

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)
Registered Charity No. 257884



Autumn 2009
Newsletter
Issue No. 356

"The love of our town leads us"

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb
Chairman: Mrs Margaret Main

Summer is rapidly drawing to a close and thoughts are beginning to turn towards the coming winter with its lower temperatures and shorter hours of daylight. But let us enjoy the delightful colours of autumn in the meantime and – for those amongst us who have trees in their gardens – try to forget the never-ending task of sweeping up fallen leaves and the tiring task of their subsequent disposal. Autumn is a beautiful time of the year with a distinct crispness in the air. Indeed, for many individuals, it is their favourite season of the year.

One of the most memorable events of this year's summer was the Dippers & Dunkers Festival held from 21st to 23rd August. The Festival takes its name from the locals who would 'dip and dunk' their sea-bathing visitors from bathing-machines in Margate's salty waters in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This issue of the Newsletter contains reports on some of the wide range of events that took place that weekend. One name that came up a number of times during those events was that of 'Lord' George Sanger who made his home in Margate for a number of years. For that reason, this Newsletter features a number of Sanger-related articles which, it is hoped, members will find to be of interest.

The Heritage Days events in September attracted a number of visitors and the walk around the Old Town led by our Secretary, Tony Snow, on the Saturday appealed to some 25 persons. The former Slipper Baths (now the East Kent ITeC Training Centre) in Victoria Road, Margate, were also open to the public where much of the decorative original ironwork could be seen. Also included there was the former Margate Corporation mortuary in King Street. To see both these buildings put to such good use was most rewarding. The Baptist Church in Cecil Square was also open with a special display put on which told the history of this fine building. Also open were Margate's superb Arts & Crafts house *Shottendane*, St John's Church and the Waterloo Tower at Quex Park. If you haven't visited these buildings, do look out for Heritage Days next year when it is hoped that all these buildings will again be open to the public without charge. Heritage Days provide a magnificent opportunity to visit so many interesting buildings. Indeed, such is the choice available in our area and in neighbouring areas that a selection has to be made to accommodate as many as possible within the limited time available.

Finally, there is still no news about the re-opening of Margate Museum. Surely, this must be a high priority of Thanet District Council. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new members

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

Mrs L. Ball
Joanna Brown
Roger & Jackie Hayes
Mr G. Wanstall
Neil Anthony
Dr Andrew Cox
Otilie Godfrey

Garry Cowans
Membership Secretary

Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

To take place in The Walpole Bay Hotel at 7.30pm on
Thursday, 1st October 2009

Any proposals or nominations should be submitted to the
Hon Secretary, as soon as possible before the meeting,
at 34 Royal Esplanade, Margate CT9 5EG

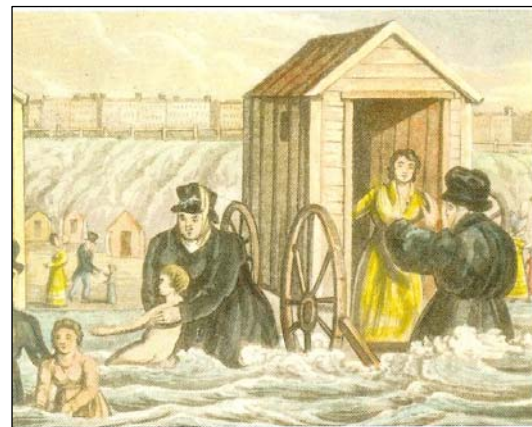
Telephone 01843 221838

Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2009 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. 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 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN. □

Garry Cowans
Membership Secretary

This charming nineteenth-century aquatint shows dippers and dunkers in operation from a bathing-machine



President's Report 2008/09



Ralph Handscomb

This has turned out to be a year of many changes. It is with deep sorrow we saw the departing of John Crofts.

We have at last seen the fruits of our ten-year battle to have both 77 Eastern Esplanade (on the corner of Surrey Road) and 14/15 Cliff Terrace renovated. We still await something to be done about The Arcadian and The Fort Road Hotel on Fort Hill which is an ugly eyesore. We are informed that the owners have had notices served on them and that they have agreed to comply.

The Turner Contemporary is now taking shape, the footings are in and a great deal of the cliff has been removed. Those of you who attended the Town Pride Awards evening had a chance to question our speakers – Sarah Martin the Exhibitions Curator and John Haywood the Marketing Director. It was a very interesting evening with a lot of previously unanswered questions answered. I was hoping to have John Haywood again as our speaker on a future Town Pride evening but, unfortunately, John is now no longer employed by Turner Contemporary. We will all miss John's tremendous enthusiasm for the new Turner art gallery which he consistently displayed over his four-year spell with Turner

Contemporary and we wish him every success in his future career. Sorry to see you go, John.

Margate Museum stays closed which I find hard to understand. To me, it is the heart of Margate. How Thanet District Council can allow this to happen is beyond comprehension. Visitors to our town will know nothing of our past history and if the museum remains closed when the Turner Contemporary gallery is completed ... I think our Newsletter Editor, James Brazier, summed it up very nicely in the summer Newsletter.

We had some excellent speakers during the year and I have now completed our speakers' list for the coming season. Amongst them is the very popular Chris McCooey who, once again, will be amusing us and those who were disappointed when Lt-Col Dick Bolton couldn't deliver his talk on Romney Marsh churches, owing to illness, will be pleased that he is now well and will be with us this coming season. (The full list of speakers appears on page 11 of this newsletter.) I hope that you will enjoy my choice of speakers. I had only one suggestion from our members.

At the AGM there will be a number of changes in the Society's Committee. Margaret Main, our Chairman, is still with us at the time of writing. She thought that her house was sold but the buyer pulled out at the last minute. There is now another buyer on her doorstep and, as soon as this is settled, Margaret will be off to the USA. We will miss her. Since taking over as Chairman, she has been a great asset and her work on the Green Flag Project for Dane Park will not be forgotten. We wish her all the best for life in the States. If she leaves before the AGM, the Committee will vote in a temporary Chairman whose appointment will have to be ratified at the AGM.

Margaret and I have been attending meetings with the Ramsgate Society and the Broadstairs Society. We are joining forces on some of Thanet's problems to show a stronger united front to TDC. One of the main topics at the moment is litter. Another possible issue is the dearth of public toilets: a subject which is always coming up in the local papers.

Tony Snow is stepping down as Secretary and, once again, I have to thank him for all his hard work. Tony has agreed to help the newly-elected Secretary as long as needed. He will be carrying on with his Town Walks but is leaving the Committee. He will however be available in an advisory capacity. Harry Scobie continues as Vice-Chairman. James Brazier continues to produce the ever-popular Newsletter. Pat Snow has looked after our finances and Garry Cowans has done wonders with the membership records.

Thanks also go to Lynda Smith (our Newsletter Distributor), David Kinnear, Steve Villette, Daphne Rowley and Peter Bloore for their work on the Committee and to Mike Wilton for his work in keeping the Society's website updated.

All these positions will have to be ratified at the AGM by our members. And, of course, if any member wishes to join the Committee, please inform a committee member.

Again, I thank the Walpole Bay Hotel for their continued support and help on our lecture evenings. I hope to see you there on the 1st October. □

Ralph Handscomb
President

Margate Operatic Society Pantomime *Peter Pan*

Notification has been received from Margate Operatic Society that their traditional family pantomime this year will be a production of J. M. Barrie's *Peter Pan*. Performances will be given at the Winter Gardens from Wednesday, 2nd December to Sunday, 6th December. There will be nightly performances starting at 7.30pm from Wednesday to Saturday and there will be matinee performances starting at 2.30pm on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets are £8.50 (or £7.50 for seniors and children). All enquiries should be made to the Margate Operatic Society's Box Office on 01843 297780.

The Turner Contemporary art gallery begins to take shape

These photographs were taken on Friday, 11th September 2009 and show how much progress has already been made in constructing the new art gallery. The gallery is expected to be opened in 2011.



Both the former Arcadian Hotel and the former Fort Road Hotel can be seen in the above photograph. Will these two buildings, now both considered eyesores, be restored before the new Turner Contemporary art gallery is completed? What do you think?

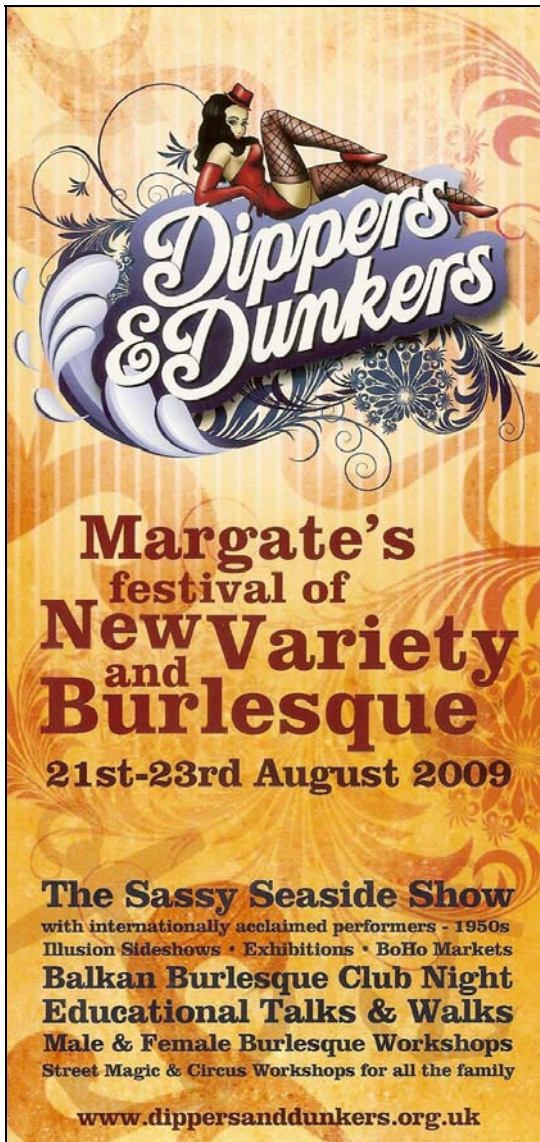


An Edwardian poster from a bygone age



What a super poster design this was. Although the town has undoubtedly lost some of its magic over the last 100 years, its sands are still regarded by many as the finest sands in England. Happy days!

Dippers & Dunkers Weekend 21st to 23rd August 2009



Thanet District Council's Dippers & Dunkers weekend of variety and burlesque events held in Margate from Friday 21st to Sunday 23rd August was a great success. Indeed, it is reported that events will run for a whole week next year. Credit for organizing the weekend is due to the Council's Arts Development Officer – Heather Sawney. Well done Heather. Amongst the many attractions were the illusionist shows put on in the Old Town area. These were restorations of the types of shows that were laid on in Dreamland Amusement Park in the 1960s and included the Headless Lady, the Girl in a Goldfish Bowl and the Living Half Lady. Unlike the 1960s, there was no charge for admission to these shows over the festival weekend and it has been estimated that around 3,000 people queued up to see the shows. It was wonderful to see so much activity in the Old Town but it was very sad to see all those people filing past the now closed Margate Museum as the queue edged forward to see the shows. What a missed opportunity it was that all those people in the Old Town were denied the opportunity to visit what ought to be one of the town's major attractions. Margate Museum must surely be open again to visitors by next summer and long before next year's Dippers & Dunkers week. Ramsgate has got back its Ramsgate Museum, isn't it time that Margate got back its wonderful Museum now that the East Kent Maritime Trust has given up and the ball is back in Thanet District Council's lap?

But, back to Dippers & Dunkers. Among the many other events that weekend was a most fascinating talk on 'Lord' George Sanger given by Professor Vanessa Toulmin from the National Fairground Archive at the University of Sheffield. To a packed house, Professor Vanessa (as she is called) gave a PowerPoint presentation of some of the many thousands of superb images held by the National Fairground Archive relating to circuses generally and, in particular, to the Sanger circuses. Professor Vanessa comes from a long line of fairground entertainers and, notoriously, says that she "Ran away to Academia". Her background, her exhaustive knowledge of the subject and her unlimited enthusiasm produced an unforgettable talk. The following day, Professor Vanessa gave another talk, this time demonstrating the wide range of fairground acts that were popular during the nineteenth century and early twentieth

century. Again, her talk attracted a full house. This was Professor Vanessa's first ever visit to Margate and it proved a total success.

As part of the Dippers & Dunkers weekend of events, Paul Verrall led a tour of Margate Cemetery on Sunday afternoon with an important visit to the Sanger family plot where both 'Lord' George Sanger and his brother John Sanger, along with others members of the Sanger family, are buried.

All of the events mentioned above were free of charge. If you missed them this year, do make a point of looking out for them next year when, hopefully, Professor Vanessa will make a very welcome return visit to the town.



A group watching the six-inch-tall girl in a goldfish bowl in amazement



The headless lady act held everyone's attention delighting adults and children alike

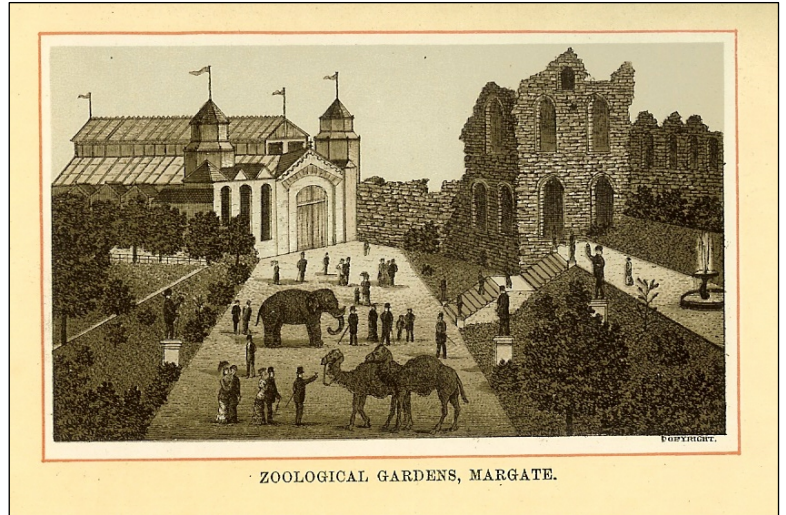


Some of the queuing public filing past the now closed Margate Museum

Some Hall-by-the-Sea images from yesteryear



A mock castellated building in Dreamland Amusement Park (photographed around 20 years ago) – since demolished



View of Sanger's Zoological Gardens from souvenir booklet printed in Germany circa 1890-1900. Being artist drawn, the picture must be regarded as indicative only

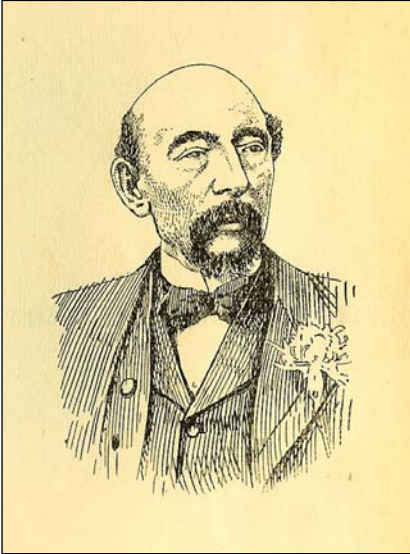


A house in Dreamland Amusement Park (photographed around 20 years ago) – now demolished



One of the cages in Dreamland Amusement Park (photographed around 20 years ago). This is one of the cages which has recently been listed as a Grade II building

'Lord' George Sanger's funeral



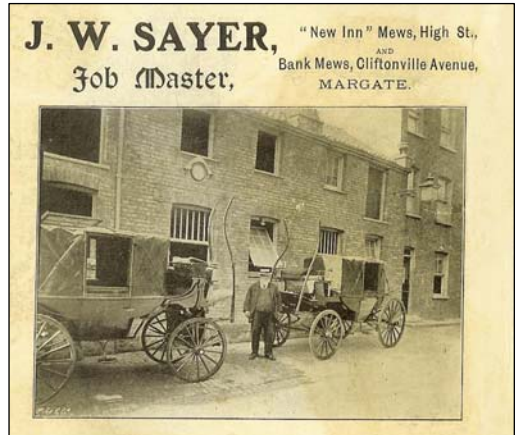
'Lord' George Sanger was, for a short time, a member of Margate Town Council. He was one of the founders and the first President of the Beaconsfield Conservative Working Men's Association.

The cortege left Park Farm Finchley at around eight o'clock on the morning of Tuesday, 5th December 1911. It proceeded to the high road at East Finchley where it broke into a trot. Despite the heavy rain, large crowds had gathered at the major road junctions to say their final farewells. Down Highgate Archway, along the Holloway Road to The Angel, Islington, through Smithfield Meat Market on to Holborn Viaduct where the coffin and floral wreaths were entrained for Margate. Along the route, many who had gathered for the occasion bared their heads as the cortege passed. Members of the family travelled in a special saloon railway-carriage to Margate, together with friends of 'Lord' George Sanger, to pay a last tribute of respect to who was regarded by many as the world's greatest showman.

The train arrived at Margate West railway station (which stood approximately where Margate Station is today) at 12.48pm. At the railway station to meet the body was a large contingent of members of the Showmen's Guild and a great number of representatives of local organisations. It is reported that 50 carriages followed the

hearse. After leaving the station yard, the route was by way of Marine Terrace, past the Hall-by-the-Sea, along Elephant Hill (now known as Marine Gardens), up the High Street, to the Parish Church of St John the Baptist. After the funeral service at St John's Church, the cortege proceeded along Ramsgate Road before turning into College Road to Coffin House Corner and then on to St John's Cemetery (now known as Margate Cemetery) where a burial service was held at the Sanger family plot. The *Isle of Thanet Gazette* reported that not since the time of the surfboat disaster and the burial of the victims of that terrible catastrophe had such a crowd been seen at Margate Cemetery. There were 123 floral emblems including many from circus showmen from around the world.

The funeral arrangements were carried out by Messrs W R Dunkley, Westminster Bridge Road for London and by Messrs Gore Bros at Margate. The funeral car, mourning coaches and the carriages were supplied by Mr J W Sayer (the accompanying advertisement dates from 1903).



The Sanger family plot in Margate Cemetery. The plinth bearing the inscription to 'Lord' George Sanger is that nearest the camera. The magnificent mourning circus-horse in the background marks the grave of his brother John. The mourning horse is a Grade II listed building



A close-up of the inscription:



IN LOVING MEMORY OF
LORD
GEORGE SANGER
 THE FAMOUS CIRCUS PROPRIETOR
 WHO PASSED AWAY
 NOVEMBER 28TH 1911
 AGED 86 YEARS
 A LOVING HUSBAND AND THE
 BEST OF FATHERS.
 "IN THE MIDST OF LIFE WE ARE IN DEATH"

The funeral of 'Lord' George Sanger – Tuesday, 5th December 1911

These pictures complement the report on the Dippers & Dunkers weekend of events reported upon elsewhere in this Newsletter. Our sincere thanks go to Richard Clements (author of two books on Old Margate and a member of our Society) for the loan of the superb postcards from his collection showing scenes of the funeral procession of 'Lord' George Sanger – one of the biggest funerals ever seen at Margate. From the numbers shown on the postcards, it is probable that a series of at least twelve different scenes was produced.



The horse-drawn hearse containing 'Lord' George Sanger's coffin before the start of the procession. The houses in the background are in Buenos Ayres

The funeral procession passing the premises of the Beaconsfield Conservative Working Men's Association in Elephant Hill (now Marine Gardens). The procession was led by Job Gore



The funeral procession turning from Ramsgate Road into College Road at *The Victoria* public house junction



The end of the funeral procession at Coffin House Corner. The footprint of the building after which the corner was named was similar in shape to a coffin (being at the apex of the junction of College Road and Tivoli Road). Coffin House served as a shop for many years until the volume of traffic at that junction increased to necessitate the demolition of the building for road-widening purposes. The junction is today sometimes wrongly referred to in local papers as 'Coffin Corner': its former closeness to Margate Cemetery is purely coincidental. Coffin House was demolished around 30 years ago since when the volume of traffic at that junction has increased even further to make it now one of the busiest road junctions in the town.



Letters to the Editor

Dear James

I read with interest your Editorial on the front page of the Margate Civic Society summer newsletter. I agree entirely with your sentiments about the irony of the Turner & Dickens (T&D) walking route going past the closed Margate Museum. I sincerely hope that funding becomes available soon to re-open the Museum.

Having read your Editorial, I obtained a copy of the T&D leaflet containing the route and decided, as I had a little time to spare, to follow its first stages. I was astounded (to put it mildly) as I made my way from Holy Trinity & St John's School to find that the route turned into Charlotte Square. I found myself passing numerous residences, a public house and a Chinese take-away instead of walking, as I had expected, through the grounds of our Parish Church of St John the Baptist which was at one end of the original footpath. This building is the oldest in the town and contains a veritable treasure trove of items of historical, artistic and cultural interest including Norman pillars, a Tudor font, a unique former treasury with battlements (later used as a gunpowder store), monumental brasses and other memorials which provide interesting snippets about the lives and deaths of people connected in some way with St John's Church and the town (not just the local dignitaries referenced on the leaflet!).

The Church is open at least every morning and often the children from Holy Trinity & St John's School as well as other visitors, including those who write books about historical buildings, come in to take a look around. Since its reordering, the Church also has cloakroom and kitchen facilities and folk in place specifically offer a warm welcome to any who might venture in. What is also puzzling about the Church being left out of the route is that it has been the subject of at least one painting by J M W Turner himself which is now in a private collection (see picture) and possibly others as well. I am quite sure that the artistic experts employed as part of the Turner project would be aware of this.

I am a member of the Margate Civic Society and also the Ministry Team at St John's and we very much looked forward to welcoming those walking the route and showing them around our Church, which is considered of sufficient interest for the Heritage Day tours. For St John's to be cut out of the T&D route is a huge disappointment to us and we would like to understand why this is so. I am writing to Derek Harding and several other people in the hope of obtaining a satisfactory answer. I am happy for you to publish this letter in the next Civic Society Newsletter if you feel it is appropriate, but would greatly appreciate it if you would raise this issue at your next Civic Society Committee Meeting.

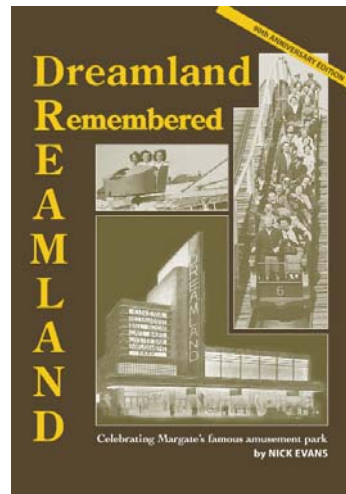
Many thanks and best regards

Sue Waller



Painting of St John's Church, Margate by J M W Turner (1784?)

Nick Evans's book *Dreamland Remembered*



Notification has been received from Nick Evans that he is updating and expanding his book *Dreamland Remembered* with a 90th anniversary edition due out for the second half of October. It will be 90 years in November that John Henry Iles bought what was then known as the Hall-by-the-Sea before building and opening the amusement park in July 1920. The

book will be near A4 size, consisting of 128 pages with 30 or so featuring colour photographs. It is anticipated that the book will contain more than 200 photographs when finished. The book will retail at £15.99 and should be available in all good bookshops or by mail order from the author at PO Box 201, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1WT for £17 inclusive of p&p. Nick hopes to have his website up and running in time for the publication of his book at www.bygonepublishing.co.uk at the same mail order price. □

STOP PRESS

Our Chairman, Margaret Main with her husband Tom, flew out of Gatwick on Tuesday, 15th September to begin a new life in Florida, USA where her daughter lives. We will miss Margaret's enthusiasm and her commitment to both the Society and to our town. The awarding two years ago of a Green Flag to Dane Park was very much thanks to Margaret's input into that scheme and the improvements at Dane Park are a lasting memorial to her.

A new Chairman will be elected at our AGM on 1st October to replace Margaret. □

My Margate Memories

Asked to write an article for the newsletter, I thought what would be of interest to our readers and also special to this area. Where better to start than the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital at Westbrook. It was founded in 1791 by Dr John Coakley Lettsom (it is said that he gave the sum of £40,000 – a huge sum of money in those days) and is one of the oldest, if not the oldest, hospitals in the United Kingdom and was revolutionary in its treatment of sick people. It was all about getting them out in the clean sea air as part of the cure for TB. I remember as a very young girl seeing the patients outside with the raised cradles over their legs with a red blanket on top to take the weight. One old lady on a visit said there were rows of red racing cars lined up on the front. Obviously, she needed her eyes tested as well as her other ailments. The poor of London were sent down to get cured and a large number of them were. One of the most respected members of the Society, Mr Derek Austen, was a nursing tutor there for over 30 years and could tell you so much more than I can.

I was lucky enough to be at the 200-year ceremony of the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital when the Countess Mountbatten was the official guest of honour and was most charming. The little dolls were another unusual feature and were bandaged to represent the various operations the children had. I remember looking at them in the glass cases in reception at the QEQM Hospital. I understand that they are now stored at Margate Museum. I hope so as they are quite unique. Queen Victoria helped to put Margate on the map by getting the railway down here. I believe Dreamland was called the Hall-by-the-Sea. Sanger also got the town going with his showmanship and recently some of the animal cages have been rediscovered where these wretched creatures were kept – and we are supposed to be a nation of animal lovers!

Well folks, if this has been of any interest to you about our much loved town, let me know and I will try to come up with some more local snippets. Don't forget our next meeting on 1st October. I look forward to seeing you all there. Go in good health.

Daphne Rowley

(Daphne is one of our oldest members with a deep love of our town and regularly attends our meetings – Ed.)

Margate 1869 by James Watt

This photograph shows the oil painting that used to hang in Margate Library before it was converted to Gateway Plus. The photograph shows the large glazed gilt picture-



frame which some of our members will remember. News is still awaited from Thanet District Council as to when this painting will be returned once more to public view.

The remnants of Dreamland Funfair



Do you remember the Giant Wheel that appeared for a short time in 2006 on Marine Terrace? Many residents felt that it was a vast improvement on the 'gap' which still exists on Marine Terrace after a number of properties were mysteriously destroyed by fire two or three years earlier.

This is a close-up picture of the Giant Wheel ...



... and this was the advertising hoarding on Marine Terrace for this season's Funfair in the former Dreamland Amusement Park. Any comments?

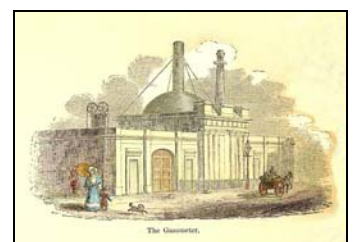
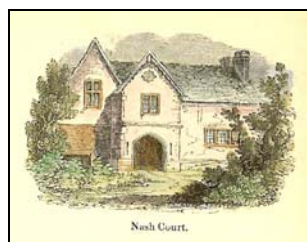
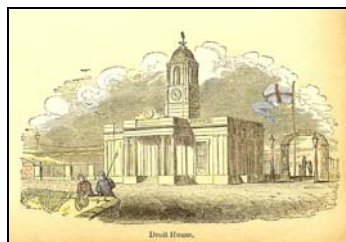
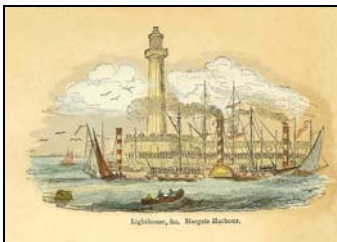


Copy of old map of Thanet recently sold at local auction



The above topographical map of Margate and its environs is a part of a larger hand-coloured copper-engraved map of the Isle of Thanet drawn by John Andrews and published in collaboration with Andrew Dury and William Herbert in 1769. Andrews was a leading geographer, land-surveyor, map-seller and engraver who published in London from around 1766 to 1809. In 1769, Andrews, Dury and Herbert published a set of 25 topographical maps in original outline colouring covering the whole of Kent on a scale of two inches to the mile. An original copy of Sheet Number 10 of the Kent series (from which the above is an extract) attracted a number of local bidders when it came up for sale at Westgate Auctions last year. It is interesting to see from the map how Margate has expanded over the last 240 years. But it is also interesting to see how many of the outlying hamlets still remain. By today's standards, the accuracy of much of the detail leaves a lot to be desired but, undoubtedly, in its day, the complete set of maps for the whole of Kent would have been regarded as a major step forward in recording the geographical aspects of our county and would have proved most valuable to travellers. The map shows the owner's name for many of the estates and it is likely that the inclusion of such detail was designed to further sales of the maps. Of course, Westgate-on-Sea did not exist in 1769 but it is interesting to note that what we know today as St Mildred's Bay (previously known in the 1860s as Marsh Bay) is shown on this map as Gol-gate Bay which is thought likely to have been named after a local farmer who collected sea-weed from that bay to use as manure on his fields – possibly a Mr Gol (or similar name). It is also interesting to see on the map that, at what is now known as Cliftonville, Walpole Bay is shown as Marsh Bay. Permission to photograph this map prior to its sale was very kindly granted by Colin Langston, Westgate Auctions' auctioneer. □

(Note: As the Newsletter is published in photocopied form, it is likely that some of the detail will be lost in the photocopying. However, it is hoped that readers will be able to read most of the detail on this fine map.)



What's on

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

Thursday, 1 st October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'The Margate Renewal Partnership' by Doug Brown, Thanet District Council
Thursday, 5 th November	'Romney Marsh and its Churches' by Lt-Col Dick Bolton
Thursday, 3 rd December 2010	'Preventative Smuggling' by John Graham
Thursday, 4 th February	'The Shell Grotto' by Sarah Vickery
Thursday, 4 th March	'The Theatre Royal, Margate' by Will Wollen (Artistic Director, Theatre Royal)
Thursday, 1 st April	'Birds, Beasts and Bacchanalia' by Chris McCooley
Thursday, 6 th May	Town Pride Awards followed by a talk and speaker yet to be announced

Westgate Heritage Centre – Autumn/Winter Programme 2009/10 – Exhibition of historic material together with a short talk given at 11.00am by Dr Dawn Crouch (Curator) on the first Saturday of each month at St Saviour's Church, Westgate-on-Sea:

Saturday, 3 rd October	'The end of an era – October 1919' (The grand auction of the Westgate Estate)
Saturday, 7 th November	'We will remember them' (A tribute to local heroes)
Saturday, 5 th December	'From mansion to school' (Hatton House/The Ursuline Convent)
Saturday, 9 th January	'Let's go shopping again' (The 'new' shops in Cuthbert Road and St Mildred's Road)
Saturday, 6 th February	'The Doon House Estate' (Mansion, school, British Legion home, nursing home, RC church)
Saturday, 6 th March	'Westgate – a place for schools' (Westgate's top prep schools and their significance)

Friends of Quex at 7.00pm for 7.30pm at Quex:

Thursday, 15 th October	Quex Quiz Night
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Kent Family History Society (Thanet Branch) at 7.30pm for 8.00pm at Birchington Village Centre:

Wednesday, 21 st October	'Why didn't we remember them?' by David Wood
Wednesday, 18 th November	'Using local newspapers in your research' by Peter Ewart
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas meeting

Useful telephone numbers:

Organisation	Phone No.	Contact name/Notes
Thanet District Council – Press Office	577034	
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
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	221838	Pat Snow, 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 2008/09:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

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

Chairman: Mrs Margaret Main

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

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 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)

Mr David Kinnear, 26 Linden Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8BY (Tel: 833394)

Ms Elaine Phillips, Flat 1, 9-11 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DW

Mrs Pamela Pople, Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX

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 2009/10:

	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) 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN