

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Summer 2010
Newsletter
Issue No. 359

Members will be aware that a new civic movement, known as Civic Voice, was launched in London on 17th April 2010. This new body replaced the former Civic Trust which was wound up last year. Those members who attended our May 2010 meeting held at the Walpole Bay Hotel will recall that they were advised that our Committee had considered whether Margate Civic Society should seek to join Civic Voice and had decided in favour of doing so by offering a donation of £250 to Civic Voice in lieu of the full annual subscription based on £1.50 a member. With around 250 members, the full subscription would be in the region of £350 to £400 - a sum which the Committee felt was too much having regard to our cash balances and the restriction placed by our Constitution on the timing of any increases in our own membership-subscription rates. (Our Constitution requires 12 months' notice to be given of any increase in subscription rates hence the earliest date that rates could be increased is October 2011 being one year after our AGM in October of this year.) The Committee also decided that the members present at our May 2010 meeting should be invited to indicate whether they were in support of the Committee's action. Whilst there was some dissension from a few of those present, a show of hands at the meeting resulted in a clear majority in support of the Committee's action. Civic Voice was duly informed of our proposal but, initially, held out for the full subscription.

In order to resolve that impasse, Laura Sandys in her capacity as President of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies kindly offered to seek to resolve this matter directly with Civic Voice and on 14th June an e-mail was received from Civic Voice accepting our donation of £250 in lieu of the full subscription rate. An application form for membership together with a cheque for £250 has now been sent to Civic Voice and formal enrolment of Margate Civic Society as a member of Civic Voice is expected shortly. Margate Civic Society will then have joined the Ramsgate, Broadstairs and Sandwich Civic Societies Society in becoming members of this new civic movement.

It is pleasing that the Newsletter continues to attract contributions from its members and I would like to thank Arnold Schwartzman, Robin Fleet and Suzannah Foad for their most interesting contributions to this issue of the Newsletter. If any member feels that they would like to contribute an article suitable for publication in a future issue, please do get in touch.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Clements for both kindly allowing me to scan his superb early photographs of Hazardous Row (now Albert Terrace) which are used to help illustrate Arnold Schwartzman's article on Karl Marx and for allowing me to photograph, again from his collection, some of the 1935 Silver Jubilee commemorative items which are also featured in this issue of the Newsletter. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Heritage Open Days 2010

This year's Heritage Open Days are
Friday, 10th September
and Saturday, 11th September

Don't miss:

St John's Church Parish Church on Saturday for guided tours at 11:30am and 1:30pm

Margate Baptist Church, Cecil Square on both days from 10:00am to 12 noon when archives will be on display and teas and coffee available

'The Three Squares Walk' - Cecil Square, Hawley Square and Addington Square - on both days at 12 noon - meet outside the Baptist Church (Cecil Square entrance)

Volunteers to help with Heritage Open Days are needed. If you are able to offer your services on either on these days, please contact Steve Vilette on 01843 221250

Visit to Salmestone Grange Chapel

Robin Fleet has kindly contributed to this issue of the Newsletter with an article on John Trinick's stained-glass windows at Salmestone Grange Chapel. In addition, Robin has kindly offered to take a group of Civic Society members around the Chapel with particular reference to these remarkable windows. The guided tour will take place on **Thursday, 8th July** and we will meet in the car park at Salmestone Grange at 6:45pm for 7:00pm. Don't miss this opportunity: it promises to be a most rewarding evening.

The chapel was consecrated in 1326 and, with Salmestone Grange, is Grade II* listed.

Robin is thinking of preparing a handout for the evening and to assist him with the number of handouts required, it would help if members intending to go on the tour would contact Steve Vilette on 01843 221250 in the first instance. □

Palm Bay Recreation Ground

Our thanks for the 'significant number' of objections expressed to Thanet District Council's wish to dispose of Palm Bay Recreation Ground. As a consequence of those objections, TDC has now removed this land from its Asset Disposal List. □

Steve Vilette

Town Pride Awards 2010

The results of the judging of this year's prestigious Town Pride awards were announced by our Chairman, Pamela Pople, at our meeting held on Thursday, 6th May at The Walpole Bay Hotel. Pamela reported on the high standard of the refurbishment works and of the attractive architecture of the new developments for all the properties nominated by members of the Society for this year's Town Pride awards and our President, Ralph Handscomb, presented the awards.



Ralph Handscomb awards a Town Pride plaque and certificate to Tony Leggatt of Coastal Developments Ltd for the conversion of 52 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, to 14 flats



Ralph Handscomb awards a Town Pride plaque and certificate to Joanna Cornford of Westgate-on-Sea Developments Ltd for the refurbishment of the 100-year-old Town Hall Buildings, St Mildred's Road, Westgate-on-Sea



Ralph Handscomb awards a Town Pride commendation certificate to Gordon Nash on behalf of D. J. Ellis Construction Ltd for their new development "West Gate", Sea Road/St Mildred's Road, Westgate-on-Sea



Ralph Handscomb awards a Town Pride commendation certificate to Jeff Elliott of Millwood Designer Homes Ltd for their new development at St Augustine's Park, Westgate-on-Sea



John Trinick and Margate

John Trinick was born in Melbourne, Australia in 1890. He was educated privately and studied at the Art School of the National Gallery of Australia. Completing his course in 1915, he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force and saw active service in Europe. After the war he continued his studies at the Byam Shaw & Vicat Cole School of Art, now part of the Central St Martins College, in London. He studied stained glass at the studios of William Morris. Morris himself was dead by then, but Trinick was strongly influenced by the glass of Morris's partner, Edward Burne-Jones, also long dead. He went on to study under the leading stained glass artist of the Arts & Crafts period, Christopher



John Trinick
1890-1974

Whall. He also toured and studied in France and Germany.

Finally, in 1931, at the age of 41, he opened his own stained glass studio in Upper Norwood. In 1936 he was accepted into the Art Workers' Guild and became a Fellow of the British Society of Master Glass Painters.

His connections with Margate were close. In 1935, he was commissioned to design and make the East Window for the Catholic Church of St Austin & St Gregory in Victoria Road, Margate. This is a fairly traditional window. However, in the previous year he had started work on new glass for the recently restored

14th century chapel in Salmestone Grange. This proved to be a lifetime's work, as he did not finally complete all six windows until 1958.

In 1940 his London studio was destroyed by bombs and he relocated to Margate, setting up his studio in St Anne's Presbytery, Cliftonville. Here he had an electric kiln and was able to both design and make his windows. He worked here till 1961, when ill-health forced him to retire. His wife died in 1963, but he re-married and moved first to London and then to Cumbria. He died in 1974.

The Salmestone Grange windows are remarkable. The East Window depicts the Virgin Mary, a rather elongated figure, with the young Christ standing in front of her. Christ is holding a stalk of corn; corn is the theme of the

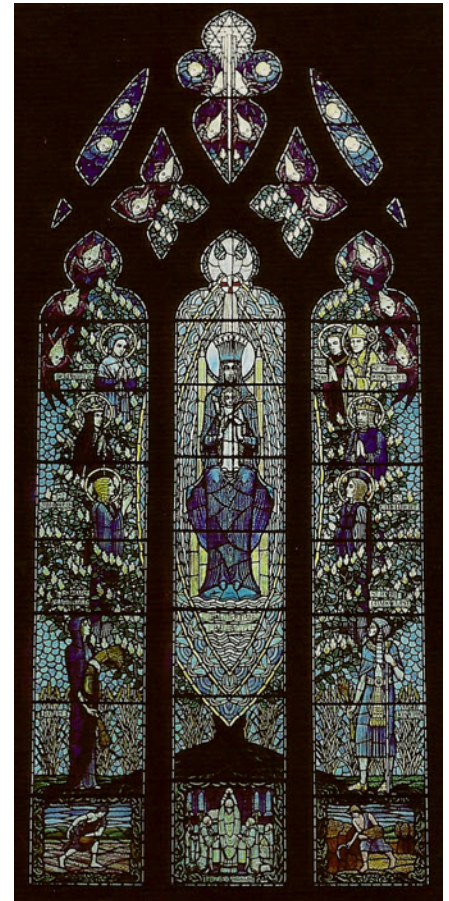
window, reflecting the fact that Salmestone was originally a grange where the Benedictine monks of St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury kept their harvest of corn. Also in the window we can see Joseph, selling corn to his brothers, and Ruth "in a field of alien corn". Three small panels at the bottom of the window show a sower and a reaper, and a priest holding up the sacramental bread. Other flanking figures include King Ethelbert and St Mildred of Thanet.

The West Window shows the Creation in ten small panels.

The other four windows depict numerous scenes from the Old Testament, the New Testament and the history of Christianity.

These scenes are often tiny and accompanied by immaculate explanatory writing, all done on small pieces of glass, often with leading used at unusual angles. Among the figures we can make out such diverse characters as Joan of Arc, Botticelli, Charles the Bald, Dante, and Fra Angelico! They really warrant a close inspection with some kind of guide.

Other work by Trinick can be seen in Greenwich (Our Lady Star of the Sea), Dover (St Paul), and Beckenham (St Edmund). □



East Window at Salmestone Grange



Soloman and the Queen of Sheba - detail from North-East Window

Robin Fleet

Robin Fleet is a member of the British Society of Master Glass Painters

THE OVAL BANDSTAND

The Oval, rather a curious term for the sunken area in Queen's Gardens, is 120 years old this year. The development of Cliftonville was marked in 1867 with the opening of the Cliftonville Hotel. Prior to this, Cliftonville was known as Peel Town, after Sir Robert Peel who owned land here. The district catered for the middle classes who would never want to be seen in Margate and ladies would bring upward of 30 dresses for a short stay.

The land on which the Oval Bandstand was built had previously belonged to preparatory school headmaster Mr Charles Schimmellmann who died in early 1890. For the previous 20 years, the boys of Albion House, Sweyn Road, the well-known preparatory school for intake to Eton, Harrow and Winchester, had used the grounds for cricket practice and matches. After Mr Schimmellmann's death, his whole estate was sold. The portion in Queen's Gardens was sold to Jacob Leach Lewis who gave permission for a temporary bandstand to be erected in the spring of 1890 and the Red Viennese Band played there during the summer months.

Local donkey-keeper Benjamin Baker grazed his animals on the area, which kept the grass short. Donkeys were used as a fashion accessory at the time, with the holidaying ladies dressing for the occasion. Sitting side saddle would be proper, not astride as would be done in rowdy Margate.

Later, in 1897, the soil was dug out of the area to form an amphitheatre. A very ornate wrought-iron bandstand was erected in the centre and upwards of 2,000 deckchairs were placed on the surrounding terraces.

For the next 30 years, The Oval was the centre of Cliftonville entertainment. In 1926, improvements were made and an impressive opening ceremony was staged when the Prince of Wales, later the Duke of Windsor, opened the Prince's Walk promenade.

Between the wars, many vocalists and comedians who played at The Oval, went on to fame and fortune. In 1926/27, Arthur Askey was the star attraction with The Oval Concert Party

After WW2, bandshows at The Oval restarted. Each year the shows were entitled "Frederick Hargreaves presents Bandshow of (year) starring Johnny O'Rourke, his Trumpet and Orchestra - see the board for programmes and posters". Bands that played at The Oval included a number of local musicians over the years. Pianists included Alex Inman in 1959 and, trombonist Jackie Wright in 1960 - who later found fame in The Benny Hill Show. Do you remember the little fellow who Benny Hill would pat on the head? Vocalists Carole Hayes and Dennis Stewart also appeared in the 1950s.

In the late 1960s and '70s, a more sophisticated public wanted a different type of seaside entertainment, and The Oval never went back to the old-style seaside concert parties. Instead, it experimented with all-in wrestling with the likes of wrestlers Pat Roach and Big Daddy and to sing songs around an electric organ with Tony Savage.

Being in such a sad state of disrepair, it was hard to imagine that the bandstand could be restored to a source of seaside entertainment, reminiscent of the time when hundreds flocked to Cliftonville. But this has been achieved with great success by the Cliftonville Residents' Association. We hope to see you at our concerts from May through to September. Many bands are 'to be arranged'. For a programme list, please contact Suzannah Foad at ovalbandstandcliftonville@hotmail.co.uk or June Chadband on 01843 226033. □

Suzannah Foad



Edwardian postcard of The Oval Bandstand, Cliftonville



KARL MARX LIVED HERE



JUST WHAT THE DOCTOR ORDERED!

Margate's motto "Porta Maris, Portus Salutis" – "Gateway to the Sea, Gateway to Health" was the panacea prescribed by "Doctor Margate". For some three-hundred years, people have come from across the Kingdom to this seaside town to be cured of their various maladies.

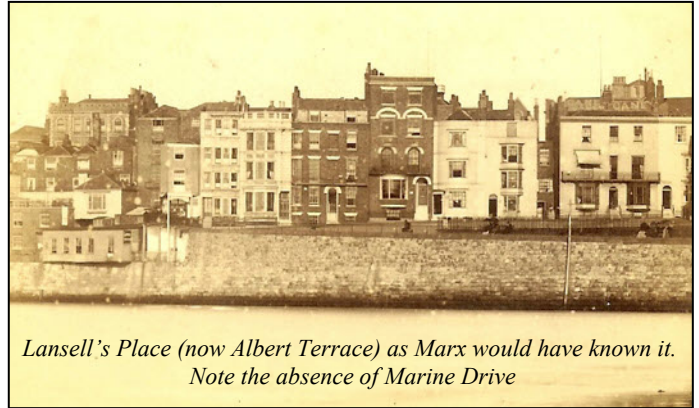
A number of distinguished personalities moved to Thanet to recover from their serious illness among them poets Samuel T. Coleridge and Dante Gabriel Rossetti.

My parents owned the Majestic Hotel – formerly the Kingsthorpe – on Lewis Crescent. Directly behind it stood the Albemarle Hotel, at 47 Eastern Esplanade (since demolished). In 1922, T. S. Eliot stayed there as a guest while he recovered from a nervous breakdown.

There Eliot wrote:

I have done a rough draft of Part III, but do not know whether it will do, and must wait for Vivien's [his first wife] opinion as to whether it is printable. I have done this while sitting in a shelter on the front – as I am out all day except when taking rest. I have written only some fifty lines, and have read nothing, literally – I sketch the people, after a fashion, and practice scales on the mandolin.

Just a few hundred yards looking east from the Nayland Rock promenade shelter, Eliot would have had an uninterrupted view of Mrs. Mary Rogers's lodgings, Bramfield House, at 5 Lansell's Place (since re-named Albert Terrace), where Karl Marx was a boarder in 1866.



Lansell's Place (now Albert Terrace) as Marx would have known it. Note the absence of Marine Drive



The shelter where T. S. Eliot wrote lines of *The Waste Land*. Note the Surfboat Memorial which was later moved to the west of the shelter when the Sun Deck was built in the 1920s

In the now-Grade II listed promenade shelter in the area of Margate known as Buenos Ayres (Beautiful Air), T.S. Eliot wrote what are considered to be among the greatest lines in the history of modern literature:

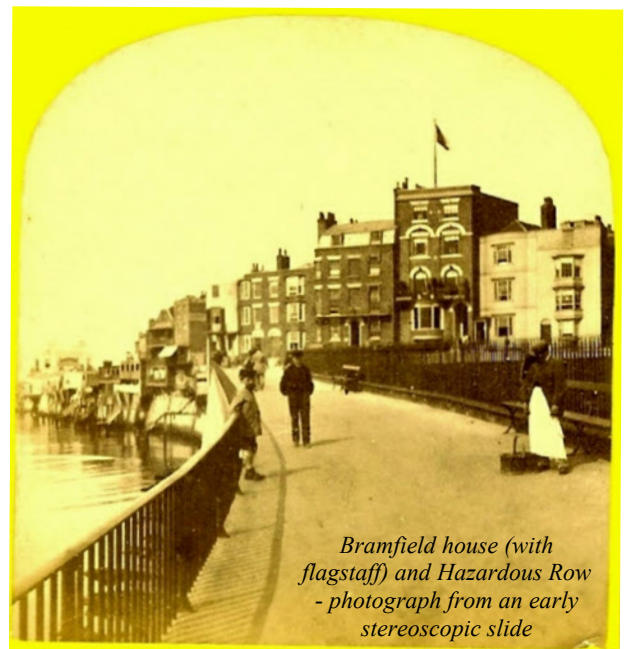
THE WASTE LAND

*On Margate Sands.
I can connect
Nothing with nothing.
The broken fingernails of dirty hands.
My people humble people who expect
Nothing.*

Eliot's reference to humble people might well have been inspired by his reading of the plight of the proletariat in Karl Marx's *Das Kapital*.



Bramfield House - then & now. Note the base of the flagstaff on the roof in the old photograph



Bramfield house (with flagstaff) and Hazardous Row - photograph from an early stereoscopic slide

Five years previously, the house on Lansell's Place was the home of "Capt." Frederick Hodges. Cliftonville's Hodges's Gap and Hodges's Flagstaff at Palm Bay had been named after Hodges, who seemed to have been obsessed with flagstaves. His home on Lansell's Place was covered with them!

Karl Marx, suffering from a chronic bout of carbuncles in a most uncomfortable part of his anatomy, resided at Bramfield House for several weeks in 1866, while undergoing a course of sea-water baths at Margate's Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, formerly named the "General Sea Bathing Hospital – Established in 1796 For the Scrofulous Poor of all England".



An early photograph of very young children as out-of-doors patients at the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital

On 18th March 1866, Karl Marx wrote to his daughter, Laura:

My dear Child,

From the address you will see that I have been banished, by my medical adviser, to this seaside place, which, at this time of the year, is quite solitary. Margate lives only upon the Londoners, who regularly inundate it at the bathing season. During the other months it vegetates only. For my own part right glad I am to have got rid of all company, even that of my books. I have taken a private lodging which fronts the sea. In an inn or hotel, one might have been exposed to the danger of falling in with a stray traveller, or being pestered by local politics, vestry interests, and neighbourly gossip. As it is, 'I care for nobody, and nobody cares for me'. But the air is wonderfully pure and reinvigorating, and you have here at the same time sea air ..."

You can get 12 pictures in visiting-card format for 3 shillings and 6 pence ...

In 1806, the infirmary housed 1,323 patients. Today, the building's conversion to flats has been put on hold due to the present economic condition. A more recent patient was my sister Diana, a native Margatonian, who broke her arm when she was thrown from her horse, and thus spent several weeks in the hospital.

I was born in the former Workhouse of St Georges in the East, Wapping, which was situated close to the dock where the hoys would sail to Margate with the Scrofulous Poor..

On visiting Margate in 1807, James Gillray, the celebrated caricaturist, observed of a newly arrived hoy: "Packet just

arrived. People just landed from ye packet. Fatigued and faded – some sick and invalid wrapd up in Great Coats with their bags and provisions".

A Margate Guide of 1820 referred to proven results of the General Sea Bathing Infirmary "...that obstinate distressing sores, and the evils attendant on indurated glands, and that health and vigour had been restored to bodies the most emaciated and deplorable".

The introduction to *The Isle of Thanet Visitors' Guide* of 1901 reported: "Many despondent invalids have returned from Margate with a new lease of life, and have good reason to bless the day they brought them within its salubrious influences. Friends and even doctors have been surprised to see their patients return, and have exclaimed: 'Marvellous – what a magical power has the sea air'".

The London Medical Recorder at the time wrote: "For a long period of years Margate has been celebrated as one of the healthiest, as it is the most bracing, of the seaside towns in the United Kingdom".

On his promenade along Marine Terrace from Lansell's Place to the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Marx would have passed the Nayland Rock location of what later became Eliot's now-enshrined shelter.

One can assume that Marx had spent his time of recovery in Margate putting the finishing touches to the first volume of his treatise on political economy, *Das Kapital*, which was published the following year. It is interesting to note that there is a Karl Marx Strasse in the former communist seaside town of Yalta, which has since become the twinned with Margate.

Marx is known to have stayed in the towns of Margate and Ramsgate around nine times, as did his comrade Friedrich Engels. One known spot was at 46 Hardres Street, Ramsgate. He also stayed at Ramsgate in Abbots Hill and in Plains of Waterloo and he lived in the town for a period with his daughter Jenny Longuet Marx at 6 Artillery Road.



Karl Marx with his daughter, Jenny, photographed at Margate in March 1866

In a letter to Friedrich Engels, Marx wrote:

*Margate, 6 April 1866
5 Lansell's Place*

Dear Fred,

I have been greatly restored here, and not the smallest sign of a return of the atrocious carbuncles. The spot where the last and most malignant one was still feels a little tender. Perhaps it healed too quickly ... however, if that were so, the warm sea baths and the rough towel that I dry myself with would no doubt have dissipated the foul matter; and indeed in the last two days this vestige of the wound seems to be disappearing altogether.

His comrade, Friedrich Engels, replied:

... Better stay where you are in Margate, getting out in the fresh air as much as you can. Who knows how soon you will have need of all your strength?"

Do something reasonable, that you may rid yourself of this tyranny of boils. No one can permanently endure this chronic fight with carbuncles, without mentioning that sooner or later you may have one assuming such a form that it will send you to the devil. What will happen then to your book and your family? You know that I am ready to do anything in my power, and, in this extreme instance, even more than I would risk in other circumstances. Do be reasonable, then, oblige me and your family to this extent at least, that you will have methodical treatment. What would happen to the whole movement if anything went wrong with you? ... I can get no rest by day or by night until you have got over this trouble. Barely possible to retain the storms within the limits of pure reason, and being much more inclined to burst forth with undue violence.

Engels sent a remittance of £1, with the assurance: "I am trying to think out ways of providing at least in instalments for the others." Then, letter after letter arrived with £50, a Christmas present, £15, £20, and £10, and finally the funds for the visit to Margate.

In 1880, Marx came to Ramsgate to visit his daughter, Jenny. Marx' grandson, Edgar, was born there in August 1879. When Karl Marx's wife was terminally ill, she passed the last summer of her life with her daughter in Ramsgate.

Sadly, Marx's younger daughter, Eleanor "Tussy" Marx, was involved in an unhappy personal relationship with the prominent British atheist Edward Aveling. Friends urged Eleanor to break with Aveling, as he was a terrible womanizer, but she stayed faithful to him.

Throughout the winter of 1897–8, Eleanor nursed him through a most painful illness, having to continually change his dressings, and wheeling him up and down Margate sea front in a bath chair.



8 Ethelbert Crescent, Cliftonville

On 8th June, Eleanor received a letter plus a newspaper cutting which revealed that a certain Alec Nelson, also known as Edward Aveling, and a young actress had been married at Chelsea register office (the very same register office that my wife and I were married 30 years ago!).

Shattered by the news, Eleanor committed suicide by poison at the age of 43.

"Tussy's" last letter to Frederick Demuth, the son of Helena Demuth, dated 1st March 1898, came from 8 Ethelbert Crescent, Cliftonville.

It is believed, but not proven, that Frederick was Marx's son.

Karl Marx's latter years were spent at his home in Regents Park Road, London, where it is said that he consumed a bottle of brandy every four days, in spite of his history of liver and gall-bladder troubles and jaundice. He was also given daily mustard baths. He died, following a bout

of haemoptysis, in 1883 at the age of 64.

Marx's ashes, along with the remains of his wife Jenny von Westphalen, his grandson Harry Longuet, housekeeper Helena Demuth, and daughter Eleanor Marx were buried in the family grave at Highgate Cemetery. Engels had paid for the original monument – the present one being a gift from the Russian people.



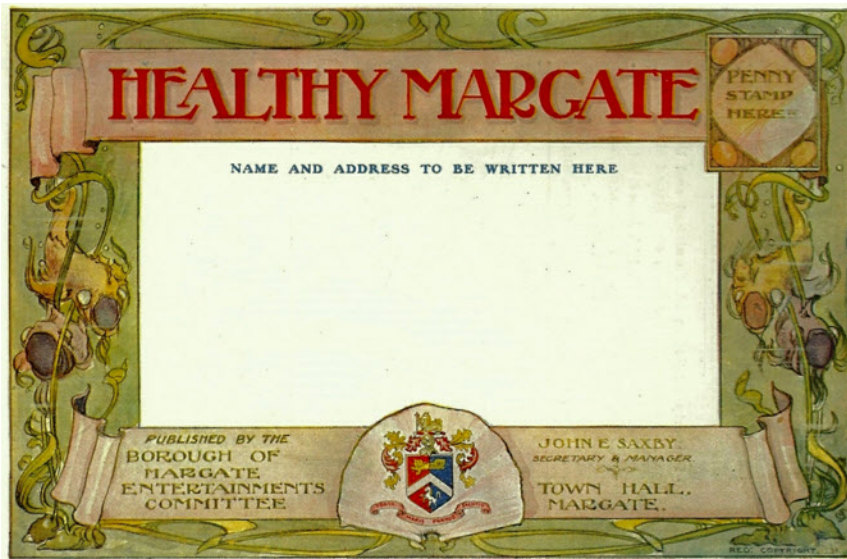
Karl Marx monument, Highgate Cemetery, London

Note: Helena Demuth was a lifelong housekeeper of the Marx family. In 1851, she gave birth to a boy, but never revealed the name of the father. However, it did not end the rumours and speculation over Marx's paternity. □

Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI
Hollywood, California.

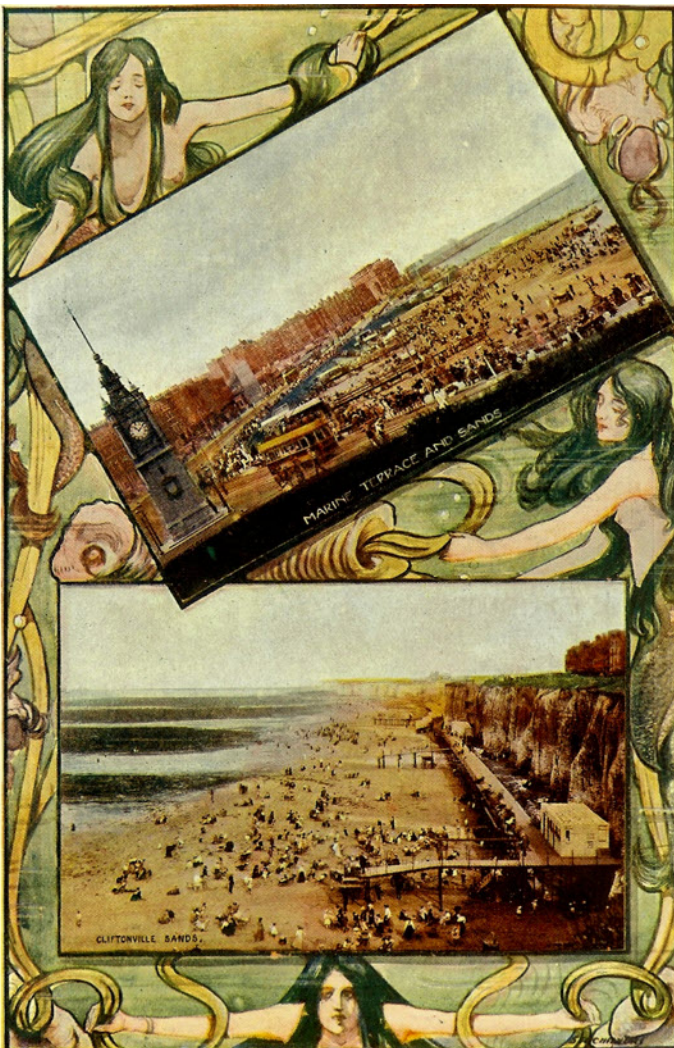
Mementoes of Magical Margate

A sample of what our town offered visitors 100 years ago



The front cover of the official 1907 brochure

Members may recall that the Edwardian-poster advertising Magical Margate alongside was featured in a previous issue of the Newsletter. The other designs on these two pages, with the exception of the postcard of Mr Edmund Maney below, are from a 1907 booklet produced by the Borough of Margate Entertainments Committee.



Magical Margate

FOR HEALTH, SUNSHINE AND PLEASURE.

MAGICAL MARGATE was the apt title that Mr. G. R. Sims gave to Thanet's most famous pleasure resort, and Magical Margate it is to the grateful invalid made strong by the sun and sea air, and to the pleased pleasure-seeker remembering happy hours of joyous life spent on the sands and cliffs. Margate has gifts for all. Health for the sick man. The green turf of wide open spaces, white cliffs and the spaciousness of the sea for those imprisoned in city streets. A perpetual round of amusement for the lovers of life and gaiety. Superb sands for the children. Tennis and Croquet on the Lawns, several fine Golf Links, Bowls in the Park, Boating and Bathing—pastimes for everyone. Sea Trips by steamer and sailing yachts, excursions by brake and motor car into the pretty surrounding country. There is not space here to enumerate Margate's many amusements, but it may be said that the open-air entertainments under the direction of the Entertainments Committee are acknowledged to be the best of their kind in the kingdom. There is a magnificent Jetty, a splendidly appointed Hippodrome, a comfortable Theatre, a Skating Rink and Ball Rooms.

Margate then for health, pleasure—and sunshine. Glorious sunshine! The sunshine that in a succession of bright summer days gives to everyone some feeling of the joy of life. There is no other place in which the holiday maker can be so happily idle. There is no other resort where the amusements for the pleasure seeker are so varied and attractive.

The Borough of Margate



Entertainments Committee

CONSIST OF
HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN J. J. HERMITAGE, J.P.
THE ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH AS FOLLOWS:

Aldermen:
T. J. CARTER. W. H. HUGHES. E. MALTDY, J.P.

Councillors:
J. AMOS. D. T. EVANS. A. LEWIS. W. H. SMITH.
E. COLEMAN. J. J. FRANCIS. W. B. REEVE. F. WARD.
A. E. COZENS. C. T. HATFIELD, J.P. S. SHEA. W. H. WHITE.
Town Hall, Margate. JOHN E. SAXBY,
Secretary and Manager.

The whole of the Entertainments mentioned in this publication are under the direct control and supervision of the Committee. Any enquiries or complaints should be made to the Secretary as above mentioned.

Items of Interest.

Nature has provided Margate with the chief essentials of a marine health resort, viz., an extensive seaboard; sea breezes from nearly every quarter of the compass; abundance of radiant sunshine; a low rainfall; an equable temperature; a dry subsoil; and a moderate altitude.

The New Water Supply was inaugurated in 1903, and cost £120,000. The water is obtained from the rural district of Wingham, 14 miles away. The supply is unlimited and of remarkable purity. Chemical and bacteriological analysis show that it is one of the finest supplies in the Kingdom.

Drainage.—Margate possesses a perfect system of Drainage. The sewage is disposed of by tubular drainage, the outfall being into the deep sea two miles from the Jetty. The currents at this point have such direction that at all tides it is swiftly carried away to the North Sea.

Death Rate.—This is exceedingly low, the corrected figures for the year 1906 being 10.6 per 1,000, as against an average 15.4 for the United Kingdom.

Temperature. It is demonstrated by official records that Margate, although cooler in summer is actually warmer in winter than the suburbs of London.

The SECRETARY will, at all times, on application, be pleased to furnish any information or particulars regarding the town.



The Fort Bandstand which was replaced by the Winter Gardens Pavilion in 1911

Entertainments

Time Table.

Royal Meister Orchestra.

Monday—Fort, 11 to 1 p.m. Fort, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.
Tuesday—Oval, 11.15 to 12.45 p.m. Park, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m.
Westbrook, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.
Wednesday—Fort, 11 to 1 p.m. Oval, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.
Thursday—Oval, 11.15 to 12.45. Park, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m.
Fort, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.
Friday—Fort, 11 to 1 p.m. Westbrook, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.
Saturday—Oval, 11 to 1 p.m. Fort, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m.
Sunday—Oval, 3 to 4.45 p.m. Fort, 8 to 9.15 p.m.

Edwards' Entertainers.

Monday—Oval, 3.15 to 4.45. Westbrook, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Tuesday—Fort, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Oval, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Wednesday—Westbrook, 3.15 to 4.45. Fort, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Thursday—Oval, 3.15 to 4.45. Westbrook, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Friday—Fort, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Oval, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Saturday—Fort, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Oval, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Sunday—Sacred Concert, Oval 8 to 9.15 p.m.

Randell Jackson's Concert Party.

Monday—Fort, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Oval, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Tuesday—Westbrook, 3.15 to 4.45. Fort, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Wednesday—Oval, 3.15 to 4.45. Westbrook, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Thursday—Fort, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Oval, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Friday—Oval, 3.15 to 4.45 p.m. Fort, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Saturday—Oval, 3.15 to 4.45. Westbrook, 8 to 9.30 p.m.
Sunday—Sacred Concert, Westbrook, 8 to 9.15 p.m.

The Royal Meister Orchestra.

Director & Conductor: Mr. EDMUND MANEY. Leader: Mr. EDWARD CRAWFORD

To-Day's Programme of Music. PRICE, ONE PENNY.

| OVAL—11.15 to 12.45. | | FORT—7.30 to 9.30. | |
|--|--|--|---|
| 1 March ... "The Bride Elect" ... Sousa | 1 March ... "A Scissors" ... Costa | 2 Value ... "Eusebio" ... Walden | 2 Value ... "Free-Form" ... Claret |
| 2 Overture ... "William Tell" ... Reiser | 3 Overture ... "Zampa" ... Herold | 3 Selection ... "Lady Madcap" ... Reiser | 4 Selection ... "Cassini" ... Birt |
| 4 Selection ... "When thy Blue Eyes" ... Sousa | 5 The Irish Patrol ... Foster | 5 (a) "Allerstein" ... Strauss | 6 Valse Solo ... "Polonaise Brillante" ... Wieniawski |
| 6 Two Hungarian Dances ... Verdi | 7 Dance of the Hours from "Giocosa" ... Ponchielli | 7 Fantasia ... "Il Trovatore" ... Verdi | 8 Selection ... "White Chrysanthemum" ... Tait |
| 8 March ... "Electricity" ... Berger | 9 Value ... "Blue Danube" ... Strauss | 8 March ... "Schilf" ... Herold | 10 March ... "Stars and Stripes" ... Sousa |
| | | 1 Overture ... "Le Roi aux Cleves" ... Berger | |
| | | 2 Value ... "Trot Passé" ... Jory | |
| | | 4 Selection ... "Aria's Model" ... Dalise | |
| | | 5 Overture from "Coppelia" ... Reiser | |
| | | 6 Cake Walk ... "Kismet" Kallie ... Reiser | |
| | | 7 Selection ... "Les Gardes Nobles" ... Schramel | |
| | | 8 March ... "God Save the King." | |

N.B.—The right is reserved to alter or omit any of the Pieces in this Programme.
Chappell & Co. Grand Piano-forte supplied by A. Thomas & Co., 10, Strand, London, W.C.2.



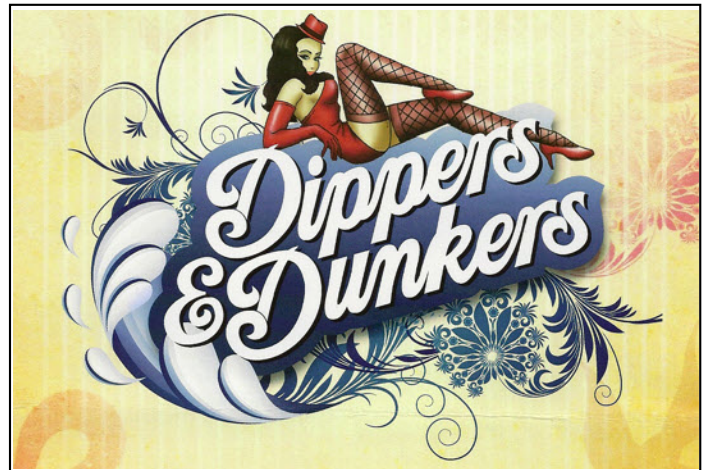
Postcard of Mr Edmund Maney, the Director & Conductor of the Royal Meister Orchestra which gave performances at the various bandstands in Margate in 1907. Edmund Maney was also a member of the Board of Directors of the London Symphony Orchestra.



The front cover of a programme for a show at the Hippodrome in the late 1920s. Note the telephone number - Margate 83

Appeal for Memories of the Hippodrome

Do you remember the Hippodrome? If you do and you would like to share those memories, please contact the Newsletter Editor. It would be good to publish them in the Newsletter.



Dippers & Dunkers Festival

Friday, 20th August to Friday, 27th August

Those who had the pleasure of visiting the Dippers & Dunkers weekend last summer will need no encouragement to go along to the many events forming this year's festival which will take place over eight days. And those who missed out last year will now have the opportunity to go along and support this year's events, many of which will take place in Margate's Old Town free of charge.

Details of many of the events are contained in the Summer 2010 issue of TDC's publication *Thanet Matters*. To find out more about these events, call 01843 577577 or visit www.dippersanddunkers.org.uk

One of the events which might appeal particularly to Civic Society members is a walk led by Nick Dermott which he has entitled 'Walking Margate's Entertainment History'. Nick will tell the history of entertainment in the town and the many engaging forms that it took on his tour of Margate's Old Town and the seafront. It will take place on Tuesday, 24th August and those wanting to should meet at the Tudor House, King Street, for a 6:00pm start.

This photograph was probably taken shortly before the Hippodrome (built in 1898 as the New Grand Theatre) was demolished in the early 1960s. The large poster near the entrance to the theatre is advertising Dale Martin Promotions International Wrestling at the Winter Gardens. By this time, the Hippodrome was looking very shabby. Thanet's Gateway Plus in Cecil Square now stands on the site. The house in the background is next to the Constitution Club in Cecil Street and can be easily recognised today.



Do you remember the Cameo Cinema?



Note the width of the pavement on the side of the road where the shops were originally and how narrow the pavement was on the residential side. Note also the tramlines.

This Edwardian postcard shows, boxed, the two former dwellings in Northdown Road (Nos 127 and 129) which were later converted to a cinema in 1912. The cinema was first known as the Lounge Picture Salon and later known as the Cameo. It was known by locals as 'the flea-pit'. Arnold Schwartzman, who later was to win an Oscar for his film *Genocide*, worked at the Cameo as an assistant projectionist during a school holiday. His parents owned the Majestic Hotel on Lewis Crescent and were friends of the owners of the Cameo, Jack & Lily Hyman. The Cameo closed in 1969.

Arnold Schwartzman has very kindly contributed to this issue of the Newsletter with his article on Karl Marx which was especially written for our Newsletter

The Nearest PICTURE THEATRE to the Oval.

THE LOUNGE

NORTHDOWN ROAD CLIFTONVILLE

(All Trams Pass the Doors).

A Well-Appointed Theatre, where a Splendid Programme of the Best Pictures is always to be seen.

MORNING PERFORMANCES IF WET.
MATINEES DAILY at 2.45.
EVENING PERFORMANCE from 6.30 to 10.30

ADMISSION - 1/-, 6d. & 3d.



These two photographs were kindly supplied by John Robinson (who is giving a talk to the Society later this year at our December meeting). The picture above was probably taken in the late 1940s and the one on the left was probably taken in the late 1960s. Readers more knowledgeable about models of cars might be able to more accurately date the Rover in the earlier picture and the Jaguar in the later picture. □

Westgate Library - 50 years old next year

This fine building was built for Margate Borough Council in 1961 by the then Borough Engineer, George E. Sewell. The sanatorium of Street Court School had previously stood on this site. The sanatorium was hit by a bomb in January 1941 and after the war the school and its grounds were sold to a developer. The site of the former sanatorium was donated for the building of this library.



On the reorganisation of local government in 1974, the library was transferred to Kent County Council.

In the early 1970s, Margate Civic Society held meetings in the large upstairs room in Westgate Library.

A recent attempt to have this building listed as being of architectural interest was, unfortunately, unsuccessful. □

Margate RNLI Lifeboat Station celebrates its 150th anniversary this year

Arrangements are in hand for a number of events to take place on Sunday 29th August. It is going to be a big fund-raising event with a number of stalls and, possibly, old lifeboats on display. Make a note in your diary and look out for details in the local papers etc. nearer the date.

Remembering Dunkirk 1940



This tablet on the front of Droit House commemorates Margate's part in the heroic evacuation of troops from the Dunkirk beaches seventy years ago. It reads:

THIS TABLET COMMEMORATES THE LANDING ON MARGATE JETTY OF 46,772 TROOPS OF THE ALLIED FORCES ON THE EVACUATION OF DUNKIRK IN MAY 1940



Marine Gardens

The above photograph was taken on 2nd June this year and shows an anchor design in concrete at the apex of the two paths meeting at the bottom of the gardens just a few yards from the Clock Tower. The design - which is about fifteen feet long - had been installed by TDC only a few weeks before the photograph was taken. But what was its maritime significance? An e-mail to Paul Verrall, the Council's Parks & Open Spaces Development Manager yielded the prompt response that the anchor marks both the 150th anniversary of the Margate RNLI Lifeboat Station and also the part played by Margate in the successful evacuation from Dunkirk in 1940. Paul also tells me that it is proposed that 'some old timbers of the Margate Harbour will be added to the anchor design with some mock-up groyne features'. It is hoped that the installation, which will also incorporate an information display board, will be completed in the summer. Look out for it! □

Mementoes of Margate's commemoration of King George V's Silver Jubilee on 6th May 1935



The commemorative stone erected at the junction of Canterbury Road and George V Avenue, Westbrook. George V Avenue was formerly known as Walton Road

A close up of Queenie Johnson's Silver Jubilee china mug



A close up of the back of Queenie Johnson's Silver Jubilee china mug



Commemorative mugs were presented by the Mayor, Corporation and Burgesses of the Borough of Margate to schoolchildren under 10 years of age and commemorative spoons were given to schoolchildren of 10 years or over.



Seventy years on, Queenie Johnson - who has been a Life Member of Margate Civic Society since about 1970 - proudly holds her Silver Jubilee mug which was presented to her when she was a pupil at Drapers Mills School, Margate in 1935



One of the tins of chocolate that were presented to the children who attended special showings of a Mickey Mouse film and a Jubilee news film at local cinemas. Tins of chocolate were also presented to infant children who attended a clown show at the Winter Gardens.



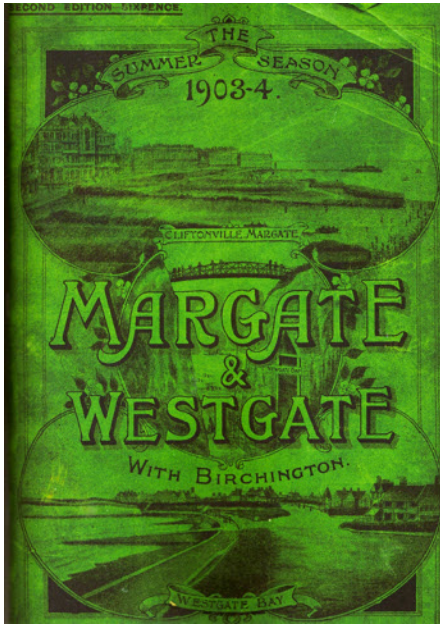
The supplier's name printed on the bottom of the tin



A commemorative teaspoon - still in its box!

According to a report in *The Isle of Thanet Gazette* dated 4th May 1935, it was not only the children who received commemorative gifts. China jugs were presented to the women and china ashtrays were to the men. One of the china jugs is illustrated above. If anyone has one of these commemorative china ashtrays (which, presumably bears the Margate crest in addition to some reference to the Jubilee), would they please get in contact with the Newsletter Editor for a photograph to be taken of the ashtray.

Book Reviews

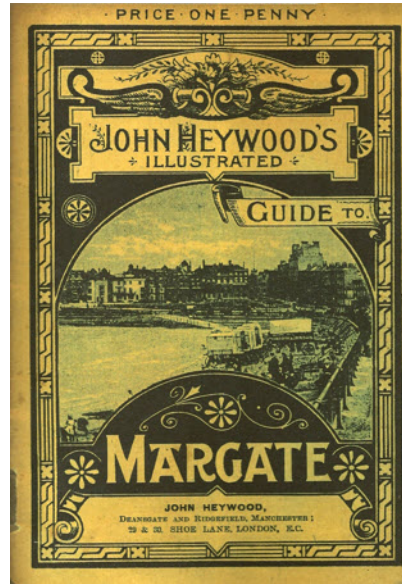


Margate & Westgate with Birchington Guide 1903-4 is an absolute gem of a guidebook. Originally published in time for the 1903-4 Summer Season, it has recently been republished as a facsimile by Michaels Bookshop, 72 King Street, Ramsgate at £9.99. It is A4 size and contains 96 pages of superb monochrome photographs and old advertisements for

local shops, hotels and other business operations. Most of the advertisements include a photograph especially taken for the publication. But in addition to the wonderful advertisements, there are a wealth of photographs of Margate, Westgate and Birchington as it was just over 100 years ago together with accompanying text extolling the virtues of our town as it was in Edwardian times. Your reviewer first came across a copy of the original publication on a visit, about six years ago, to the now-closed Margate Museum. As your reviewer recalls, the guidebook had then been recently kindly donated to the museum by a member of the Fleet family (the late Bruce Fleet was a well-known member of the former Margate Police Force). With the tragic closure of Margate Museum, the guidebook - and all the other items in the collection - became unavailable to both researchers and to visitors to our town wanting to learn more of its unique history as a seaside resort. Ramsgate lost virtually all of its local collection when Ramsgate Library was burnt down by an arsonist in August 2004. Michaels Bookshop has done the whole of Thanet a great service by republishing a very wide range of early guide books to the towns and to publishing many books of local interest by local authors. But in your reviewer's opinion, this latest publication is the best so far as Margate (including both Westgate and Birchington) is concerned. If you want more than just a glimpse of the past, this book is for you. At just under £10, this book is worth every penny and comes highly recommended. □



A sample page of advertisements from *Margate & Westgate with Birchington 1903-4*



John Heywood's Illustrated Guide to Margate and Westgate was first published by John Heywood in 1904. This guidebook contains some 30 pages of text and pictures relating to the area together with another dozen or so pages containing national advertisements etc. It also contains a map of Margate showing Cliftonville as 'Margate New Town'.

This guide has also been recently republished in A5 size as a facsimile by Michaels Bookshop at £3.99. This guidebook was probably aimed at the first-time visitor to Margate and, consequently, is of a more general nature than the first book reviewed. Nevertheless, it contains much information of interest today and, at £3.99, is inexpensive as a source of facts and figures relating to our town a little over one hundred years ago. As can be seen from the front cover, as illustrated above, the price of the original publication was just one penny. Whereas the original price of the first guide reviewed this time was six times that sum. Just like today, you got then what you paid for. But at a little under £4, the reprint is good value and the price is only a fraction of what one would have to pay for a copy of the original publication - assuming, of course, that an original copy could be found! □

K6 telephone kiosk moved to Harbour Arm

The K6 Jubilee telephone kiosk that stood in Norfolk Road, Cliftonville, for many years has, at last, been moved to its new location on the Harbour Arm. As can be seen from the accompanying picture, it has been placed immediately in front of the car park pay-and-display ticket-issuing machine. The telephone kiosk has been 'adopted' by Margate Charter Trustees and is for aesthetic purposes only. Sadly, the kiosk suffered badly from vandalism since it went out of service in Norfolk Road and when the accompanying photograph was taken of the kiosk in its new location in early June, it was looking very sad and sorry for itself with a large number of its windows broken and splattered with white paint. Let's hope the Charter Trustees arrange for it to be restored before the start of the summer season otherwise it could well attract criticism for being something of an eyesore in a prime location. □





Exhibition ‘Children on the Move’ - a tribute to the schoolchildren of Thanet evacuated to Staffordshire in June 1940

This exhibition, which was opened on 5th June 2010 by Roger Gale MP and runs to the end of July, tells the story of the school children from all over Thanet being evacuated to Staffordshire on Saturday, 2nd June 1940.

The exhibition is divided into sections relating to:

- the background to the evacuation
- the evacuation on 2nd June 1940
- memories of life in Staffordshire
- the evacuation of other children with their families
- the memories of those who stayed behind

Westgate Heritage Centre is inside St Saviour’s Church and is open on Wednesday mornings and Saturday mornings from 10.00am to 1.00pm. The exhibition has been mounted by its curator, Dr Dawn Crouch, who is still happy to receive any further memories from those who were evacuees at that time. □



This delightful evacuee postcard was sent from Staffordshire on 17th March 1944 by Coline Perry to her mother in Broadstairs. In her message on the back of the postcard, Coline Perry explained to her mother that she was unable to obtain a Mothering Sunday card so sent this postcard instead. It is probable that Coline was amongst the school children that were evacuated from Thanet in June 1940 and that she spent some four years as an evacuee in Staffordshire. Note how the wording of the verse on the front of the postcard has been changed by the sender.

Margate Civic Society - Programme of talks for 2010/11

The speakers’ list for our 2010/11 programme of meetings is as follows:

| Date | Subject | Speaker |
|--------------|---|--|
| 7th October | ‘The Tom Thumb Theatre’ | Frankie Jordan |
| 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 Officer, Dreamland |

All talks start at 7.30pm at the Walpole Bay Hotel

Friends of Margate Cemetery - Margate Cemetery Walks

Dates for guided tours of Margate Cemetery for the remainder of the summer are:

General tours - a general overview of the cemetery visiting the graves of a number of famous people

- 14th July
 - 28th July
 - 11th August
- All the tours are held on Wednesday evenings starting at the Chapels (100 yards from the main entrance gate to the cemetery)

Please note that bookings for these walks should be made on 07982 829664

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 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

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 Vilette, 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, 7 Hartsdown Road, Margate CT9 5QP (Tel: 232582)

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 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