

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)
Registered Charity No. 257884



Autumn 2008
Newsletter
Issue No. 352

"The love of our town leads us"

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb
Chairman: Mrs Margaret Main

The Society's Annual General Meeting will be held at The Walpole Bay Hotel at 7.30pm on Thursday, 2nd October when the Committee for next year will be elected. Immediately following our AGM, there will be an illustrated talk given by Richard Filmer on hops and hop-picking. Richard Filmer gave us an illustrated talk last December on traditional Kentish trades, crafts and industries which was very well received and we look forward to welcoming him back to speak to us again. The October meeting will be the first of our monthly meetings for the forthcoming season and we look forward to seeing both old familiar faces and a number of new ones. If you haven't attended any of our meetings yet, do come along to the AGM and discover what you have missed. We are a friendly group and our venue for meetings is second to none.

In addition to annual reports from both our President and our Chairman, this issue of the Newsletter includes a range of articles of local interest from our regular scribes. Contributions to the Newsletter are always welcome from other members whether as 'Letters to the Editor', articles of local interest – particularly relating to buildings – or just snippets of information.

Hopefully, this issue of the Newsletter will be printed and distributed to members in good time before our AGM. However, it should be remembered that most copies of the Newsletter are distributed voluntarily by our members and it might be that your copy is not received by the date of our AGM. We are, of course, very grateful to those members who distribute copies by hand as such practice saves the Society around £300 a year. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2008 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. As agreed at last year's AGM, the subscription rates for 2008/09 were increased for the first time for many years. I feel sure that you will agree that these new rates still 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 c/o 34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG. □

Garry Cowans
Membership Secretary

Welcome to new members

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

William & Margaret Christian

Garry Cowans
Membership Secretary

COME and JOIN US

As I am sure you are all aware, your Committee achieves a great deal on behalf of Margate Civic Society and to the benefit of the area in general. We are, however, always hoping that some more of you would like to help us in our efforts as new ideas and a fresh approach can only be a good thing.

If you feel that you could add to our strength on the Committee, please let me have your nomination. It doesn't have to be too formal, even a phone call would do. Just let me know by our Annual General Meeting to be held on 2nd October 2008.

Another possibility is to have a taster by coming to some Committee meetings just as an observer to see what you think. (That is how I took the leap from Newsletter delivery boy to Committee member about 25 years ago!)

Jack Pilcher, who has so capably handled Newsletter distribution for many years is retiring this year but the good news is that the vacancy has already been filled by Mrs Lynda Smith (01843 228174) who has kindly volunteered to take over from Jack (in fact, we actually had two volunteers for this important post). The remainder of the Committee are happy to continue for a further term of office.

Let's make this a record year with so many of you wanting to join up that we need to have an election or, perhaps, a new 'Super Committee'.

Any enquiries, please contact me at 34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG (Tel: 01843 221838). □

Tony Snow
Secretary



A lovely Edwardian postcard attracting visitors to Margate

President's Report 2007/08



Where has this year gone? The older I get, the quicker time seems to pass. It really should be the other way around. Do you remember, when we were kids, how the summer holidays seemed to last forever? Now, summer is just a puff of hot air...

So, what have we achieved this year? Well, some of the eyesores that we have been on to the Council about have and are being dealt with. Number 77 Eastern Esplanade on the corner of Surrey Road is at last completely renovated. Turned into four flats for first-time buyers, with shared ownership, is a scheme with a housing group. I was invited to see the result of the renovations and must congratulate the team working on this project for an excellent result.

Numbers 14 & 15 Cliff Terrace, opposite the Lido, are at last being renovated. Scaffolding has been up for a number of weeks and work is in full swing. One of our members had the foresight to apply for listed-building status which was granted. This means that the exterior of the building must stay as it was originally. So, no plastic windows and the curved windows must stay.

We had a fire at Dreamland with the Scenic Railway being badly damaged. We are promised by TDC that this is going to be repaired and be put back into full working order. There are some very exciting ideas afoot for Dreamland; but whether they come about, we will have to wait and see. The idea of a Heritage Fairground is one that I have been suggesting for over a year and have passed on to various bodies a number of photographs and pamphlets of Dingles in Devon which, if any of you are in the vicinity of Oakhampton or Tavistock, it is worth visiting. Nearer home, the Harbour Arm is also worth visiting, a lot of work has been completed there by Pineapple Property (Kent) Ltd and building work on the Turner Art Gallery is, we are told, going to start in October.

We continue to keep an eye on Hosers Corner; on the organ at Dreamland Cinema, on the Lido, on the Tudor House (and Barn), on Margate Clock Tower (hoping, someday, for funding for the Time Ball), on Newgate Gap, on the Fort Hotel and the Arcadian, on the Oval, on Dane Park Toilet, on the various public shelters and several other buildings and sites.

Our Chairman, Mrs Margaret Main has been doing wonders, heading the Dane Park Green Flag project, which now has lighting and a cycle-path through the centre. But, I will let Margaret tell you about the Green Flag project. It's her baby! Unfortunately for us, Margaret and her husband Tom are going to leave us in a few months' time, going to America to live and to be near her daughter and family. We will miss her and her dedicated work. We wish her, and Tom, all the best for the future.

Tony Snow continues to cover a lot of ground with his Town Walks. He also deals with most of the correspondence and many other chores. Once again, I have to thank him for all the work he does for the Society.

Vice-Chairman Harry Scobie, since becoming a Councillor, has managed to share his time with TDC and us and continues to keep order at our committee meetings and helps with raffles at our evenings at the Walpole Bay Hotel. Talking of raffles at our meetings, thank you for your support. It helps to pay for the venue and the guest speakers. Keep buying the tickets!

Pat Snow is being a very able Treasurer and a great help to Tony.

Garry Cowans, our Membership Secretary and computer wizard, has organised the notice-boards with Margaret and, together, have attended a number of functions, garden parties etc spreading the word and bringing in new members. Garry also organises our raffles very successfully.

With computers in mind, I would like to thank Mike Wilton for the setting-up of our website and for helping with the Town Pride Awards. Also, thanks must be extended to the members who were on the Town Pride Awards sub-committee.

Our very able Newsletter Editor, James Brazier, whose publication is always very readable, continues to look for good newsworthy stories relevant to our area. So, let's hear some of the many memories that our members must be in possession of.

A special thank you goes to Jack Pilcher who, after many years of service, has decided to have a rest from the hassle of organising the Newsletter distribution and was, for many years, the Membership Secretary. Thank you Jack, from all of us, for all the years of loyal service to the Society.

And I thank the rest of the committee for the many roles carried out by them over the past year.

I close with a request that you look at the programme that I have put together for the next season. I think that it is a good one. Some of the speakers are back by popular request. I have been organising the lecture programme for over ten years and it becomes more and more difficult to find good speakers on local topics. If anyone has suggestions for speakers for the following season, please do let me know. We are extremely lucky in having the Walpole Bay Hotel as our venue for the evening lectures and I am very grateful to Jane Bishop and her family for all the help we receive from them. Finally, we are coming up to the AGM. We could do with some younger blood on the committee. If interested, please do not be shy in offering to join us. □

Ralph Handscomb
President

Town Pride Awards 2008 – Correction

In our last Newsletter, (No 351) the recent renovation of 4 & 5 Market Place was wrongly attributed to 'Pineapple Properties' when it should have read 'Pineapple Property (Kent) Ltd'. We apologise for this error and any inconvenience it might have caused. □

Green Flag for Dane Park

This has been quite a year in the life of the Civic Society of which I am proud to be Chairman. The work on restoring Dane Park to some of its former glory is well underway. After a public consultation, we asked a cross-section of all park users what they would like to see in their park. What we have now is pretty much what was asked of us to provide; splitting up the younger play area and letting the teenagers have a place of their own has worked extremely well. KCC have put in much-needed extra lighting which has made the park safer in the darker hours plus some of the perimeter bushes have now been cut and cleared allowing visibility into the park (people up to no good do not like to be seen). A meeting was held on 2nd September with local residents and dog-walkers when it was agreed that a Pride of Dane Park Group would be set up. When they were asked if they felt safer in the park now with the improvements, there was a unanimous response.

If you have not had a chance to visit Dane Park recently, do go along. It is an absolute pleasure to see the number of families now using the facilities. The café is extremely busy and the toilets have been refurbished. Yes, there is still work to be done. The fountain will be fixed but this will take Heritage Lottery money to achieve. This is being looked at and, hopefully, in the new year we can get this on the agenda.

We have a dedicated PCSO whose remit is Open Green Spaces and Cliff Tops. There are at least two other PCSOs who patrol Dane Park in a CCTV van and, together, they have made a huge impact in stamping-out anti-social behaviour.

We are looking forward to being able to tick most of the boxes that will give the park Green Flag status. I would like to thank both Paul Verrall, TDC's Open Spaces Manager for all the hard work and support that he has given us over the past year and the Safer Stronger Community Fund team for their support in our funding bids.

Lastly, I would also like to thank the rest of the Civic Society's Committee for having faith in me to be able to work on this. I will miss all of you very much when we leave but will be determined to make sure that I keep an eye on all that is going on, via the Society's website and who knows how our two communities can be linked in the future. □

**Margaret Main
Chairman**

Margate Museum

A meeting of the East Kent Maritime Trust will be held at Margate Museum on Wednesday, 17th September at 6.30pm when the Trust's annual accounts for the last three years will be submitted for approval. The meeting will be a public meeting and it is hoped that an assurance will be given there that Margate Museum (and Ramsgate Maritime Museum) will continue to function for the foreseeable future. Do go along, if you can, to support the Museum. A report on the outcome of the meeting will be contained in the next issue of the Newsletter. □

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr Brazier

Webb's Oil Painting of Margate

You ask for ideas as to where the above painting could be on public view.

What about the Turner Centre? Or is that ultra-modern building for unmade beds and the like? Of course, the magnificence of this painting would afford a marked contrast to the modern 'art' that we see today.

At least its inclusion might help to stop poor old Turner spinning in his grave!

Yours sincerely
(Miss) M. Russell



Margate by James Webb (1869)

PARADE

OPPOSITE THE PIER **CINEMA** MARGATE.

Proprietors: The Parade Cinema Margate (1914) Limited. MANAGING DIRECTOR: C. W. STANLEY.

The most Comfortable and Up-to-date Picture Theatre in East Kent.

The only Place of Amusement in Margate
— that has a —

SLIDING ROOF

: : and, with a Mechanical System of : :
Ventilation, by which fresh water-cooled
Air is forced in, and the bad Air extracted
by powerful Electric Fans, the Building
is kept **PERFECTLY HYGIENIC.**

AFTERNOONS DAILY at 2.45.

Continuous **6.30 TO 10.30** Nightly.
Entire Change of Programme Mondays and Thursdays.

ADMISSION (including Tax) 4d., 7d. & 1/2
Children - 2d., 4d. and 7d.

The recent re-listing of the Grade-II former Parade Cinema as the second-oldest extant purpose-built cinema in the country opened on 26th June 1911. Later, it was renamed the Classic Cinema. It is now a snooker hall. This advertisement dates from around 1920

Ornamental Ironwork



Advertisement from 1903 Guide

The short article in the last Newsletter featuring a present-day photograph of the Arcadian in Fort Hill alongside a copy of an advertisement published in a 1903 Margate Guide which showed the highly ornamental ironwork which once graced this building was, pleasingly, picked up by the *Isle of Thanet Gazette*. Also, a number of members, after reading the Newsletter article, have commented that they had no idea that the building once boasted such a display of ornamental ironwork on its frontage. Without exception, they all said how good it would be if the building could be fully restored to its earlier state.

More interestingly, another of our members has kindly given permission to reproduce a photograph in her possession which shows the workforce of Strevens Bros standing outside their Thanet Ironworks premises at 36 King Street (since demolished and replaced by Tadcaster Court). The photograph (reproduced below) is believed to date from around 1890. Strevens Bros later took over premises on the north side of Love Lane which probably backed on to their premises on the

south side of King Street. In the photograph below, the notice to the immediate right of the bowler-hatted gentleman (possibly a Strevens) on the right proudly announces that Strevens Bros have now opened their new premises which were previously run by G. Savin. The sign-board immediately below the 'G. Savin' sign reads:

HOUSE, SHIP & BOAT WORK

COLLEGE (or possibly GARAGE) GATES, BALCONY, PARK & TOMB FENCING

At the time this photograph was taken, a large part of the work of this business would have been as shoeing-smiths but it is considered likely that the decorative ironwork on the Arcadian (and elsewhere in Margate) was produced at this foundry. □



Thanet Ironworks, 36 King Street, Margate

Fire-damaged Georgian property in Hawley Square must be rebuilt



Nos 49 & 50 Hawley Square, Margate



The warning notice on the front door to the property

The story of how the demolition of 54 Hawley Square in the late 1960s led to the founding of our Society in 1968 was recalled by Roy Adsett in the Spring 2008 issue of the Newsletter to mark the 40th anniversary of the Society.

Just a few weeks after publication of Roy's article, the property known as Nos 49 & 50 Hawley Square (it was originally one house) suffered a major fire during which the roof collapsed making it extremely hazardous for the fire crew. Thankfully, no one was hurt in the fire which broke out around midnight.

Fortunately, although much of the interior walls and the roof were lost in the fire, the façade was not seriously damaged. Importantly, the fine doorcase remains intact as can be seen from the accompanying photographs. Like the other properties in this fine Georgian terrace, this fire-damaged property is a Grade-II listed building and should be rebuilt in keeping with the remaining properties in this terrace. This late eighteenth-century house was used for many years by the Thanet County Club (not the Beaconsfield Club as reported in one of our local newspapers which was actually three houses away at 53 Hawley Square - now demolished).

It is important that this once grand property is rebuilt before it suffers further irreparable damage. There is a clear warning on the front door to the building addressed to parents that children should not trespass on the site. It is a sad reflection on the time in which we live that such a notice should even be deemed necessary. Hopefully, Thanet District Council officials will ensure that prompt action is taken to preserve the façade and to rebuild the remainder of this now sad-looking building. As the Council Offices are only a few doors away from the property, there can be no excuse for failure to monitor the rebuilding of Nos 49 & 50 Hawley Square! □



The fine doorcase with projecting cornice and Ionic half-columns. The segmental fanlight with Gothic glazing is particularly appealing. Note the eight-panelled double doors

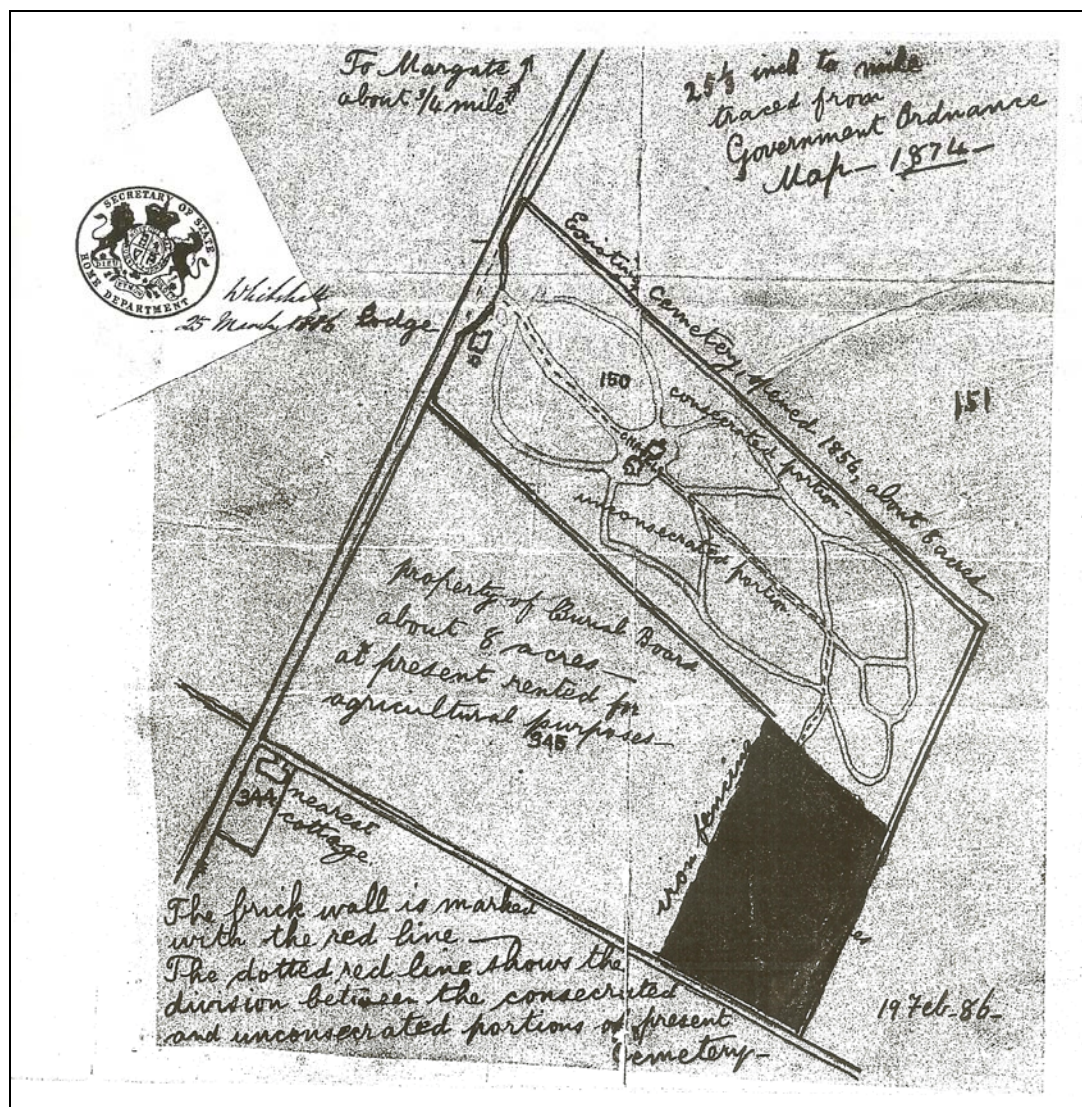
Babes in the Wood

The Margate Operatic Society's pantomime this year is *Babes in the Wood* which will be staged at the Winter Gardens from Wednesday 3rd December to Sunday 7th December. Tickets are £8 or £7 for senior citizens and children. For times of shows and further information please contact the MOS Box Office on 01843 297780. □

St John's Cemetery (now known as Margate Cemetery)

The last issue of the Newsletter featured an item on the then forthcoming Wednesday-evening guided walks around Margate Cemetery organized by The Friends of Margate Cemetery. These walks took place during the summer months and proved a success judging by both the number who took part when the writer and his wife went along and by the very favourable comments made by those who enjoyed the walk on that occasion. Indeed, such was the number attending that evening, separate parties were led by Paul Verrall, TDC's Open Spaces Manager and by John T. Williams, a local historian. Undoubtedly, the walks provided an introduction to the wealth of local history contained in our cemetery and we were told stories about many of the town's interesting characters from the past. We also visited the Surfboatmen's grave and the Commonwealth War Graves Commission WWII plot which also contains a number of graves of German aircrew. If you missed these tours, do look out for them in the future.

Some years ago (before retiring to Margate), when I spent much time researching at the Public Record Office (now known as the National Archives), I came across three plans of Margate Cemetery (originally known as St John's Cemetery) on a former Home Office file (HO45/13382). That former Home Office file related to the granting by the Secretary of State of approval to portions of land being deemed to be consecrated for burial purposes. With the kind permission of the National Archives, these three plans are reproduced in the Newsletter. The plans show how the cemetery has grown since it was opened in 1856. It is hoped that the plans will reproduce in the Newsletter sufficiently well for members to be able to read most of the writing and the detail which these plans contain.



The above plan shows the original boundary of the cemetery when it was opened in 1856 with 8,500 grave spaces. The original eight-acre cemetery boundary was marked by a brick wall on all four sides and the total area was simply divided into consecrated and non-consecrated portions. This division can be seen by the dotted line. This version of the plan is dated 1886 and shows a length of iron fencing at the rear of the area of the land which, at that time, was rented for agricultural purposes. Unfortunately, the colouring of the land behind the iron fencing has obliterated the writing which probably explained its use at that time. If anyone has knowledge of the history of that specific area, please do let us know and it will be reported in a future issue of the Newsletter. The subsequent extension of the cemetery to include the eight additional acres previously used for agricultural purposes and the division of that extension between consecrated, unconsecrated and Roman Catholic portions was approved by the Secretary of State on 8th October 1892. The enlarged area of the cemetery contained 20,000 grave spaces in total.

477279.

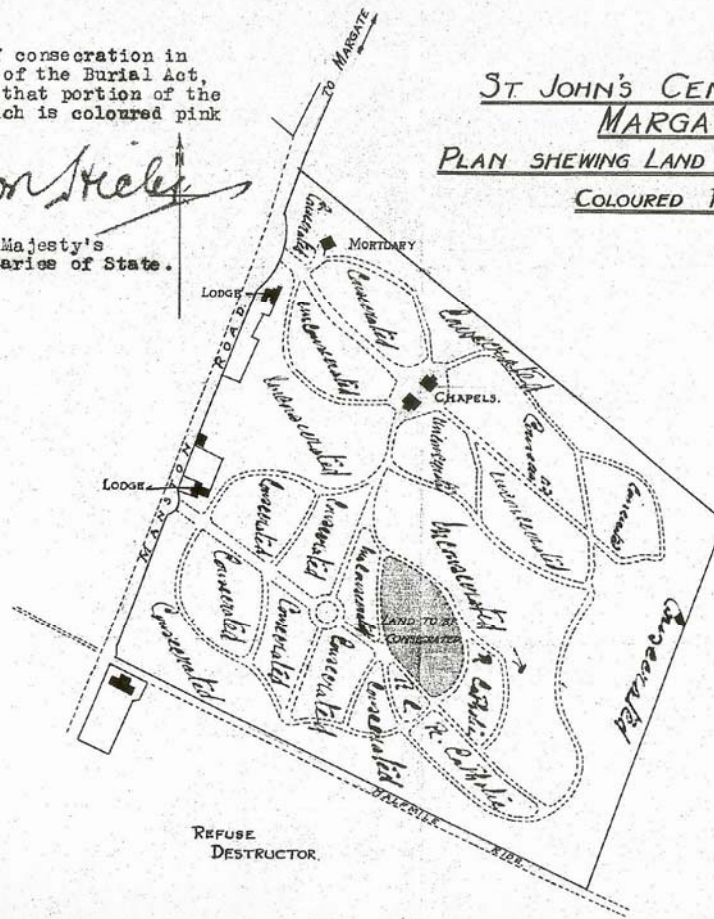
For the purpose of consecration in pursuance of Section 1 of the Burial Act, 1900, I hereby approve that portion of the St. John's Cemetery which is coloured pink on this plan.

G. Johnston

One of His Majesty's
Principal Secretaries of State.

WHITEHALL,
20th April, 1925.

ST. JOHN'S CEMETERY,
MARGATE.
PLAN SHEWING LAND TO BE CONSECRATED.
COLOURED PINK.



The above plan shows the enlarged cemetery with the shaded area (coloured pink on the original plan) approved to be consecrated ground. Note that three plots south-east of the land to be consecrated are specifically identified for Roman Catholic burials. The Secretary of State's approval to the specified land being consecrated is dated 20th April 1925.

477,279/4.

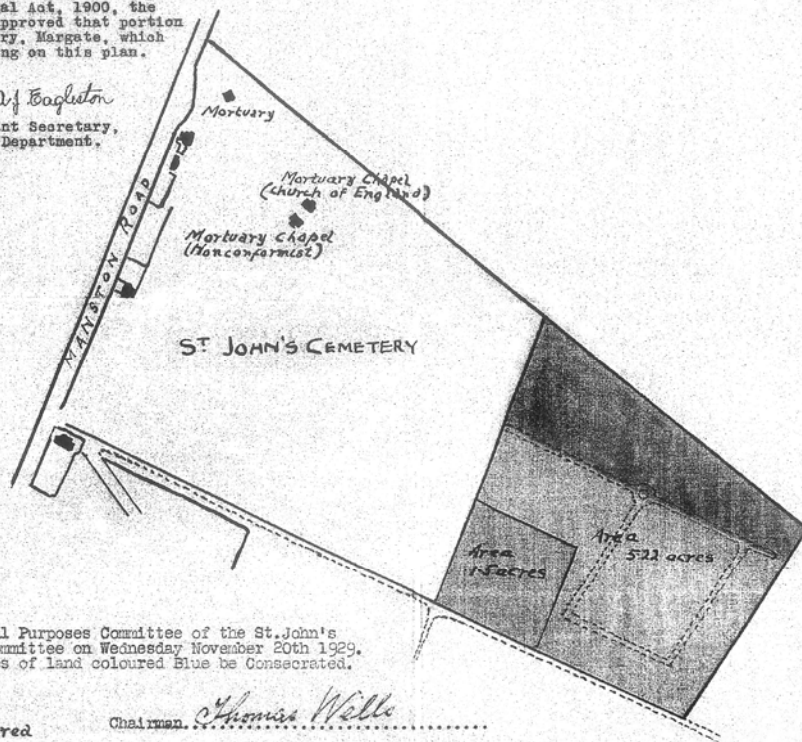
For the purpose of consecration in pursuance of Section 1 of the Burial Act, 1900, the Secretary of State has approved that portion of the St. John's Cemetery, Margate, which is shown in blue colouring on this plan.

A. J. Bagster
Assistant Secretary,
Home Department.

WHITEHALL,

23rd December, 1929.

AJB



Meeting of the General Purposes Committee of the St. John's Burial Board Joint Committee on Wednesday November 20th 1929. Resolved the 1.5 acres of land coloured Blue be Consecrated.

- Unconsecrated
- To Be Consecrated
- Consecrated

Chairman *Thomas Wells*

The last plan shows a further extension with an area of 5.22 acres already consecrated, an area to the north (darkest shading) as unconsecrated and an area of 1.5 acres in the south-west corner to be consecrated. The Secretary of State's approval to the consecration of the area of 1.5 acres (where the CWGC WWII plot can be found) is dated 23rd December 1929. □

BH Boundary Markers in Westbrook and Westgate-on-Sea



The BH marker in Pembroke Avenue, Westbrook marking perhaps the eastern boundary of the Bethlem and Bridewell Hospitals' land



The BH marker in Station Road, Westgate marking perhaps the southern boundary of the Bethlem and Bridewell Hospitals' land



The BH marker in Edith Road, Westgate marking perhaps the western boundary of the Bethlem and Bridewell Hospitals' land

It was in the Winter 2006 issue of our Newsletter that the first two of the three cast-iron markers above were featured with a request that readers look out for any more of these heritage features in the Westbrook/Westgate area. Your editor is pleased to report that a third marker has recently been sighted and is illustrated above. The third marker is in Edith Road, Westgate immediately behind the rear boundary wall of a house in Roxburgh Road. Curiously, this third marker is back to front as if to be observed from the house in Roxburgh Road. It can also be seen from the above photograph that the stem of the marker has been asphalted over leaving only the letters BH visible. It is believed that these three boundary markers date from 1836. Of course, in those days the whole area would have been cornfields and it is likely that they were re-positioned upon the making up of the roads. It is also thought likely that as the cliff edge delineated the northern boundary of their land, no marker was necessary for that boundary. But are there any more of these BH markers around? Do let us know if you find any more. □

Listed Buildings – Latest News

Winter Gardens

It is very good news that the town's premier entertainment venue and landmark building has, at long last, been granted Grade-II listing status as a building of historic and architectural interest by the Department of Culture, Media & Sport. Being granted such status should ensure the preservation of this important building for future generations to enjoy. It should also help in attracting Lottery and other funding opportunities towards the costs of restoring this fine elegant building to its former glory.

The Winter Gardens needs a huge amount of renovation work to restore the building and, without the assistance of such external funding, it is considered unlikely that TDC would ever commission such work. Let us hope that TDC will now be successful in attracting external funding and that a start on the necessary works will be made in the near future and, preferably, completed around the time that the nearby Turner Gallery is finally built. Indeed, the Winter Gardens was formally opened on 3rd August 1911; wouldn't it be good if the restoration was aimed to be completed in time for its centenary celebrations on 3rd August 2011? Now, that really would send a message that the long-overdue regeneration of our town was well and truly underway.



This superb early postcard (c.1912) shows the then recently-opened Margate Pavilion and Winter Gardens (now known simply as the Winter Gardens). The elegance of the building is complemented by the elegant dress of the two ladies in the foreground. How fashions have changed!

Other properties

Remains of the Clifton Baths at The Lido, Cliftonville – now Grade-II listed

India House, 12 Hawley Street – existing listing uplifted from Grade-II to Grade-II*

6 & 8 Fort Hill (the former Parade Cinema) – re-listed Grade-II (it is the second oldest purpose-built cinema in the country but was not previously listed as a cinema)

Disused animal-cages in Dreamland Amusement Park (these have come to light when the steel fencing around the fire-damaged scenic railway was being erected and were originally constructed by 'Lord' George Sanger as part of his menagerie which operated in that location more than 100 years ago) – TDC has issued a Building Preservation Notice which will ensure that the cages remain undisturbed for six months whilst the Secretary of State decides their future. □

Westgate Heritage Centre – Report



As the summer season draws to a close on Saturday, 27th September, we can look back on a very successful and interesting time. We have had many visitors from very different backgrounds – those who have recently moved to the area; those who have lived here a long time; and those who

are visiting, some of whom have happy memories of childhood holidays in Westgate. On 9th July, 90 Year-4 pupils from St Saviour's Junior School paid us a visit in two groups. Each group was divided into two, one half spending time with Mrs Bunny Judges in our recreated St Saviour's Victorian Schoolroom and the other half spending time with me learning about the importance of the railways in Westgate's history and then looking at the displays. They were excited to recognise a former Dr Who (the late Jon Pertwee) and to learn that he started his acting career at his school in Westgate and they were thrilled when they found pictures of their own homes in the section on post-war expansion on the south side of the town. Earlier in the year, we had a final-year student of Queen Mary College University of London who came in to seek authentic personal memories of both World Wars for her dissertation. She has now gained a 2:1 and I like to think that we made a tiny contribution. At the other end of the scale, we have a 8-year-old pupil from Chartfield School who has been in many times with her mother looking for material for her holiday project. Through our website (www.westgateheritagecentre.co.uk), I have been in contact with several people who live away but have an interest in Westgate. These include the husband of a great-granddaughter of Sir William Ingram. I have also met the great-granddaughter of Frederick Walk who did the decorative plasterwork on the exterior of the Town Hall. The collection grows so fast that I'm having difficulty in keeping abreast with all the material – plenty to keep me busy in the winter and for you to come and see more than once!

Thanks to the Small Grants Award that the Heritage Centre received from TDC, we shall be able to open on the first Saturday of each month through the winter (it will enable us to heat the church for the morning!) from 10.00am to 12.30pm. There will be home-made scones and coffee available and, at 11.00am each session, I shall give a talk for about 30 minutes about some aspect of Westgate's (and Westbrook's) history, based on some of the subjects that I have been asked about over the season. Look out for copies of the Winter Programme in Westgate Library or on notice-boards outside St Saviour's Church. On Saturday, 4th October, I shall be talking about Westgate's royal visitors. It's all free! □

Dr Dawn Crouch
Curator, Westgate Heritage Centre

(The Westgate Heritage Centre is located at the back of St Saviour's Church at the junction of St Mildred's Road and Westgate Bay Avenue)

Memories of Westbrook Pavilion

(Sometimes referred to as Westonville Pavilion)



The first of the four postcards above shows the original Victorian bandstand that stood at one time on the promenade at Westbrook immediately in front of Sea View Terrace. The bandstand was replaced by the Westbrook Pavilion during the Edwardian period and some of our older members might recall visiting the Westbrook Pavilion for concerts where many famous names of the day appeared. The front cover of the Westbrook Pavilion printed concert programme above dates from 1936. Sadly, the Pavilion was destroyed in the gale of 31st January/1st February 1953 when the sea-wall in front of the Pavilion also suffered severe damage. Margate Corporation chose to repair the sea-wall but, sadly, not the Pavilion. For some years the site of the former Pavilion was used for outdoor entertainment (as shown in the circa-1960 'Sunbeam' photograph above). The site was used as a 'Kiddies Corner' – latterly managed by one of our members – until about four years ago when the site was privately developed as an attractive water-feature based putting-course (trading as 'Strokes Adventure Golf') and café to provide an appealing centre for people of all ages to visit. □

What's on

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

Thursday, 2 nd October	AGM followed by an illustrated talk 'Hops and Hop Picking' by Richard Filmer
Thursday, 6 th November	'The Story of Manston History Museum' by Derek S. Austen
Thursday, 4 th December 2009	'Romney Marsh and its Churches' by Lt-Col Dick Bolton
January	No meeting
Thursday, 5 th February	'The Story of the Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury' by Alan Stockwell
Thursday, 5 th March	'Characters – Weird, Wacky and Wonderful' by Chris McCooley
Thursday, 2 nd April	'General History of Chatham Dockyard' by Mrs Joanna Creighton
Thursday, 7 th May	Town Pride Awards followed by a talk and speaker yet to be announced

Turner Contemporary: *The current series of these 'Designed for you' talks will explore the theme of culture in present-day China. Please note that these meetings will be held at the Media Centre in 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 (all talks start at 6.00pm)*

Tuesday, 14 th October	'Cinematic East' by Dr Chris Berry (Professor of Film and Television Studies and co-director of the Goldsmiths' Media Research Programme)
Tuesday 11 th November	'Contemporary Chinese Art and Language' by Ying Kwok (Curator, Chinese Arts Centre)
Tuesday, 9 th December	'Back to the Future: Building and Architecture in China today' by Richard Reid RIBA

Other Turner Contemporary events:

Saturday, 4 th October 2008 to Sunday 4 th January 2009	<i>Far West</i> exhibition to be held in the Turner Contemporary Project Space (former M&S store). This exhibition promises to explore the new consumer and cultural relationships as the economic centre of the world shifts towards the East (open Tuesday to Sunday 10.00am to 5.00pm to 26 th October then 10.00am to 4.00pm from Tuesday, 28 th October)
Saturday, 25 th October	Mah Jong in the Old Town Square – Qing and their regular Mah Jong players invite members of the public to join them in this traditional Chinese tile game (to be held at 7 Market Place 3.00pm-5.00pm)
Tuesday, 18 th November	'Artist's Talk' by David Blandy (to be held in the Turner Contemporary Project Space at 6.00pm)

Useful telephone numbers:

Organisation

Organisation	Phone No.	Contact name/Notes
Thanet District Council – Press Office	577034	Cheryl Pendry
Margate Museum, The Old Town Hall, Market Place	231213	Bob Bradley, Curator
Margate Public Library – Local Studies Collection	223626	
Westgate Heritage Centre	832617	Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator
Birchington Heritage Trust Museum, Village Hall	846502	
Birchington Parish Archivist	842988	Jennie Burgess
Margate Historical Society	227574	Mick Twyman, Secretary
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 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
Birchington Residents' Association	843594	Roger D. Walford



Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity. 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 2007/08:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb
14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 293169)

Chairman: Mrs Margaret Main
32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN (Tel: 229678)

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

Membership Secretary: Mr Garry Cowans
C/o 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN (Tel: 221938)

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 Steve Villette, 29 The Ridgeway, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2TL (Tel: 221250)
Mrs Daphne Rowley, "Spring Cottage", 11 Pembroke Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EA
Mr Peter Blore, 29 Yoakley Square, Margate CT9 4BA (Tel: 291778)

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:

Subscription rates for 2008/09:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual	£6.00	£10.00	50p	£10.00
Life Membership	£50.00	£70.00	-	-

and send it to the Membership Secretary (Mr Garry Cowans) c/o 34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG