, three major cinemas opened in the town which already had a number of other well-established cinemas operating – these would include the Parade (later renamed the Classic) opposite the harbour, the Plaza (originally called the Cinema De Luxe until 1930 and now used as a church) in the upper part of the High Street and the Cameo (formerly The Lounge) in Northdown Road. To have three new ‘super cinemas’ so close to each other indicates the importance of Margate and Cliftonville in their heyday and the great popularity of the cinema in the 1930s.



*The striking front cover design of the souvenir programme for the opening of the Astoria on 4<sup>th</sup> August 1934*



*How the opening of the Astoria was advertised in the local press*



*A piece of shrapnel found in the Astoria on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1940 still with its original label attached. The other side of the label reads: 'Found in the ASTORER CINEMAE (sic) Cliftonville'. Judging by the misspelling of 'Astoria cinema', this relic of the air raid on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1940 was probably 'rescued' by a young lad who was 'canny' enough to record where and when it was found*

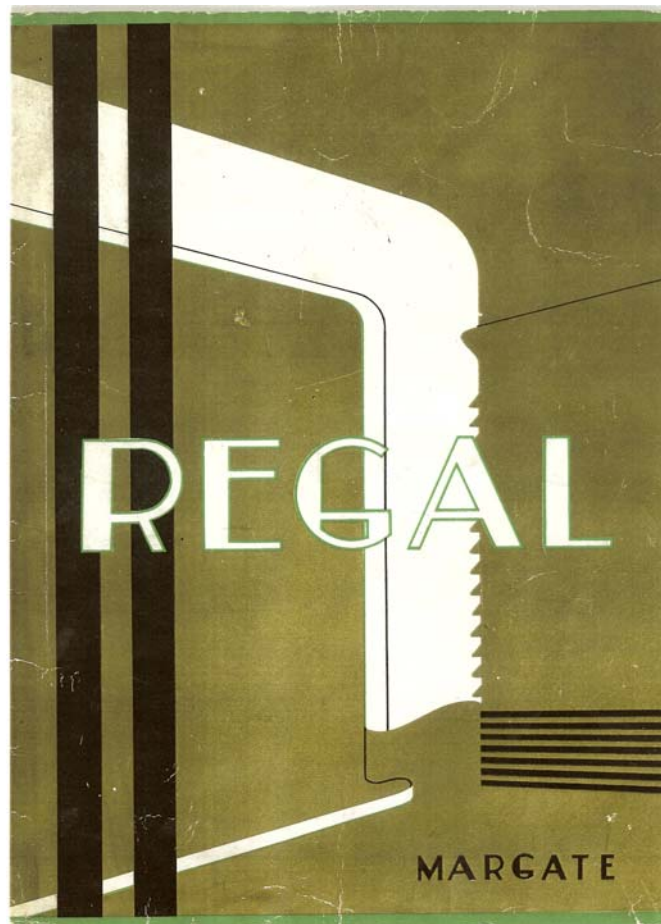
Whilst Dreamland cinema survives as a prime example of Art Deco architecture, the Astoria and the Regal were not so fortunate both being destroyed by enemy bombs dropped during the Second World War. The Astoria was heavily damaged on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1940 and subsequently demolished, whilst the Regal received a direct hit during an air raid on Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> September 1941 when the auditorium was wrecked just a few hours after showing H. G. Wells's film *Kipps* to a full house. Today, a petrol filling-station stands on the former site of the Astoria cinema.

More information on the Astoria (as well as both the Regal and Dreamland cinemas) is available in the Research Archive at Margate Museum.

**Do you have any memories of either the Astoria or the Regal cinemas? If so, please do send them in to the editor for future publication in our newsletter. I feel sure that other readers would be most interested in any recollections of these grand cinemas – Ed.**



*The frontispiece of the souvenir programme for the opening of the Regal*



*The front cover of the souvenir programme for the opening of the Regal on 21<sup>st</sup> December 1934*

The Mayor of Margate, Alderman F. L. Pettman performed the opening ceremony on Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 1934 at 8.15pm. The first film shown at the Regal was *The Camels are Coming* starring Jack Hulbert. The cinema was built and furnished by E. D. Winn of Wilton Street, London SW1. The previous year, the same contractor had beaten all records by building the Regal in Canterbury in just sixteen weeks! The theatre was planned by and built under the direction of the architect Robert Crombie FRIBA.

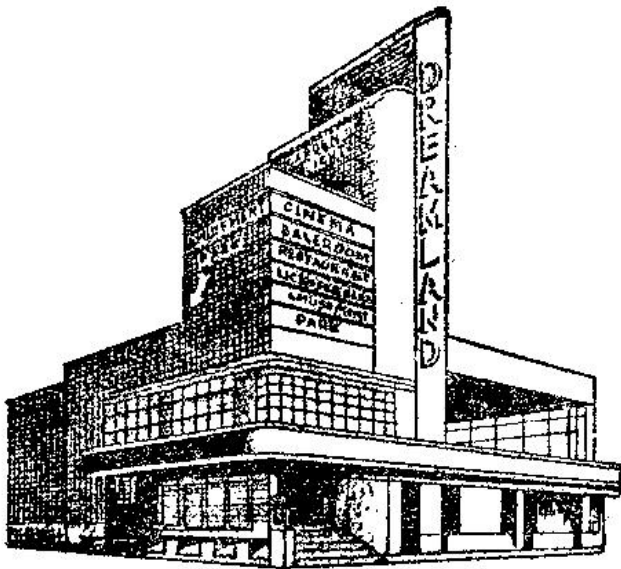
The organ was specially designed by Reginald Foort FRCO and was constructed by Messrs P. Conacher & Co of Huddersfield, Yorkshire. Reginald Foort was also the organist for many years.

The original seating capacity was 1,795 and the prices of admission when the cinema was first opened were 7d, 9d 1/6d and 2/- for the stalls and 1/6d and 2/- in the balcony.

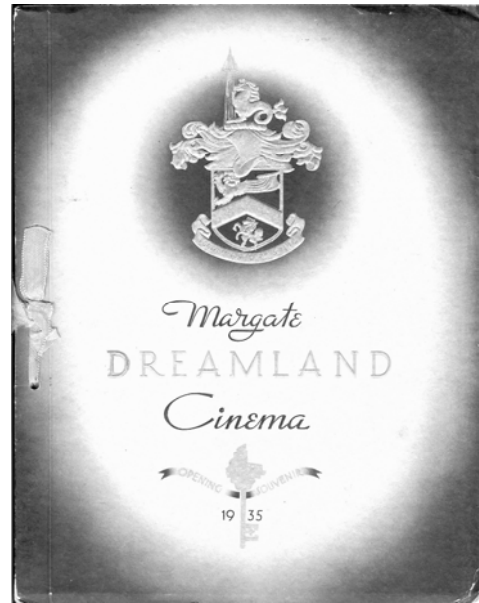
The projection room was fitted with the latest model Super Simplex mechanisms and the sound system was by Western Electric Co.

As stated above, the Regal received a direct hit on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1941 and never re-opened as a cinema. After the war, the National Provincial Bank used the ground floor fronting Cecil Square as their Margate branch. Years later, the National Provincial Bank amalgamated with the Westminster Bank to become the NatWest Bank. Today, the Court House is approximately where the Regal once proudly stood in Cecil Square.

**In a recent public competition run by *Thanet Extra* to rename The Centre in Margate, the winning suggestion was Regal Walk. Having regard to the two 'blue plaques' in Cecil Square (one marking where King George IV, as Prince of Wales, first met his bride Princess Caroline of Brunswick and the other marking the former residence of the Duke of Cumberland in the eighteenth century) and to the proximity of the former Regal cinema in more recent times, the new name of Regal Walk is most appropriate and a worthy winner.**



Margate's only surviving Art Deco cinema – Dreamland



The cover of the souvenir programme for the opening of the new Dreamland Cinema on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1935

The new Dreamland cinema was opened by the Mayor, Alderman F. L. Pettman, and Captain H. H. Balfour, Member of Parliament for Thanet, on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1935. By coincidence, as Mayor for that year, Alderman Pettman had officiated at the openings of all of the three cinemas featured in this article. Today, his name still lives on in Margate with the furniture depository, house removal and monthly auctions business in Althelstan Road, Cliftonville.

The first film to be shown at the new Dreamland cinema was *Them that Hills*, a short film starring the great Laurel and Hardy which was followed by the first full-length film *The Painted Veil* starring Greta Garbo (*there was no chance that she was alone that night!*).

The architects were J. R. Leathart FRIBA, W. R. Granger FRIBA and J. B. Iles ARIBA. It was the first example of a cinema built in the style based on the Titania Palast of Berlin, 1924 – a style that was used by the Odeon company from 1936 onwards. Today, very few of the many Art Deco cinemas of the 1930s remain in the country. Consequently, the importance of Margate's Dreamland cinema as a building of major architectural significance is becoming more and more recognized by architectural students and professionals.

The principal feature of the front is the tall narrow tower with pointed angle flanked by the squat square tower on the left-hand side as can be seen in the above picture. Today, the building is undoubtedly the most striking building along the whole of Marine Terrace. Before the construction of Arlington House, Dreamland cinema dominated the skyline of Margate as seen from the main sands. Architecturally, there simply can be no real comparison between the two buildings. Whilst both were modern buildings in their time, one remains architecturally pleasing and the other is considered by many as being an eyesore.

But not only is the exterior design of Dreamland cinema still exciting, the interior of the building is still very special and many of its original attractive features remain. Perhaps the most important is the Compton organ and many readers, we are sure, will recall hours spent in the auditorium enjoying Lewis Gerard, the resident solo organist, playing the organ with such skill and artistry. The whole atmosphere inside the cinema was one of escapism from the humdrum everyday life in the depression years of the 1930s to one of exotic dreams in the faraway world of Hollywood.

When it first opened, its seating capacity was 2,200 and the unreserved prices were 7d, 9d and 1/- in the stalls and 1/6d in the balcony; the reserved prices were 1/6d in the stalls and 2/- in the balcony. These were very similar to the prices charged at the Regal.

Dreamland cinema survived in its original form until 1973 when the balcony area was converted into a twin cinema with seating for 378 and 376 respectively and the auditorium converted into a bingo hall.

The cinema has had many owners over the years and is now operated by Reeltime Cinemas who also operate the award-winning Carlton cinema in Westgate-on-Sea.

Dreamland cinema is Margate's great icon of the 1930s Art Deco movement. Long may it stand proud whilst continuing to attract patrons as one of the town's leading entertainments centre. □

**If you want to find out more about any of the cinemas featured in the article or any other aspect of old Margate, you will be made very welcome at Margate Museum where facilities are available for you to access the Museum's Research Archive.**

*This article was compiled by the Margate Museum team*

## ‘Elephant Hill’



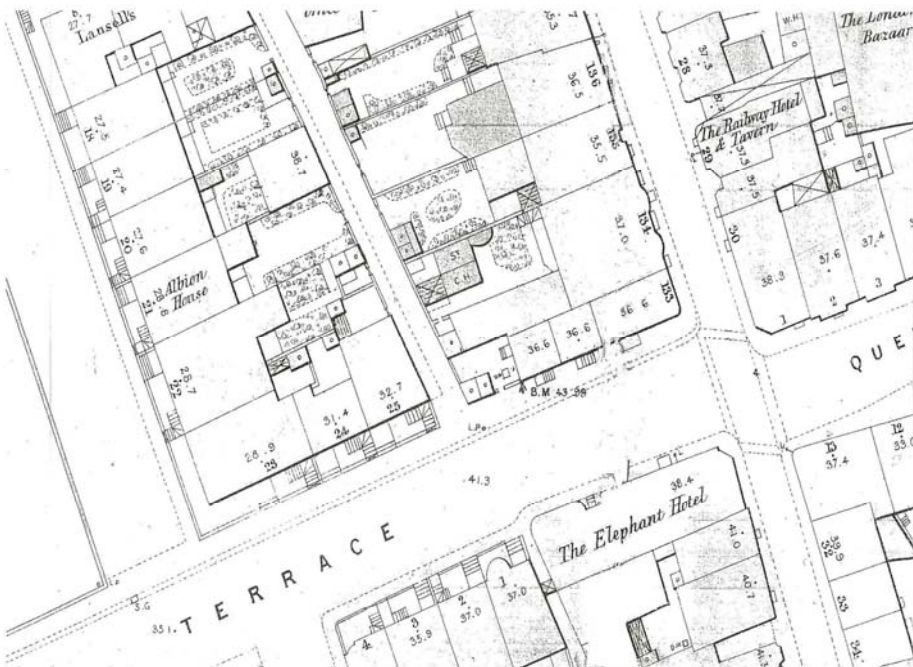
*The Elephant Hotel with public bars*

Many Margatonians often refer to what is now known as Marine Gardens as ‘Elephant Hill’ although the writer is not aware of any record that the road was ever known officially as ‘Elephant Hill’. The road stretches from Eaton Road at its western end to the High Street at its eastern end and, until the 1930s – when it was renamed Marine Gardens – had formed part of Marine Terrace as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1852 below.

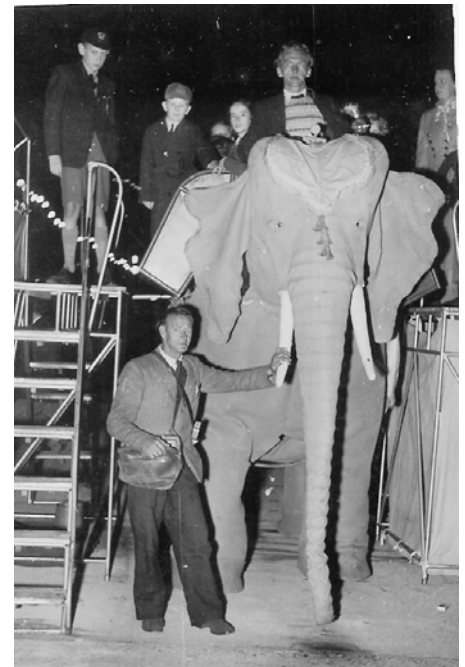
The Elephant Hotel was built before 1852 and was demolished around 1972 when much of Margate’s town centre was redeveloped. Since that time, the site has been occupied by the Margate Branch of Woolwich Building Society. It is interesting to see that the map below also shows The Railway Hotel & Tavern just a few steps away in the lower High Street.

Some mistakenly claim that ‘Elephant Hill’ was named after Lord George Sanger’s circus and menagerie but there is no reference to him ever visiting Margate until the 1870s by which time the building, known as The Elephant Hotel, was already more than twenty

years old. Others claim that ‘Elephant Hill’ was named after the mechanical elephant which operated along part of the promenade below The Fort in the 1950s giving rides to members of the public for a small charge. Perhaps it is because the J. D. Wetherspoon public house, ‘The Mechanical Elephant’ on Marine Terrace, was named after that contraption a little over five years ago, that this mistaken claim has been made. There is a danger that both these mistaken claims of the origin of ‘Elephant Hill’ will become part of Margate’s mythology. Clearly, both these claims are wrong. □



*1852 Ordnance Survey map showing The Elephant Hotel on the corner of the High Street and what then formed part of Marine Terrace (now known as Marine Gardens)*



*Margate’s petrol-driven mechanical elephant giving rides – Sunbeam photograph probably taken during a September evening in the early-1950s*

*(Margate Museum’s help with this article is acknowledged with grateful thanks)*

It is planned to include an article on ‘Frog Hill’ in a future issue of the newsletter.



# Heritage Features Quiz No. 2

Do you know which buildings in Westgate-on-Sea have these most attractive year-date features?  
To assist readers, the twelve buildings are listed below in random order. Can you match the numbered photographs? The answers are shown elsewhere in this newsletter



1870



A. D. 1873



1880



1880



1881



1884



1890



1895



1900



1906



1932



2005

## List of buildings (not in same order as shown above)

*Bay Court, Sea Road*  
*April House, Sea Road*  
*St John Ambulance Station,  
Cuthbert Road*  
*Powell Villas, Quex Road*

*61 Westgate Bay Avenue*  
*Walmer Castle Public House, Canterbury Road*  
*Former Coastguard Officer's house,  
Old Boundary Road*  
*St Saviour's Church*


*St Augustine's Park, Lymington Road*  
*Waterside, Sea Road*  
*St Michael's Convalescent Home,  
Domneva Road*  
*Summerlands, Canterbury Road*

## Sturgeons or Dolphins?



The last issue of the Newsletter featured a short note on Margate's most attractive seafront lighting-columns and stimulated some debate as to whether the design incorporates dolphins or sturgeons. Some claim they are the former whilst others maintain they are the latter. Whatever they are, there are actually 34 such columns and not 24 as incorrectly stated in the last issue. Apologies for that!

The above transfer design was featured on various items of souvenir china which were produced for sale to visitors to the town in the late nineteenth century. Much of that china, including that from which the above design was copied, was manufactured in Germany. The transfer design features one of the lighting columns in the foreground and shows, in the background, the former Hotel Metropole and adjoining buildings which were all swept away in the road-widening scheme of the 1930s to create Fort Hill. At the time when this transfer design was first produced, the lighting columns would have been only recently installed. The design makes a charming composition showing the harbour area as a place of major commercial importance in the town at that time. □



Margate.  
Telegrams:  
"Metropole,  
Margate."

Easy Access  
to  
Thanet  
Golf  
Links.

**HOTEL METROPOLE,  
MARGATE.**

Well Sheltered from the North-east. Faces the Jetty.  
Magnificent Sea Views. Splendidly Decorated.  
Handsomely & Comfortably Furnished. Lounges, Electric Light, Elevator.

A copy of a 1903 advertisement for the Hotel Metropole

## Heritage Features Quiz No. 2 – Answers

1.	<i>Former Coastguard Officer's House, Old Boundary Road</i>
2.	<i>Bay Court, Sea Road</i>
3.	<i>April House, Sea Road</i>
4.	<i>Waterside, Sea Road</i>
5.	<i>61 Westgate Bay Avenue</i>
6.	<i>St Saviour's Church</i>
7.	<i>Powell Villas, Quex Road</i>
8.	<i>St Michael's Convalescent Home, Domneva Road</i>
9.	<i>Walmer Castle Public House, Canterbury Road</i>
10.	<i>Summerlands, Canterbury Road</i>
11.	<i>St John Ambulance Station, Cuthbert Road</i>
12.	<i>St Augustine's Park, Lyminster Road</i>

## Proposed extension to Westgate's Conservation Area

At a packed public meeting held in Westgate Library on 12<sup>th</sup> July, local residents were given a most interesting presentation by Nick Dermott, Thanet District Council's Conservation Architect during which he outlined TDC's officers' proposals to enlarge the existing Westgate-on-Sea Conservation Area. The proposals, which have yet to be considered by elected councillors, would more than double the existing Conservation Area which was designated in March 1998.

Nick Dermott will give an update on these proposals for new regulations to preserve other parts of Westgate at a meeting of the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association to be held on 9<sup>th</sup> October at the Association's premises at *The Bakehouse*, St Mildred's Road. The meeting is due to start at 7.15pm. Members of our Society will recall that *Eventide* (formerly *St Mildred's Court*) in St Mildred's Road was demolished some two years ago notwithstanding it being within Westgate's designated Conservation Area. One would like to think that the proposed extension of the existing Conservation Area will provide the necessary protection against demolition of any other buildings within the Westgate Conservation Area. Sadly, the fate of *Eventide* – despite it having been in the designated Conservation Area – remains in our memory. Since then, *Sea Tower* in Sussex Gardens – one of the very first bungalows built in this country – has also been demolished to make way for, yes, another block of flats. Sadly, *Sea Tower* was just outside the boundary of the existing Conservation Area. If Westgate's important architectural heritage is to be protected against further erosion, let us hope that Conservation Area status will provide real protection in the future. □

## More volunteers wanted to assist in the distribution of our Newsletter

The distribution of our Newsletter is carried out by a number of our members who, voluntarily, hand-deliver copies of the Newsletter just four times a year to members living in each of their local areas. Jack Pilcher oversees this distribution and Jack is looking for more volunteers to assist him in this process. If you are able to help the Society in this task, please contact Jack on 01843 833767.

## **What's on**

### **Margate Civic Society (talks all start at 7.30pm at The Walpole Bay Hotel):**

- 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006 Annual General Meeting followed with the talk: 'The Future of the Thanet Police Force and Dealing with Crime' by Chief Superintendent West, Margate Police Station
- 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2006 'The Thanet Coast Project' by Tony Child, Project Manager
- 7<sup>th</sup> December 2006 'Dreamland: Past and Present' by Mick Tomlinson
- (Note: No meeting in January)

### **Other organisations:**

*Turner Contemporary (talks all start at 6.00pm at the Margate Media Centre, King Street). These talks, which are open to everyone and admission is free, are recommended. Places are limited, so please book early (Tel: 280261) to avoid disappointment.*

- 17<sup>th</sup> October 'Fakes, Forgeries and Scientific Hoaxes' by Lucia Burgio (this talk is subject to confirmation)
- 21<sup>st</sup> November 'Seaweeds and their Secrets' by Ian Tittley, Expert in Marine Flora

*Isle of Thanet Historical Society (talks all start at 7.30pm at the Roman Catholic Church Hall, Minnis Road, Birchington)*

- 16<sup>th</sup> October 'Village Signs' by Carole Smith
- 20<sup>th</sup> November 'And so we raised the Mary Rose' by Albert Granville CBE, CLH
- 18<sup>th</sup> December 'The Life & Works of Charles Rennie Mackintosh' by Robin Fleet (followed by light refreshments)
- 15<sup>th</sup> January 'The First Bungalows of Britain in Spencer Road, Birchington' by Miss Jennie Burgess

*Friends of Quex (meetings start at 7.30pm in The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex Park, Birchington)*

- 11<sup>th</sup> October 'Traditional Kentish Building Materials' by Richard Filmer

**Note for your diary:** The Margate Operatic Society is presenting their pantomime **Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs** at the Winter Gardens, Margate from Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November to Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> November 2006. Performances will be nightly (Wednesday to Saturday) at 7.30pm with Matinees on Saturday and Sunday at 2.30pm. Tickets are £8.00 each (Senior Citizens and Children are £7.00 each). For more information, phone 01843 220708 or 01843 297780.

### **Useful telephone numbers:**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Phone No.</b>	<b>Contact name/Notes</b>
Margate Museum, The Old Town Hall, Market Place	231213	Bob Bradley, Curator
Margate Public Library – Local Studies Collection	223626	Tuesdays 2.00pm to 6.00pm, Fridays 2.00pm to 6.00pm and the first Saturday each month
Birchington Heritage Trust Museum, Birchington Library	846502	Monday mornings only, 9.30 to 12.00
Birchington Parish Archivist	842988	Jennie Burgess
Margate Historical Society	227574	Mick Twyman, Secretary
Isle of Thanet Historical Society	835587	Barry Hopper, Chairman
Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society	07906 360725	Val Robbins, Secretary
Isle of Thanet Geographical Association	863110	-
Kent Family History Society (Thanet Branch)	842933	Cliff Cole
Draper's Windmill Trust	226227	David Keep, Chairman
Margate Lifeboat Fund-Raising Committee	832846	Laurie Walton, Treasurer
Friends of Margate Cemetery Trust	230274	Vera Jenkins
Friends of Quex	842040	Edna Elven, Membership Secretary
Friends of the Theatre Royal Margate	293397	David Rankin, Secretary
Friends of Westgate Pavilion	226542	Mike Emery, Secretary
Turner Contemporary	280261	Victoria Pomery, Director
The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House, Birchington	842168	-
The Shell Grotto, Grotto Hill, Margate	220008	Sarah Vickery
Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Museum	821940	-
RAF Manston History Museum	825224	-
Cliftonville Residents' Association	226033	Keith Chadband, Chairman
Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association	831474	Norman Smith, Treasurer

### **Special exhibition at Margate Museum**

The special exhibition at Margate Museum to commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War entitled "Doing their Bit – The Home Front in East Kent" has been extended until the end of March 2007. If you haven't yet visited this special exhibition, don't miss it. □





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

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

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

**Committee for 2006/07** – subject to ratification at the Society's Annual General Meeting to be held on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2006:

**President:** Mr Ralph Handscomb

14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 293169)

**Chairman:** Mr Steve Villette

29 The Ridgeway, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2TL (Tel: 221250)

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Harry Scobie

45 Cornwall Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JG (Tel:291298)

**Secretary:** Mr Tony Snow

34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG (Tel: 221838)

**Treasurer:** Mrs Phil Johnson MBE

14 Sherwood Court, Dent-de-Lion Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8NU (Tel: 831469)

**Membership Secretary:** Mrs Pat Snow

34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG (Tel: 221838)

**Newsletter Editor:** Mr James Brazier

"The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ (Tel: 298038)

**Other Committee Members:**

Mr Jack Pilcher, 7 Queen Bertha's Avenue, Birchington CT7 9BH (Tel: 833767)

Mr Garry Cowans, Flat 3, 21 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate (Tel: 221938)

Mrs Margaret Main, 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN

Mrs Daphne Rowley, "Spring Cottage", 11 Pembroke Avenue, Westbrook, Margate (Tel: 292089)

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

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### Enrolment Form

I enclose the sum of £ .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Tel:** .....

**Subscription rates for 2006/07:**

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
<b>Annual</b>	£5.00	£8.00	50p	£10.00
<b>Life Membership</b>	£40.00	£60.00	-	-

and send it to the Membership Secretary (Mrs Pat Snow), 34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG