

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



**Autumn 2010**  
**Newsletter**  
Issue No. 360

At our Annual General Meeting to be held at the Walpole Bay Hotel on Thursday, 7th October 2010, members will be asked to approve an increase in their membership subscription rates with effect from October 2011 (the reason for the delay in effecting any increase is because our Constitution requires a year's notice to be given of changes in subscription rates). It is three years since the subscription rates were last increased and a number of factors contribute to the need for the subscription rates to be increased once again. Firstly, there is the need to meet the cost of the Society's membership of Civic Voice. Then there is the need to meet the Society's ever-increasing costs resulting from the effects of inflation. Our speakers' fees have increased considerably over the last few years and our annual income fell by around £350 last year due mainly to a fall in subscription income and from raffles. The combination of a rising expenditure and a falling income necessitates an increase in our subscription rates.

Margate Civic Society is a founding member of the new civic movement known as Civic Voice and a report on this important new organisation is contained in this issue of the Newsletter. Members present at our meeting in April gave approval by a majority vote to our membership of Civic Voice and it was accepted in principle by the members that there would need to be an increase in our subscription rates of £1.50 simply to meet the costs of membership of Civic Voice.

At our AGM in October, members will be asked to approve the Society's 2009/10 Accounts and to approve an increase in subscription rates to be effective from October 2011.

Your Committee consider that our present subscription rates are a long way below those of many other organisations and that the quality of both our speakers at meetings and of our Newsletter are exceedingly good value for money. With the economic pressures on us both as individuals and as a Society, your Committee recognise that an increase in subscription rates will not be welcomed by everyone. Nevertheless, if we - as a Society - are to be both effective and valued within the community, it is absolutely essential that such increases are approved by the members at our AGM. Do come along to the meeting if you can.

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In putting this issue of the Newsletter together, I would particularly like to thank Chris Sandwell for his helpful comments regarding Margate Lifeboat's recent celebrations and to thank both Richard Clements for the loan of his photographs of the Tudor House and the St George's Hotel and to Ralph Hault for his photograph of the Tudor House.

If you are on e-mail and you would like to receive the colour version of the Newsletter in future sent as a pdf attachment to an e-mail, please send your name and address to [enquiries@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@margatecivicsociety.org.uk) for attention. □

**James Brazier**  
**Newsletter Editor**

## Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

To take place in the Walpole Bay Hotel at 7.30pm on  
Thursday 7th October 2010

Any proposals or nominations should be submitted as  
soon as possible before the meeting to the Secretary at:  
Flat 1, 9-11 Gordon Road, Cliftonville  
Margate CT9 2DW

## Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2010 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 AGM on 7th October (or at subsequent meetings) or by post to me at:

5 Addington Square  
Margate CT9 1NN

**Lynda Smith**  
**Membership Secretary Elect**

## K6 Jubilee Telephone Kiosk update



Members might recognise this vandalised and neglected telephone kiosk on the Harbour Arm. The kiosk was moved from Norfolk Road, Cliftonville to its present site earlier this year by Margate Charter Trustees. Since that time, the kiosk has suffered even more vandalism. It was

intended that the kiosk would be a heritage feature and enhance the area. This photograph, which was taken on the day that the Margate Lifeboat celebrated its 150th anniversary (see report on page 11), shows the sad state of the kiosk and the unsightly rubbish that was nearby. With the Turner gallery fast nearing completion, surely this kiosk must either be restored or removed and the area tidied up. What was once a good idea to Margate Charter Trustees seems to have become anything but that! □

# President's Report 2009-2010



Ralph Handscomb

This has been an interesting and challenging year. Joint meetings with both the Ramsgate and Broadstairs societies have continued (known as the Thanet Civic Societies Forum), and I have been invited to be Chairman for this season. We have continued to request that TDC re-instate the Property Services Consultation Forum and have, at last, had replies from Cllr Bob Bayford and Geoff

Musk (TDC's Building Control and Property Manager) stating that meetings of the Forum will again take place later this year. Other matters discussed are rubbish and street cleansing, lack of toilet facilities, planning issues and any other topics affecting Thanet.

Membership of Civic Voice became a slightly controversial topic, but after much discussion your Committee decided to offer £250 as our joining fee, which, after some help from Laura Sandys, was accepted. The full letter of acceptance is printed in this newsletter. If you have any questions a representative of Civic Voice will be at our AGM to give a short talk and answer any questions.

I had to call another special Committee meeting to discuss the proposed opening of Margate Museum by persons unknown for the Heritage Open Days. We had been told that various artefacts were to be moved or removed. This has now been resolved.

The Turner Contemporary building is on schedule and is due to shed its scaffolding before the end of the year. This will leave both the Arcadian and the Fort Road Hotel sticking out like sore thumbs. We are told these are being dealt with, but will that corner be cleaned up before the opening of the Turner gallery? We wait with baited breath! Maybe, by the AGM we will have more news on these properties.

Town Pride Awards went well this year thanks to the sub-committee led by Chairman Pamela Pople with judging by Elaine Phillips, David Kinnear, Mike Wilton and Julian Smith (the last two being new members of the committee) and photographs by James Brazier and the certificates by Garry Cowans. I have had another ten plaques made by a potter, Mike Child, at a cost of £25 each. At the average rate of two plaques per year these will keep us going for four or five years (*there will be years when we award more than two plaques*).

Next season's speakers are booked starting with the AGM, and I have started on the 2011/12 season's bookings. Any suggestions, please let me know.

Thanks go to Pamela who has taken up the post of Chairman from Margaret Main like a duck to water.

Vice-Chairman Harry Scobie does such a good job at our meetings with the raffle and frequently acts as chairman at our Committee meetings. We haven't seen a lot of Elaine Phillips, our Secretary. Unfortunately, she has had some problems but assures me that she is willing to continue as our Secretary. Thank you Elaine.

Pat Snow, Treasurer and minute taker, is leaving us. We will miss her. We need someone to take over these posts. I hope someone from the Committee will oblige.

James Brazier continues to produce a very interesting and readable Newsletter which is widely read and enjoyed. The colour edition on our website is even more absorbing. Thanks also to Mike Wilton for expanding our website which now also has the last five years' Newsletters on it in colour.

Steve Vilette has his battles with planning issues and continues to represent the Society at a number of meetings.

Lynda Smith is doing a great job with the distribution of the Newsletter and will be taking over membership from Garry Cowans who has decided to stand down at the AGM. He has been a great asset in sorting out the membership, and helping with the Town Pride Awards and not forgetting the running of the raffle and producing those great prizes.

Daphne Rowley has decided to retire from the Committee and we thank her for her many years working with us. And thanks go to the other members of the Committee, namely David Kinnear, Peter Blore and Julian Smith.

My grateful thanks to all of you and I am sure that will be echoed by the members.

To end this report, I have to inform you that we will be discussing the raising of our annual membership subscriptions at the AGM in October. This increase will be necessary largely to cover the cost of joining Civic Voice. Our Constitution states that we have to give a year's notice of increases in subscription rates so the fees will not increase until October 2011.

My best wishes to all of you and I hope to see you at our meetings at the Walpole Bay Hotel. Once again, I must offer our thanks to Jane and Peter Bishop and their family for allowing us the use of such a wonderful venue. □

**Ralph Handscomb**  
President

## The Joys of Quex

On Easter Saturday, my husband Ray and I visited the wonderful Quex House & Gardens and the Powell-Cotton Museum. It was absolutely fantastic and we spent several hours admiring the museum artefacts and beautiful house with its original furniture and treasures.

Combined with Victorian-costumed characters, a lace-making demonstration and a preening peacock, plus various other attractions, we considered ourselves privileged to be part of this national treasure.

We were so inspired that we joined The Friends of Quex and look forward to supporting future events.

Well worth a visit if you have not been before or not visited for a while. For more details see [www.quexmuseum.org](http://www.quexmuseum.org) or telephone 01843 842168. □

**Pamela Pople**  
Chairman





## The Tudor House, King Street

The sepia photograph on the left shows what is now known as the Tudor House when it was converted into three cottages. It is believed that the photograph dates from the 1920s. There is an estate agent's sign outside one of the cottages but, unfortunately, it cannot be read. Note the closeness of the buildings on either side of the Tudor House. It is believed that these neighbouring properties were demolished by the former Margate Corporation as part of their slum clearance programme shortly before the Second World War.

The comparative photograph shown immediately below the sepia one was taken on 31st August this year. The transformation speaks for itself.



*This plaque close to the entrance tells the story of the Tudor House*

The photograph alongside shows the north end of the Tudor House with today's comparative picture below. It is believed that the upper photograph dates from the late 1940s - shortly before the restoration work to the property commenced in 1951. Note the hole in the ground-floor front wall. The photograph below shows how the north end as it is today.

Both of the two old photographs on this page show the property divided into three terraced cottages with large trees growing in the front gardens. However, what is particularly interesting about these two old photographs is that they both show quite clearly the ground-floor front wall of studding and plaster. When the property was divided into three cottages, this wall had been brought out in line with the projecting first-floor wall in order to extend the ground-floor rooms to the same depth as the first-floor rooms. The restoration work restored the property to a single house with a jettied first-floor which can be seen particularly well in the lower modern photograph.

When the restoration work was completed, the Tudor House was known as the Hosking Memorial Museum (as can be seen from the plaque). Sadly, the property is now rarely open to the public although, pleasingly, it was open on Heritage Open Days this year. The Tudor House is owned by Thanet District Council and it would be good if this wonderful old house could be open more often in future. Dating from the 16th century, it has such a long and interesting story to tell. □





**Margate Civic Society is pleased to report that the Society is a founder member of Civic Voice. We joined Civic Voice on 25th June 2010 and our President, Ralph Handscomb, soon received a welcome pack in which, amongst other papers, included a letter from the Director of Civic Voice, Tony Burton, and a general information sheet. Extracts from Tony Burton's letter and the full text of the general information sheet are reproduced below for the benefit of our members:**



Dear Ralph,

## WELCOME TO CIVIC VOICE

I am delighted to welcome you as a founder member of Civic Voice. This is an exciting time for the civic movement and your support will help make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive.

You will find a wealth of information on the benefits from your membership enclosed. These include information about Civic Voice and your rights along with

information on the Street Pride campaign and our partnerships with Bluefin insurance, National Trust, NCVO (National Council for Voluntary Organisations) and The Co-operative Bank. A printed receipt for your membership fee will be provided and NCVO will be in touch shortly with details of your free membership...

We look forward to a long and productive relationship.  
Yours sincerely

Tony Burton  
Director

### Civic Pride letterbox:

Unit 101  
82 Wood Street  
The Tea Factory  
Liverpool L1 4DQ

## WELCOME TO CIVIC VOICE

Welcome to Civic Voice – you have joined the country's most important network working to make the places where everyone lives more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive. Civic Voice speaks up for local communities and civic societies across England. We promote civic pride and we talk civic sense.

Civic Voice is a company limited by guarantee and is registered as a charity. We have been set up as a result of the work of the Civic Society Initiative to find a way forward for the civic movement following closure of the Civic Trust in April 2009.

Civic Voice is your organisation. We exist to support civic and amenity societies and other local groups and to champion the issues you care about where it matters. Through the support of the civic movement we aim to be financially independent. We are run by a Board of Trustees who are elected and approved by members of Civic Voice.

Your membership of Civic Voice brings many advantages. As well as benefiting from partnerships such as those with the National Trust, NCVO, The Co-operative Bank and Bluefin you will receive our regular news bulletins – *Your Voice* and *Civic Sense* - packed full of information. This will keep you in touch with the key issues and also what other civic societies and local groups are up to. We also run a lively website and can set one up for your local group if you want it.

There are many ways to get involved in Civic Voice:

- **Join a campaign** – we run a number of national campaigns on issues that matter to the civic movement. These involve local groups and volunteers so we can all speak with a louder voice. Street Pride – our campaign to rid our streets of unnecessary clutter ([www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/street-pride](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/street-pride)) and Love Local – our campaign to reveal the local DNA of different places and what makes people proud about where they live
- **Join a topic network** – no civic society is an island, we all have something to share. Why not join up with other groups that have similar interests? Topic networks have already been established on blue plaques, coastal towns and core cities. Join one or talk to us about setting a new one up
- **Meet other civic societies** – it's good to talk! Nothing beats meeting and finding out what other civic societies are up to – sharing your best ideas and learning more about theirs! Clusters of civic societies are forming all over the country and Civic Voice is here to help. Let us know if you want a get together in your area
- **Volunteer** – we are a small, light footed organisation with few staff and lots to do. We want to make the best use of all the volunteer expertise in the movement. If you want to help Civic Voice then let us know. There is plenty going on – from managing memberships and organising meetings to developing websites and researching new campaigns. You may also have particular expertise – on land use planning, listed buildings, volunteers or fundraising for example - which might help other civic societies. Let us know and we will put people in touch. Who knows – someone else may return the favour
- **Get involved in projects** – Civic Voice runs a number of different projects which will interest you and your members. We are currently looking at how best to develop a history of the civic movement and organise a network of local volunteers to undertake research, share knowledge and delve into the role played by individual civic societies at different points in history
- **Influence national policy** – Civic Voice is regularly asked for its views on key legislation and policy or the

([www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/love-local](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/campaigns/love-local)) are two examples. Campaigns are a great way of being part of a united movement as well as making a difference. Tell us what you think we should campaign on

work of government bodies. We meet with politicians, policy makers and partners. We can make the most impact when we speak from experience. We will put out calls to get involved in providing feedback for lobbying and consultations when they arise

- **Shape our priorities** – Civic Voice is your voice – we want to work on the issues that matter to you and provide the support you need. Civic Voice staff and trustees attend local meetings and we will regularly ask for your views on where we should focus our priorities
- **Host us for a meeting** – Civic Voice staff and trustees want to meet as many groups as possible – why not talk to your neighbouring societies and invite us along to talk
- **Vote** – Your votes will decide how Civic Voice is run. Civic Voice will be grassroots with a bottom-up feel and governance. Our trustees are elected and approved by the members and we will hold an AGM in different parts of the country. The first Civic Voice AGM is planned for Autumn 2010
- **Use our name and logo** – After the public launch of Civic Voice you can use our name and logo on your letterhead and website and gain authority and respect from being part of the national voice for the civic movement

- **Ask for advice** – We are here to help. If you want some support in strengthening your local group or have questions about how to find volunteers or become a charity then let us know. Your free NCVO membership can also help. You may also have a knotty planning issue or want to mount a campaign or set up a website. We can't do everything but we can signpost information and use the knowledge of the movement to help where we can
- **Attend a workshop** – We are planning a series of workshops around the country on issues that matter to you. The first are focused on campaigning, how to influence local authorities and use of the media – all in support of the Street Pride campaign. We know there is interest in learning more about land use planning and in ways of strengthening societies or running websites. Watch out for future plans and send us your ideas

There is more information on how we are set up and run and a copy of our constitution on the website – [www.civicvoice.org.uk/about](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/about).

Whether you want to get involved, let us know what you think, have a complaint or even just want to ask a simple question then please get in touch. Our website, email, phones and letterbox are waiting for you.

[www.civicvoice.org.uk](http://www.civicvoice.org.uk) [info@civicvoice.org.uk](mailto:info@civicvoice.org.uk)  
Tel: 0151 708 9920

## Griff Rhys Jones becomes President of Civic Voice and announces 25th June 2011 to be the first Civic Day

Comedian, actor, presenter, campaigner and author Griff Rhys Jones was announced as Civic Voice's first President on 22nd July this year.

Commenting on his appointment, Griff Rhys Jones said:

*I am delighted and honoured to be asked. Local communities want and need to have their voices heard. Local people can help in making the places where we all live more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive. Because they care. Civic Voice is the national spearhead for a nationwide movement that campaigns for better places and that tremendously under-rated value - civic pride.*

Griff Rhys Jones announced a national Civic Day on Saturday, 25th June 2011 when civic societies across England will invite people to celebrate their areas and discover more about where they live.

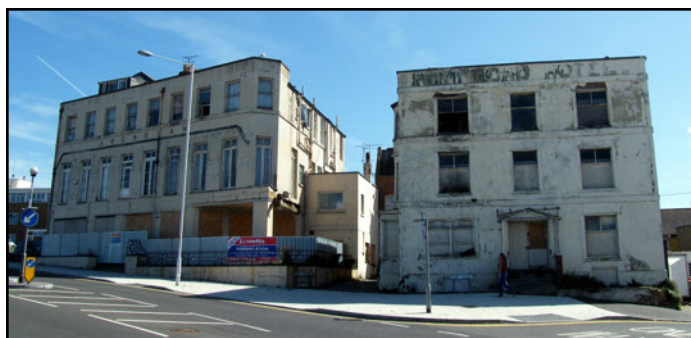
Wouldn't it be good if civic pride were, once again, to feature in our towns? One only has to look at what remain of our public buildings to see how important civic pride was in Victorian and Edwardian times. Since the 1960s, civic pride went on the decline and, today, it is in desperate need of resurrection. Margate still has so much to offer and has many architectural gems of which to be proud. It is hoped that arrangements to celebrate Civic Day will be announced early next year. □

## Turner gallery nears completion

The two photographs below were taken on 31st August. The upper one shows the laminated glass façade cladding being installed and the scaffolding being removed from the new gallery whilst the lower one shows the two eyesores on Fort Hill and Fort Road. TDC is now seeking to purchase Fort Road Hotel by compulsory purchase. Let's hope some progress is made on these two eyesores before the art gallery is opened. But why has it taken so long to do anything? □



*Work progresses well on the Turner gallery...*



*...whilst the two eyesores on Fort Hill and Fort Road look very sad*



# Margate War Memorial is now a Grade II Listed Building



*This photograph, taken on Remembrance Sunday 2007, shows the WWI war memorial cross with the WWII war memorial wall behind the cross, surrounding wall, the paving and the approach which are all contained within the Grade II listing of Margate War Memorial*

*2<sup>nd</sup> April 1916 at the Explosives Loading Company factory at Uplees, near Faversham, the worst disaster ever to occur in the history of the UK explosives killing 109 workers; and 18 killed in enemy air raids on Margate.*

*The World War II memorial wall behind the cross consists of four Portland stone panels with the names of the 236 [sic] fallen atop the surrounding rubble stone wall. The panels are supported by square posts and flank a higher central tablet... One casualty from the Falklands War is also commemorated.*

The listing records the history of the memorial as follows:

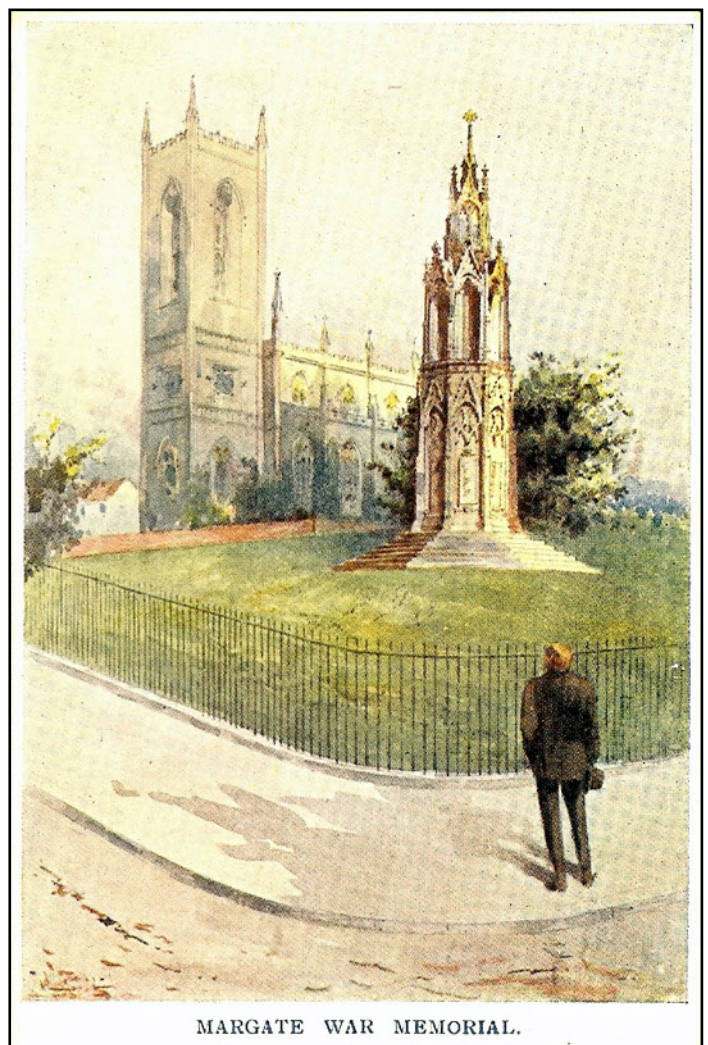
*The original design for the memorial, displayed at Margate Pavilion [now known as the Winter Gardens] in March 1920, was for a marble monument with a winged angel of peace cast in bronze, designed by the sculptor Frederick T. Callcott. Callcott had designed the Surf Boat memorial on Marine Terrace (designated Grade II) in 1899 but his war memorial design proved too costly. The next design was an elaborate Gothic Eleanor cross, by Robert Dalby Reeve, a local*

The town's war memorial in Trinity Square was granted Grade II listed building status by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010 following a successful application for it to be listed made by Thanet District Council.

The listing comprises 'War Memorials to World War I and World War II, and surrounding walls, paving and approach' and describes the building as:

*The World War I memorial is situated on rising ground in Trinity Square, originally in front of Holy Trinity parish church, demolished after World War II bomb damage, and is in the form of a plain market cross in Cornish granite. The floriated Latin cross has a tall tapering octagonal shaft which rises from a square base with a lancet decoration between corner buttresses. This sits atop an octagonal plinth with the dedication on the south-west face and the names of the 444 [sic] fallen on the other faces. The monument sits on a two-tier octagonal base. The cross is enclosed by a later low stone rubble wall with stone coping probably erected in 1951. The stone paving on which the memorial stands and the stone paved approach with two flights of steps to the south-west dates, however, from the memorial's inception.*

*The names of the fallen are given with initials and surname. On the north-east face are two distinct lists: for ten of those killed in the explosion on*



*It is believed that copies of this postcard-size picture of Robert Dalby Reeve's design for the proposed Eleanor cross war memorial were distributed to all households throughout Margate as part of the appeal for public subscriptions to meet its cost.*





*This superb photograph was taken at the moment that Margate War Memorial was unveiled by Lord Harris on Sunday, 5th November 1922. Everyone's eyes are focussed on the memorial. It must have been a deeply moving time for all those Margateonians who had lost a loved one in that 'war to end all wars'. Notice how Holy Trinity parish church formed a magnificent and fitting backcloth to the war memorial and that everyone, except the clergy, is wearing a hat*

architect, and estimated at £3,500. This design can be seen in a postcard of the time. However, by December 1921 only £1,372 had been raised by public subscription and the design was again modified by Reeve, to the existing market cross, at a reduced cost of £1,730 with the land, just to the south of Holy Trinity church, donated by a local landowner, Cecil Cobb. The memorial, executed by Herbert Read of Exeter, was dedicated on 5<sup>th</sup> November 1922 by the Bishop of Rochester and unveiled by Lord Harris (1851-1932), head of the Kent War Memorial Committee. The memorial wall commemorating the fallen of that war [World War II] was added to the north-east of the World War I cross in 1951.

The reasons for designating the memorial are given as:

*The World War I and World War II war memorials and surrounding walls, paving and approach, Trinity Square, Margate are designated at Grade II for the following principal reasons:*

- *Architectural interest: the World War I memorial is a simple, but elegant example of the oft-used market cross style of memorial;*
- *Historic interest: as poignant reminders of the tragic impact of world events on this community. The World War I cross has the added interest for the inclusion amongst those commemorated of some of*

*the victims of the 1916 Faversham explosives disaster and civilian casualties of air raids. □*



*Photograph taken in March 2007 of the World War II memorial wall behind the World War I memorial cross*

**Newsletter Editor's notes:** Margate War Memorial actually lists 457 WWI names, 237 WWII names, one Falklands War name (Alistair Leighton) and one Northern Ireland name (Neil Clark) making a total of 696 names.

The Annual Service of Remembrance this year will take place at Margate War Memorial from 10.45am on Remembrance Sunday (14th November) at Margate War Memorial.



## 52 Architectural Gems in Thanet



Whatever you do, don't miss the current issue of the *Isle Magazine* as illustrated. It is Issue 20 and covers the period August 2010 to March 2011. It contains a seven-page article by Nick Dermott, TDC's Heritage Development Advisor, in which he tells readers of some of his favourite Thanet architecture. It is an excellent

article full of interesting information and illustrated with superb colour photographs.

The architectural gems in the Margate area selected by Nick for the article (in the same order in which they appear in the article) are:

- St Mildred's Church, Acol
- The Rossetti Memorial in All Saints' Churchyard, Birchington
- Tower Bungalows, Spencer Road, Birchington
- The Waterloo Tower, Quex Park
- The Sanger Tombs in Margate Cemetery
- The Margate Surf-Boat Memorial, Marine Terrace
- Margate Surfboatmen's grave, Margate Cemetery
- Fort Grenham, Cliff Road, Birchington
- Mount Villa, Fort Mount, Margate
- The former Parade Cinema, Margate
- The Shell Grotto, Margate
- Former Bathing Rooms, Lower High Street, Margate
- Former Congregational Church, Union Crescent, Margate
- The Scenic Railway, Dreamland
- The former Countess of Huntingdon's Connection Cemetery, Addington Square, Margate
- The Quart in a Pint Pot Public House, Charlotte Place, Margate
- Ellingham, St Clement's Road, Westgate-on-Sea
- The Nayland Rock Shelter, Marine Terrace, Margate
- Margate Railway Station
- Bank House, Station Road, Westgate
- The Charlotte Centre, St John's Road, Margate
- Methodist Church, Canterbury Road, Birchington
- Potton's Shop, 262 Northdown Road, Cliftonville
- 67/69 Grosvenor Place, Margate
- Salmestone Grange, Margate
- Cast-Iron Urinal, Park Road, Margate
- Drapers Almshouse, Margate

Copies of the *Isle Magazine* are available, free of charge, from the Visitor Information Centre on The Parade. The current issue of the magazine also has a first-rate article on Dreamland. Do get yourself a copy whilst stocks last! □

## 1940-2010 70 Years On

This year, many events are being held to mark the 70th anniversary of both the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force from Dunkirk and of the later Battle of Britain. Those dark days of 1940 are long behind us now but there are still reminders to be seen in our locality.



The pill-box illustrated above is beside the road that continues from Star Lane towards Lydden. It was almost certainly built in 1940 when an invasion by Germany was expected. These pill-boxes were strung across the country to form stop-lines but they were not put to the final test and we will never know how effective they might have been had they been needed to be used by the Home Guard for delaying the invading German forces.



The second picture shows an Air Raid Precautions (ARP) Warden's post which has been later converted to a bus shelter by the removal of the front wall and the blast wall just inside the doorway shown nearest the camera. This former ARP warden's post is located on the green near the junction of Bridge Road and Westbrook Avenue. It was probably built in 1938 or 1939. Note the reinforced concrete roof. Julian Smith, one of our members, remembers the ARP Warden who used this post as a Mrs Battersby who lived in a bungalow in Tyson Avenue.

Do any of our members know of any other WWII structures in our area which are still to be seen today other than Anderson shelters put up in back gardens? □



## Club's War Memorial tablet saved for the town



The Margate Constitutional Club, which has had its premises in Cecil Street since 1895, sadly closed its doors in August this year. To safeguard against damage by water penetration, the Club's War Memorial tablet listing the names of 128 of its Club members, who served their King and Country in the Great War, has been moved to the Old Town Hall where it is to be mounted on an



*The Club's imposing home in Cecil Street for the past 115 years*

interior wall for display. Eight of the 128 names listed are marked as having 'made the supreme sacrifice'. This is an important memorial and its move to the Old Town Hall should ensure that it is kept in safe custody for the future. □

## “Lest We Forget”

The name F. L. Pettman is still familiar today in Margate and is associated with the removals-contractor business in Cliftonville. Alderman F. L. Pettman was Mayor of Margate from 1932 to 1935 and it was during that time that he decided to give a day's outing to wounded First World War ex-servicemen, living at the Star & Garter Home in Surrey, by bringing them to Margate. The first outing to Margate was in 1934 and they continued each year up to the outbreak of the Second World War. After WWII, a “Lest We Forget” Committee was reinstated locally and branches formed across the country. The one-day outing to Margate was also reinstated which continued up to 1980 when it changed to one-week holiday at a hotel. Today, Margate still proudly receives the wounded ex-service personnel thanks to the voluntary efforts of many local organisations and individuals. Should you wish to make a donation to “Lest We Forget”

(Margate), please contact their Treasurer, Mr Stan Davis, on 01843 226492. □



*This collecting-box was used by the Lest We Forget Association in the 1930s to raise funds towards the cost of the annual outing to Margate*

*This photograph shows the back of the collecting-box still with the remains of the original labels stating the cause for which money was being collected*



The text of the original labels stuck on the back of the collecting-box reads:

### “LEST WE FORGET” OUTING

*This outing to Margate was inaugurated in 1934 by the late Alderman F. L. Pettman. About 300 disabled and limbless ex-Service men from London hospitals and homes, who are cared for by the Kingston and Surbiton (Founder) Branches of the “Lest we Forget” Association, travel to Margate by special train for a day by the sea. The e...*

*(What are believed to be the key missing words on the labels are shown in italics)*



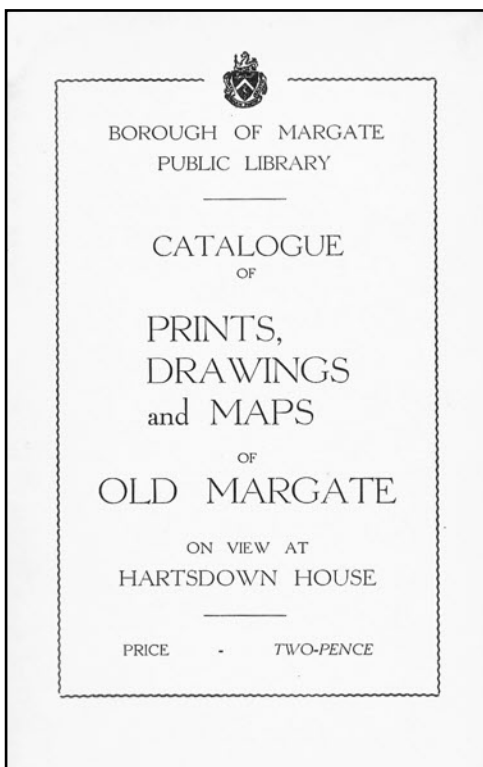
*This superb photograph shows the former St George's Hotel in Eastern Esplanade bedecked with bunting and banners to welcome members of the “Lest We Forget” Association. to Margate The banner reads: Margate Welcomes our War Disabled Heroes. It is probable that this was for the inaugural visit in 1934. What a welcome!*



# Nineteenth-century Turner print sold at local auction-house



*This print, from an engraving by Thos. Lupton of one of J. M. W. Turner's many paintings of Margate, was recently sold at Westgate Auctions. The lighthouse, Holy Trinity Church, Royal York Mansions, St John's Church and Albert Terrace can easily be identified. The weather conditions depicted by Turner were not entirely dissimilar to the conditions at the end of the lifeboat rescue display put on to mark Margate Lifeboat's 150th anniversary!*



The front cover of the catalogue of the former Margate Corporation's collection of prints, drawings and maps of Old Margate that were originally put on display at Hartsdown House. This collection formed a small portion of the town's Local Collection which, even at that time, was most extensive. The bulk of the Local Collection came from two sources: the Dr Arthur Rowe Bequest and the Parker Collection. The late Dr Arthur Rowe (who has featured in our Newsletter on a number of occasions) died in 1926 and the Parker Collection was purchased by Margate Corporation in 1929. In 1930, the town's Local Collection comprised over 13,000 artefacts!

The collection was later moved to the Public Library in Hawley Square before the Library moved

to the former Cottage Hospital premises in Victoria Road. It is believed that the collection was transferred from the Victoria Road premises in 1974 to the Old Town Hall, part of which later opened as Margate Museum. Sadly, the Museum is now closed and access to these artefacts is no longer possible by members of the public. □

There are three Turner prints listed in the former Margate Corporation printed 1930 catalogue as follows:

## ***Margate, Kent***

Drawn by J. M. W. Turner, R.A.  
Engraved by George Cooke  
Published 1824

## ***Margate, Kent***

Drawn by J. M. W. Turner, R.A.  
Engraved by R. Wallis  
Published 1832

## ***Margate***

Drawn by J. M. W. Turner, R.A.  
Engraved by Thos. Lupton  
Published May 7th 1856  
(as illustrated above)

Do any of our members know exactly where these original paintings by Turner now are?

It would be good if some, or all, of them were to be put on public display when the new Turner Contemporary art gallery is opened in 2011. Just an idea!



# 150 years of service by the Margate Lifeboat

These photographs were taken at Margate Harbour on Sunday, 29th August 2010 when a display by the crew of the Margate and Ramsgate lifeboats was put on to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the RNLI taking over the Margate lifeboat service. The display attracted hundreds of visitors but the weather changed for the worst soon after the finish of the display resulting in a mass evacuation from the open areas as the visitors endeavoured to find places to shelter from the sudden high winds and heavy downpour of rain. Plans had been made for an exhibition of photographs in the on-shore Lifeboat House but the start of sea-defence works two weeks before the weekend necessitated the postponement of the exhibition until the spring of 2011.



*The RNLB Fishermans Friend on Sunday morning ready to be crewed by Margate lifeboatmen for the afternoon display*



*The Ramsgate lifeboat, RNLB Esme Anderson, in Margate Harbour*



*This photograph captures the impending adverse weather conditions which were shortly to occur immediately after the finish of the lifeboat rescue display in Margate Harbour*



*The Margate in-shore lifeboat, Tigger Three, in Margate Harbour*

## 85 years ago

This postcard shows the scene at the dedication of the Margate lifeboat 'The Lord Southborough, Civil Service No. 1' by Lady Southborough, wife of the Chairman of the Civil Service Lifeboat Fund, on 12th September 1925. The craft saved 269 lives during her service as Margate lifeboat, in addition to 600 men taken off the beaches at Dunkirk during the evacuation of the British Expeditionary Force in May 1940. The craft was replaced in 1951. The Lifeboat House on the Jetty was destroyed in a storm in 1978.





**Picture from the Past:** This superb picture shows the local school children in Cecil Square to celebrate the Coronation on King George VI and Queen Elizabeth on Tuesday, 12th May 1937. It was taken by Sunbeam Photographs



*Note the two magnificent ornamental gas lamps in the middle of Cecil Square and the off-white K2 telephone kiosk.  
The Hippodrome theatre can just be seen on the extreme left of the picture*

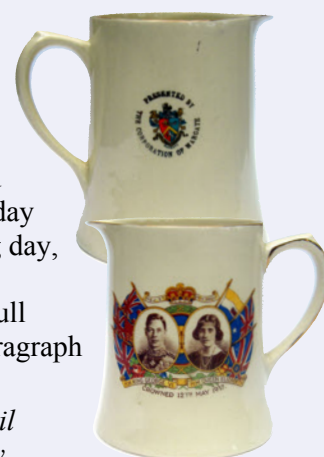
## Mementoes of Margate's commemoration of King George VI's Coronation on 12th May 1937

In the last issue of the Newsletter, an article was published regarding the local events held to celebrate the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary in 1935. The photograph above shows the scene in Cecil Square to commemorate the Coronation of King George just two years later. As for the Silver Jubilee just two years earlier, the former Margate Corporation presented a range of gifts to the schoolchildren to celebrate the Coronation. The schoolchildren had each been presented with a 'beaker' and a tin of toffees on the last day of term - on Monday 11th May. Coronation Day was the following day, Tuesday, 12th May - the first day of the Whitsun Holiday. The *Isle of Thanet Gazette* for Friday 15th May 1937 contained a full report of the town's homage to the new King and Queen. One paragraph of that report read:

*The stage was all set for the entry of the children (into Cecil Square). From all four streets leading into the Square they came, welcomed by the strains of martial music, rank upon rank, marching with military precision. The leaders carried large Union Jacks, and every boy and girl had smaller ones. Their teachers marched with them as, in perfect formation, the children took up their allotted positions. They stood in double and treble file along 27 lines.*

One can hardly imagine such well ordered discipline today!

*Two views of one of the tins (now empty!) of toffees that was kept as a souvenir of that memorable occasion*



*A close-up of the town crest on the back of the above mug*



# Dippers & Dunkers Festival - 20th-27th August 2010

Despite showers of heavy rain, this year's Dippers & Dunkers Festival was, without question, a great success. The Festival opened on Friday evening with *The Sassy Seaside Show* at the Theatre Royal where there was very nearly a full house. Another performance of the show was put on the following evening to an even larger audience. It really was an excellent show and featured a number of fascinating acts. For me, the most memorable act was that of the magician - and ex-President of the Magic Circle - Mark Raffles who amazed the audience with his 'King of the Rings' performance using six metal rings. After the show, he told me that he was 89 years old and had first performed on the stage in 1938. Since that date, he has performed in Margate many times during his long show-business career spending some summer seasons at the Winter Gardens. He proudly told me that his first performance in Margate was at the Hippodrome Theatre in 1947 and that he was making a return visit to Las Vegas in October of this year to perform again in front of American audiences. It is hoped that Mark Raffles will be able to perform in next year's Dippers & Dunkers Festival here in Margate. If you missed the Sassy Seaside Show this year, do make a special effort to see it next year when, hopefully, Mark Raffles will again be on the bill. I feel sure that you will not be disappointed.

On the Saturday and Sunday, there were five sideshows in the Market Place each offering a different illusion: Professor Jon's Flea Circus; The Amazing Electra; Cleo, The Girl in a Goldfish Bowl; The Headless Lady; and The Monster Show. Both children and adults alike were thrilled by these attractions. They were great fun and admission was free.

There was even a Punch & Judy show put on those same days which the children simply loved and the adults enjoyed the wonderful atmosphere created by the Punch & Judy man - Professor David Wilde.

On The Piazza, Mark Copeland had his amazing Insect Circus Museum to thrill visitors over the weekend.

There were, simply, just so many acts and events to see during the Festival that, in the space available here, it is impossible to list them all.

In addition to the acts and performances referred to above, there were three excellent superbly-illustrated talks included in the programme. Vanessa Toulmin (who unlike the other professors taking part in the Festival really is an academic professor - she is Director of the National Fairground Archive at the University of Sheffield) gave one fascinating talk on P. T. Barnum and another on the 'History of the Sideshows'. A third talk was given by 'our' Nick Dermott on 'Popular Entertainment in Margate' which everyone present found most interesting. Nick Dermott also led a



*Octogenarian Mark Raffles standing in front of the mobile Insect Circus Museum with the Insect Circus Museum's owner Mark Copeland awaiting his first visitors of the morning on Sunday 22nd August  
(Note the Turner Contemporary building in the background)*

group 'Walking Margate's Entertainments History' which attracted around 60 participants for a most interesting perambulation starting at the Tudor House and finishing inside the Theatre Royal where Will Wollen rounded off the evening with a short outline of his plans for future of our magnificent Theatre Royal.

Once again, credit for the outstanding success of the Festival is due to the organisation and planning by Thanet District Council's Arts Development Officer, Heather Sawney. Heather organised the Dippers & Dunkers Festival for 2009 which proved so successful and she did it again this year - with flying colours. Well done Heather! Let's hope that the Festival will be put on again in 2011. I know that I will do all I can to ensure that I will visit it if it is put on again. □

**James Brazier**



*Professor Jon Marshall performing illusion tricks with fleas from his box labelled 'Wild Fleas'. You were scratching for fleas at the end of his spiel! His repartee and his expressions were such a joy to behold that I visited his sideshow twice during the Festival*



## For your bookshelf

### THE STAINED GLASS OF ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH RAMSGATE



ROBIN FLEET AND CATRIONA BLAKER

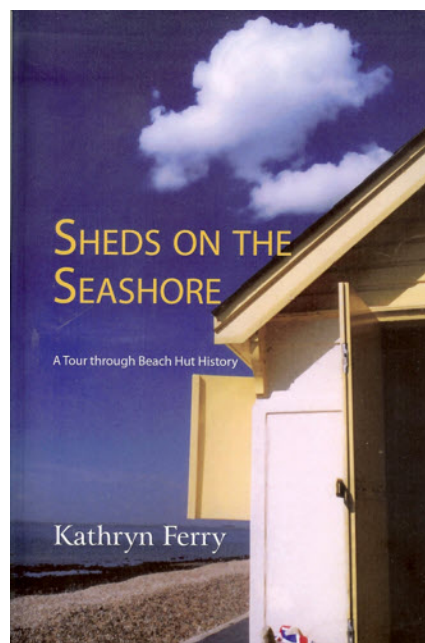


*The Stained Glass of St Augustine's Church, Ramsgate* by Robin Fleet and Catriona Blaker published by Potmetal Press at £5.00 + £1.00 p&p

The authors of this 40-page A4 book will be known to many of our members. Both are members of The Pugin Society and Robin Fleet recently guided a party of Margate Civic Society members around Salmestone Grange Chapel where he talked about the magnificent stained-glass windows there by John Trinnick. Robin is also a member of our Society and has contributed a number of articles to our Newsletter (including one on John Trinnick).

Although St Augustine's Church is not in Margate, this book will appeal to many of our members. It is lavishly illustrated throughout in colour allowing the reader to fully appreciate the windows designed by A. W. N. Pugin's in his great church in Thanet. The reproduction of photographs of the windows really is particularly good. The book also covers the work of Pugin's successor, John Hardman Powell, and includes pictures of historic glass collected by Pugin. The book, which has been part funded by the Kent Archaeological Society, is printed on extremely high-quality paper and is available for the most reasonable sum of £5.00 (plus £1.00 p&p where applicable). Copies can be obtained from Quex Park Shop or by post from Robin Fleet at 28 Westfield Road, Margate CT9 5NZ. When ordering by post, cheques should be made payable to Robin Fleet.

Kathryn Ferry's book *Beach Huts and Bathing Machines* was reviewed in the Summer 2009 Newsletter. She had already become a leading expert on beach huts and bathing machines and her awaited second book entitled *Sheds on the Seashore: A Tour Through Beach Hut History* firmly reinforces her role. Indeed, she has contributed to television and radio programmes on the



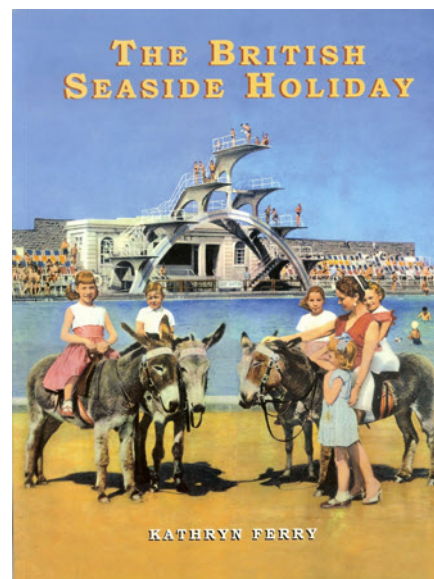
subject of beach hut history and, earlier this year, featured on BBC Radio 4's *Woman's Hour* when she spoke with great authority on beach huts and their rise in popularity with the British public. Three years ago, the author gave a talk at the Media Centre in King Street as part of the very popular Turner Contemporary's 'Designed for You' series of talks. More recently, she gave a talk in July on the

history of beach huts at Whitstable where beach huts are very popular. *Sheds on the Seashore: A Tour through Beach Hut History*, 355

pages, is well illustrated with many in colour and is published by Pen Press at £12.99 (ISBN 13: 978-1-906710-97-2).

In the second of her books illustrated above is *The British Seaside Holiday* published by Shire Publications at £12.99 (ISBN 978-

0-74780-727-8), the author outlines the history of the British holiday by the sea, explaining how people travelled to the seaside, the places where they stayed, the things they did for entertainment and, generally, just what it is about the seaside that attracted holiday-makers for more than a century. This book is of larger format than most Shire books and contains 128 pages. It is extremely well illustrated with most pictures in colour. As one would expect, Margate features often in the book. This is a most nostalgic book and a delightful read. Kathryn Ferry has a PhD in Victorian Architectural History and has already made a name for herself with her first three books which all relate to the seaside. Her books can be seen as part of the resurgence of the traditional British seaside holiday. Do look out for them. □





# What's On

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

| Date         | Subject   | Speaker  |
|--------------|---|--|
| 7th October  | 'The Tom Thumb Theatre'                                     | Frankie Jorden                                       |
| 4th November | 'The Venerable Bede and the times in which he lived'        | Imogen Corrigan                                      |
| 2nd December | 'Thanet Links (1)'  | John Robinson  |
| 2011         |   |  |
| 3rd February | 'The Rosherville Pleasure Gardens'                          | Michael Thompson                                     |
| 3rd March    | 'The Rage' or 'The Caged Lady'                              | Lee Ault   |
| 7th April    | 'Thanet Churches - especially St John the Baptist, Margate' | Mary Berg  |
| 5th May      | Town Pride Awards followed by 'Dreamland'                   | Jan Leandro, Audience Development Manager, Dreamland |



**Westgate Heritage Centre** (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Autumn/Winter Programme 2010-11**  
Open on first Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 12.30pm with a short talk given at 11.00am by Dr Dawn Crouch (Curator)

| Date                     | Subject                               | Content  |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2nd October              | Jackson's Stables                     | One of Westgate's most successful businesses   |
| 6th November             | Remembering the Fallen - 90 years ago | The story of St Saviour's War Memorial Chapel  |
| 4th December             | Winter in Victorian Westgate          | A look at life in the town during the winter   |
| 2011                     |                                       |  |
| 8th January (Note date!) | The Lockwood Family                   | Their contribution to the Westgate story   |
| 5th February             | The Census returns for 1851-1881      | The year 2011 will be a census year - in these talks, we examine what can be learnt from the earlier census returns for Westgate |
| 5th March                | The Census returns for 1891 and 1901  |  |
| 2nd April                | Have a good read!                     | To celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Westgate's Library in Minster Road  |

## Another Picture from the Past



*Two of Pettman's workforce stand proudly in front of this early Aveling & Porter steam lorry circa 1912*

The name 'F. L. Pettman' has already appeared once in this issue of the Newsletter - on page 9 in the article on the "Lest We Forget" Association. This superb photograph was lent to the Editor some years ago by Tim Keenan and shows one of Pettman's early mechanical coal-delivery lorries. Tim informed me that was an Aveling & Porter steam lorry and that its registration number D7933 was issued in June 1912. The lorry was sold on by Pettman's in 1922. It is said that, in the 1930s, Pettman used his lorries to transport the wounded ex-servicemen who came on the "Lest We Forget" one-day outing to Margate. By then, his lorries would probably have provided a slightly more comfortable ride!

# Margate Civic Society

[www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk)



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity. It is a founder member of Civic Voice and is 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 2009/10:

**President:** Mr Ralph Handscomb

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

**Chairman:** Mrs Pamela Pople

Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 221689)

**Vice-Chairman:** Mr Harry Scobie

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

**Secretary:** Ms Elaine Phillips (Tel: 296598)

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

**Treasurer:** Mrs Pat Snow

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**Membership Secretary Elect:** Mrs Lynda Smith

5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN (Tel: 228174)

**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, 23 Darwin Court, Harold Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JX

Mr Peter Blore, 29 Yoakley Square, Margate CT9 4BA (Tel: 291778)

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

Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN (Tel: 228174)

Mr Julian Smith, 1 Barn Crescent, Margate CT9 5HF (Tel: 298292)

Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF (Tel: 844717)

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

✂.....

## Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £ .....

**Name:** .....

**Address:** .....

**Tel:** ..... **e-mail:** .....

| Subscription rates for 2010/11: | 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, Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN  
(Cheques should be made payable to **Margate Civic Society**)