

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



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Newsletter
Issue No. 381



**Margate Civic Society is a
Founder Member
of Civic Voice**

It is customary at the time of the year to look back and remind ourselves of some of the events in 2015. As far as Margate Civic Society is concerned, the last year has seen a number of successes. Firstly, the Society successfully nominated The Harbour Steps for Civic Voice's National Design Award for their Public Realm Category. For winning that award, the Society was presented with a magnificent plaque which, it is hoped will be affixed to the Steps next year. Then, in October at Civic Voice's AGM, a certificate was awarded to the Society for 'Educating the Public'. Also in October, our Secretary, Geoff Orton, was invited by The Prince's Foundation for Building Community to attend a reception at St James's Palace where HRH Prince Charles launched the BIMBY Toolkit for which Margate Civic Society is proud of having been selected as a pilot (see article on page 2).

Following the Society's very successful coach trip to Dunkirk last year, a coach trip to London in September was arranged and very well supported by our members. For next year, the Society has arranged a day-trip to Bruges on 24th May (see page 12 for details). Early booking of seats for this trip is recommended to avoid disappointment.

Away from the Society, 2015 saw a change in political control of TDC and Westgate regained a parish council after 80 years. The future of Manston airport remains in the balance more than six months after the local elections were held when promises were given by Ukip that, if elected, a CPO would be sorted out within weeks. Dreamland Heritage Park finally opened in 2015 although the scenic railway did not open until October. Now, it is emerging that the cost to TDC of the Dreamland project is going to be considerably higher than anticipated with Heritage Lottery Fund monies having been used for purposes other than for which they were granted (see page 7 for details).

Meanwhile, the newly-created Westgate Parish Council quickly changed its name to Westgate Town Council and eventually requested TDC to approve a further change of its name to Westgate-on-Sea Town Council. The squabble over the splitting of Margate Charter Trustees' assets continues to rumble on despite the Charter Trustees very generously handing the Town Council a cheque for £50,643 in settlement of their claim. Yet the Town Council wants even more funds from the Charter Trustees! Many residents of Westgate are beginning to ask why they need a Town Council and what does it do. It is too late now! □

James Brazier, Newsletter Editor



**We wish all our members a very
Merry Christmas
and a peaceful New Year**



Welcome to new members

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

Linda Potts & Julie Dellar
Father Timothy Finigan
John Edwards
Craig Milburn

**Roger Hayes
Membership Secretary**

Subscriptions

Members are reminded that annual subscriptions were due for renewal from 10th October 2015 (immediately after the AGM) and should be paid by 1st February 2016 or membership will lapse and no further Newsletters will be delivered. To ensure that you do receive future issues of the Newsletter without interruption, please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary, Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ.

The subscription rates for the current year are shown on the back of this Newsletter. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. □

**Roger Hayes
Membership Secretary**

Town Pride Awards 2016

Nominations of specific properties in our area are invited from members of our Society for the 2016 Town Pride Awards. All nominations should be submitted to our Chairman, Pamela Pople (see back page for contact details), by not later than 12th February 2016. The results of the Judging Panel will be announced at our meeting to be held on 12th May 2016. □



The certificate awarded to Margate Civic Society by Civic Voice at their AGM in October 2015

Beautiful In My Back Yard Be a Bimby Not a Nimby

Civic Voice, the National Federation of Civic Societies, has teamed up with The Prince's Foundation for Building Community, to develop the BIMBY Toolkit. Margate Civic Society is proud to be one of the dozen societies selected to test pilot this intriguing new initiative which is aimed at breaking down the suspicion and 'disconnect' between people and planners. Our friends next door at The Canterbury Society are another intrepid pioneer. No more soulless barracks necessary!

Across the UK, communities are voicing concern over new housing developments which are too often not well designed and detract rather than enhance amenity. Increasingly aware of the positive impact new housing can have on the local economy, and indeed on improving house affordability, local communities, if they are to accept new housing initiatives, must be assisted in collaborating with developers if current housing demand is to be met.

The Prince's Foundation has been testing tools and techniques to improve placemaking and building design for the last 20 years. It knows what works and that communities are motivated to produce well-planned and beautiful places that people value and cherish so that they can say: 'Yes, if we really do need development in our area we'd like it done like this!'

The BIMBY Toolkit was launched on 27th October and your Secretary, having received security clearance, was sent along to St James' Palace to represent us for the Great Day and play among the consoles. I was surprised to see the Guards stomping around well behind the railings – in my youth they were stationed on the outside! - but I was impressed by the carrot cake and even more impressed by the obvious enthusiasm of HRH who spent two hours on walkabout chatting to everyone in a most relaxed manner. The CPRE National Chair thought that the only housing that should be allowed in the South East should be

'affordable' housing. And the Man from the Ministry was keen for communities to be involved in planning *at the earliest* (have you heard this TDC?) stressing that the National Planning Policy Framework had two underlying principles: *sustainability* in the economic, social and environmental dimensions and *community engagement*.'

The Toolkit may be found on the Foundation website for all to inspect and experiment with. It consists of a clear three-step guide from which communities can produce a professional report detailing their communal vision for good-quality local housing which can then be formally adopted into the planning system. Mike Thompson as MCS Executive Committee Member for Planning, and an activist in the Westgate Conservation Area Advisory Group, is heading up the MCS BIMBY Pilot together with our Vice-Chairman, Harry Scobie, and will be delighted to discuss the Toolkit with members interested in shaping their local neighbourhoods – which must be all of us!

Geoff Orton
Secretary



*A group of delegates outside St James's Palace on 27th October 2015
Sarah James, Senior Development Manager, Civic Voice is on the extreme left next to
Freddie Gick, Chairman, Civic Voice and Geoff Orton is fourth from the right.
Photo taken by Su Sayer, Chair of Campaign to Protect Rural England*



ST JAMES'S PALACE STATE APARTMENTS 2015

HRH Prince Charles meets our Secretary, Geoff Orton at St James's Palace whilst Hubert Pragnell of The Canterbury Society looks on



Geoff Orton's invitation to the Royal occasion

Margate Post Office War Memorial - Rededication



Left to right: Paul Wheeler (Delivery Office Manager), Bryan Hazard (MOTHs), Alwen Lyons (Post Office Company Secretary), Colin Reeves (MOTHs) and Ronald Brown (Royal British Legion)

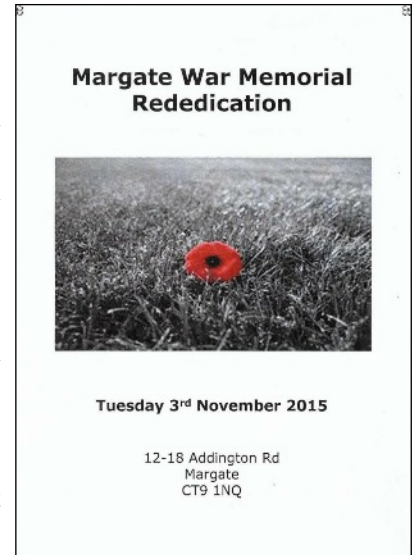
The old Margate & District Post Office War Memorial that was removed earlier this year from the former Crown Post Office in Cecil Square has now been relocated to the Royal Mail Delivery Office (where undelivered mail can be collected) at 12-18 Addington Road, Margate. Royal Mail are to be congratulated in finding this new home for the war memorial. The original war memorial listed the names of six members of their staff who lost their lives in the Great War and a further plaque was added at the end of the Second World War commemorating the loss of life of another member of their staff. Today, the two plaques are treated by Royal Mail as one war memorial honouring the lives of their fallen colleagues. The Great War plaque was originally unveiled on 3rd December 1922 when it was also dedicated by the Rev David Railton, Vicar of Margate.

At 11 o'clock on 3rd November 2015, a special service was held at the Royal Mail Delivery Office to rededicate the war memorial. In the congregation were representatives of the Memorable Order of Tin Hats (MOTHs) and Royal British Legion as well as a number of former Royal Mail employees and members of the public. The Post Office was represented by Ms Alwen Lyons (their Company Secretary) and the Royal Mail was represented by Paul Wheeler (Delivery Office Manager).

Alwen Lyons welcomed everyone to the service and, after a very brief mention of the men whose names are listed on the memorial, a two-minute silence was observed followed by the laying of a wreath on the memorial by Alwen Lyons. The short service ended with the reading by Paul Wheeler of Laurence Binyon's poem *For the Fallen* and ended with the reading by Angela Hughes and Alwen Lyons of two other poems of remembrance.

It was a moving service and it was good that the Royal Mail and the Post Office arranged not only for the successful transfer of the memorial to its new location but that it also felt it appropriate that the memorial should be rededicated with a short service.

Do take a look at the memorial in its new location when you are passing. The Delivery Office is open in the morning every day (check their website for times of opening). So well has the memorial been erected that it looks as if it has always been there. Royal Mail and the Post Office should be pleased with what they have achieved. □



The Order of Service for the Rededication of the Post Office War Memorial


JB



Margate Remembers its Fallen - Remembrance Sunday 2015

The townspeople of Margate were well represented at this year's commemorations held at Margate War Memorial on Sunday, 8th November. Numerous wreaths were laid by representatives of each of the armed forces and local organisations. This year, wreaths were also laid at the war memorial by both Sir Roger Gale (Member of Parliament for North Thanet) and by Craig Mackinlay (Member of Parliament for South Thanet). It was a most moving service and the weather was also kind to the many who attended the service. We will remember the fallen. □ **JB**

Always & Forever



The Royal British Legion
(Margate Branch)

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE
At the
Town War Memorial
Trinity Square
Margate, Kent
On
Sunday 8th November 2015

Conducted by The Very Rev'd John Richardson
Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Margate
& Chaplain to the Mayor of Margate



**At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them**
Laurence Binyon

*The Order of Service of
Remembrance*

*A small part of the large
congregation at Margate
War Memorial for the
Service of Remembrance
on Sunday, 8th November*



Amongst the many wreaths laid at Margate War Memorial were two from the Mayor of Margate. One from 'The Mayor and People of Margate' and one from 'The Mayor, Charter of Trustees [sic] and the People of Margate'. Presumably, the second was from the Margate Charter Trustees. But why two wreaths?



The Town Mayor of Margate, Cllr Robin Edwards in his mayoral robes. Thanet District Council's Chief Executive, Madeleine Homer, on the left of the picture also laid a wreath at the war memorial



Two rings of red poppy-wreaths around the base of the war memorial at the end of the Service of Remembrance



The two Thanet MPs laying their wreaths together - Sir Roger Gale (nearest camera) and Craig Mackinlay

The Royal British Legion, Margate Branch



Photo courtesy of Mick Harris

The above group photograph shows members of the Margate Branch outside their premises at Legion House, 18 St John's Road, Margate. It is thought that the photo dates from the 1940s and that it was probably taken shortly after a Remembrance Sunday parade as many in the photo are wearing their WWI medals. Do any of our readers recognise anybody in this photograph? It has been suggested that the uniformed officer standing in the back row could be Lt-Col C. F. S. Witts TD, the Commanding Officer of the 6th (Thanet) Battalion, Kent Home Guard during WWII. Certainly, the lady in the front row on the extreme right looks as if she is wearing a WWII service uniform.

The premises are shown in *Kelly's 1924 Directory of the Isle of Thanet* as Margate British Legion Working Men's Club. The British Legion was granted 'Royal' in 1971 - exactly 50 years after its formation in 1921. □ **JB**



Above: Legion House as it is today. Note the absence of the once-attractive painted lettering above the front door and the rather incongruous storm-porch that has been added in later years.



Right: The steps leading to the storm-porch at the entrance to Legion House

Christmas 100 years ago



The Christmas Day Gifts certificate that was awarded to five-year-old Ivy Chapman for helping to bring happiness on Christmas Day 1915 to our soldiers and sailors serving their King & Country during the Great War. Ivy Chapman lived at 21 Byron Road (now Byron Avenue)

Signs of Welcome at Westgate



These three signs will be familiar to anyone who travels along the Canterbury Road towards Margate. The signs are sited on the boundary of the Westgate & Birchington Golf Club car park and, judging by the state of the two signs on the right of the photo, they have not been re-painted for many years. Indeed, it would appear that they have not been re-painted since they were put up in the 1970s when Margate was twinned with Les Mureaux - some 40 years ago. According to the upper sign, the town of Margate is still twinned with Idar Oberstein (Germany), Les Mureaux (France) and Yalta (Russia). It is believed that these town twinings lapsed many years ago so perhaps the signs are out-of-date anyway although it is known that the Birchington Silver Band still has a twinning link with Les Mureaux making a visit there earlier this year and hosting a return visit in 2016. Birchington Silver Band also made only one visit to Idar Oberstein many years ago. Apart from exchange visits by Birchington Silver Band, it would seem that no other exchanges between organisations in Margate and Idar Oberstein, Les Mureaux or Yalta have taken place for many decades.

It would seem that very few people are aware of the history of these twinings. Margate's first twinning was with the Russian town of Yalta on the Black Sea. It would seem that the only twinning trip made to Yalta by a number of members of the now defunct Margate Corporation took place in 1961 and that it was not reciprocated by a return visit from Yalta. Perhaps the 'Cuban crisis' of 1962 put an end to that twinning.

In 1971/72, Margate Corporation spent £164 on a 'friendship link' between Margate and Les Mureaux and the Corporation's budgets for both 1972/73 and 1973/74 each contained a contingency provision of £200 to meet any further expenses in connection with that friendship link.



It would appear that, before any formal agreement with Les Mureaux was made, a suggestion had come forward that there should be a three-way agreement between Margate and both Les Mureaux and Idar Oberstein. Indeed, the discovery of a medal referring to a 'recontres'

(French for a meeting) taking place between representatives of the three towns would indicate that such a meeting was hosted by Les Mureaux in 1975.

By that time, Margate Corporation had been subsumed by Thanet District Council and, presumably, the meeting in 1975 was attended by representatives of Margate Charter Trustees.



The plaque on the outside wall of Margate's Old Town Hall would seem to support that conclusion. It would appear that twinning visits were made by both Les Mureaux and Idar Oberstein in 1978 with return visits being made from Margate to Les Mureaux in 1978 and to Idar Oberstein in 1981. The concept of twinning with European towns was encouraged by the successive Governments after the Second World War to foster closer relationships, in particular, between communities in the UK, France and Germany.

With the apparent lapse of all three of Margate's twinings, one could question the purpose of the twinning sign on Canterbury Road particularly as the Margate coat-of-arms at the top of the sign is now unrecognisable due to it having weathered so badly over the last 40 years.

A further factor is whether Margate Charter Trustees now have the power to spend precept monies on twinning visits although, of course, organisations like Birchington Silver Band may continue with their links.



Immediately beneath the twinning sign is one proudly declaring Margate as being a limb of the Cinque Ports. Margate Charter Trustees continue that role with their membership of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports. Unfortunately, the sign is now barely legible after 40 years.



Westgate-on-Sea Town Council want these signs to be moved half-a-mile or more eastwards towards Margate (i.e. outside Westgate). One of the early decisions of the new Westgate-on-Sea Town Council was to decide on the coat-of-arms/insignia to be used by the new Council. At their meeting on 3rd August 2015, the Town Council chose to use an insignia based on the one on the south wall of Westgate's Town Hall Buildings. According to the minutes of that meeting the design would include a 'Harp and White Horse'. However, it is believed that it was intended to be a 'Hart and White Horse' as on the original coat-of-arms on the Town Hall Buildings.



It is understood that this coat-of-arms/insignia will be used in place of the Westgate-on-Sea crest shown on the third of the signs in Canterbury Road (see above photo). This sign was only put up by the Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association around three years ago.

It will be interesting to see whether the location of the present Westgate sign is moved westwards along the Canterbury Road to the Birchington side of Hengist Road.

But it will, perhaps, be more interesting to see where the Town Council wish to see the Margate signs relocated. Because the Town Council's area is the same as TDC's Westgate-on-Sea Ward, the present eastern boundary on Canterbury Road is opposite Victoria Avenue. However, up until the last Local Government Boundary Review, the eastern boundary was further along the Canterbury Road towards Margate. When TDC created the new Westgate Parish Council (to give it its original name) earlier this year, TDC did not have the power to alter the Ward boundary. Consequently, the existing Westgate-on-Sea Ward boundary will continue to serve as the Town Council's boundary. Any change to the Ward boundary will need to be considered as part of a periodic electoral review of the Thanet District. Such a review will be undertaken by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. It is understood that TDC is committed to undertaking a District-wide periodic electoral review before May 2019. That review would indeed consider boundaries (and the number of Councillors serving in each) so that any changes can be implemented for the May 2019 elections. So, until that time, the existing boundary remains and all the houses in Essex Road, Chester Road, Queens Road and Hockeredge Gardens (as well as a number of houses in Canterbury Road east of Victoria Avenue) which always were in Westgate but are now destined to remain outside Westgate until 2019 at the earliest. □

JB

Thanet District Council seeks to dispose of the Public Shelter at Fort Crescent along with other assets



According to recent press reports, Thanet District Council is seeking to sell some of its assets to raise funds towards the cost of work at Dreamland for which Heritage Lottery Fund grants were misapplied by TDC. According to TDC, this misapplication of grant monies was due to a 'lack of clarity' on the part of the Heritage Lottery Fund. Amongst the assets identified by TDC for disposal is the Fort Crescent Public Shelter.

According to Thanet District Council:

- the shelter is comprised of a precast concrete frame with a concrete roof;
- there are integral timber benches but a large proportion of these have been destroyed or removed;
- a great deal of the pre-cast structure has cracked away revealing reinforcement bar inside which displays advanced corrosion; and
- due to the condition of the shelter it is not heavily used.

It is believed that the current shelter dates from the 1950s. It replaced an earlier attractive iron shelter that is believed to have been erected following the building of the Winter Gardens in 1911.

Amongst the other assets which TDC is seeking to sell to raise funds is Monkton War Memorial. Whatever will TDC be looking to sell next? □

JB



An early postcard showing the original Fort Crescent Public Shelter with a paddle-steamer at the end of the Pier (or Jetty) in the background and an electric tram in the foreground

Remnants of Westgate RNAS Seaplane Station

Westgate Royal Naval Air Station closed in February 1920 and all the buildings, equipment, plant, etc were sold at the direction of the Disposal Board of the Ministry of Munitions by public auction on 15th December 1920. A copy of the auction catalogue, listing 314 lots, is currently held at Margate Library in the Local Studies room. How many of the items sold at that auction are extant is uncertain but it is believed that the galvanised timber-framed building at the rear of Dreamland Ballroom was once a hanger at St Mildred's Bay where Westgate RNAS was based. This one-time hanger is believed to have been used for many years by Dreamland as an indoor skating rink.

Another survivor from the seaplane station is the pair of wooden doors from what was known as the winch shed housing a donkey-engine at St Mildred's bay. The winch was used to haul the seaplanes from the foreshore up to the promenade area where the hangers were as can be seen in the accompanying photo. It is believed that the winch shed was moved to a site on Trinity Hill where the wooden doors from that building are all that remains of that building.

As can be seen from the accompanying recent photos, it is considered rather unlikely that these remnants of Westgate's seaplane station in the Great War will survive many more years.

Do any of our members know of any other remnants from the seaplane station? It is thought most likely that the majority of the lots sold at the public auction 95 years ago were purchased by local businesses and residents. □ **JB**



Westgate RNAS at St Mildred's Bay, circa 1918. The hanger in the foreground is now at Dreamland and the double doors from the winch shed, seen on the right of this photo, are now to be seen in Trinity Hill, Margate



One of the former hangers from Westgate RNAS now behind Dreamland Ballroom (This photo was taken from the roof of the Arlington Centre in June 2013)



The striped double doors were once the doors to the winch shed at Westgate RNAS. These doors can now be seen on Trinity Hill (This photo was taken on Remembrance Sunday, 2015)



The brass plaque photographed shortly after its unveiling in 1996



The plinth at St Mildred's Bay with a brass plaque telling the history of Westgate RNAS. Today, the plaque is at times barely legible due to its maritime environment. It is occasionally cleaned by a local resident on a voluntary basis

Wings over Westgate is the title of the book by Geoff Williams first published in 1985. The book was re-published by Margate Civic Society in 2014. A few copies of the book are still available from the Society

RIBA South East Sandcastles Challenge 2015

Main Sands - Saturday, 19th September



The competition in progress



The Town Mayor, Cllr Robin Edwards, with his consort Dorothy Collins congratulating the winners

This year's RIBA South East Sandcastles Challenge was held on 19th September having been postponed from its earlier date of 25th July due to adverse weather conditions. This was the third consecutive year of the annual RIBA competition held on Margate's Main Sands and, once again, it attracted a good number of entrants with some very imaginative constructions. It also attracted a large number of spectators. After judging, the Town Mayor of Margate presented the prizes to the winners and runners-up in each of the categories. It was good fun enjoyed by all ages. Do watch out for it in 2016! □ **JB**



Winner of the Mayor's Prize - Sand Eels



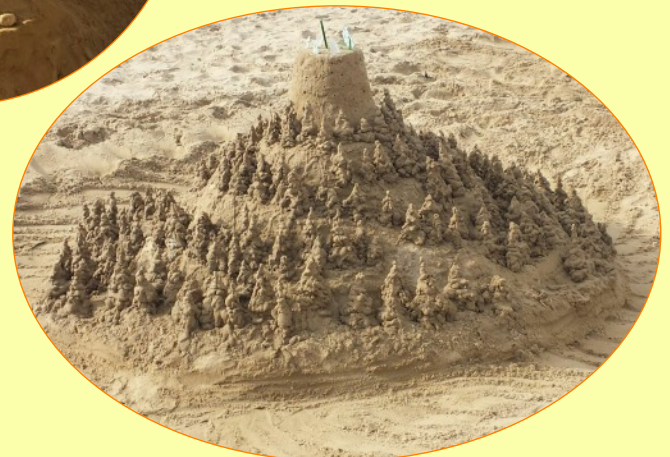
Winner of the Life's a Beach category - Grinoftinz



Winner of the Tallest Sand Structure - Ginger Wizardsnew



Winner of the Best Architectural Practice - Clague



Winner of the Craft category - Urban Foxes

The Margate School

After the opening of Turner Contemporary in 2011, Tracey Emin was asked what she thought Margate would be like in 2021. Emin responded "I think there will be an art school here." (Quoted in John Beck and Matthew Cornford. The Art School and the Culture Shed. Centre for Useless Splendour, 2014)

With Charles II (the 'merry monarch'), the spells of puritanism were lessened in England and the pursuit of pleasure and leisure became much more acceptable in the upper classes who started to enjoy the spa towns again, such as Bath and Tunbridge Wells. With the 'discovery', or the idea of health-enhancing properties of seawater, the seaside became a suitable addition to the spas as watering places and resorts with Brighton, Scarborough and Margate representing early pioneering seaside towns. And it seems that where people gather the need for education is never far behind.

By the time Miss Braster advertised her Margate boarding school in *The Times*, the town had already sixty years or so as a watering place, mainly for Londoners, to look back on; Thomas Paine had been a resident, albeit briefly; Edmund Burke sought to construct an argument around the difference between the English and the French Revolution; the young J.M.W. Turner had already produced his first watercolour of Margate's St John's Church; the Royal Sea Bathing Hospital had opened; bathing in Margate was a regular advertisement placed in the London newspapers as was the medicinal use of seawater brought in to London from Margate; the light opera 'Summer Amusements' or 'An Adventure at Margate' had been a success at the Theatre Royal at the Haymarket, London; and the Theatre Royal Margate had already been in operation for almost a decade; the arrival of the hoys from London to Margate with expectant passengers disembarking at the pier and greeted by the locals was a regular feature. And less than two decades later, Lord Byron was able to compare Florence and Naples with Margate as a similar tourist destination for the English. By the end of the 18th century, Margate had become a place for pleasure, recuperation, health, freedom from London etiquette, a place to be seen and mingle on the one hand, a place good enough to educate the 'tender youth' on the other.

In 1795, the following advert was placed in *The Times*: "Margate – Hawley Square Ladies Boarding School - Miss Braster desires to inform her friends and the public, that she continues to board and educate young ladies; and it is in her firm intention that to persevere in that care, attention and tenderness towards them which has for so many years insured her success, and the approbation of friends, fine flatters lovefelt, still to have their future encouragement and support, which will always be gratefully remembered by their obliged humble servant, E. Braster". In the next century, education - independent education - would be booming. Primary research undertaken by Barry White reveals that, in the 19th and early 20th century, Margate entertained 197 independent schools out of 441 independent schools across Thanet during that period, making up approximately 45% of the total independent schools. The

offer of some of these schools included education in the arts, for example the Margate and Westgate Government School of Art at 10 Union Crescent in Margate and operated from circa 1880-1900.

However, the Select Committee on Art and Manufactures in 1835-36 had a distinct utilitarian tenor: "appointed to inquire into the best means of extending a knowledge of the Arts, and of the principles of Design, among the people (especially the manufacturing population) of the country; also to enquire into the constitution, managements and effects of institutions connected to the Arts". This then led to the foundation of the Government School of Design in Somerset House, London in 1837, and then, especially following the Great Exhibition in the Crystal Palace in Hyde Park, London in 1851, and the establishment of the Department of Science and Art in 1853, to the establishment of government-funded art and design schools across the regions and towns, including Margate. The practical aim was to enhance the design capacity of the manufacturing industry in Britain and to compete better with the products imported from the Continent. The number of schools would soon rival those established in the provinces of France.

Since those early days, of course, the educational landscape of art schools has changed considerably and like the poly-technical colleges, have been brought into the nationally centralized higher education and university sector. The changes in the development of the art schools towards administrative centralization coincided with the reorganization of the regional political administration across the country over the last century. The result was a periodic merging of art schools. The Margate School of Art was first integrated with Canterbury College of Art (formerly the privately established Canterbury Sidney Cooper School of Art) which then became the Kent Institute of Art & Design (KIAD), joining up with the schools in Maidstone and Rochester, and finally the University for the Creative Arts, when KIAD merged with the Surrey Institute of Art and Design, University College in 2005 and achieving university status in 2008.

The education sector, including the higher education sector, like other sectors, was and is caught up in a number of local, national and global agendas. Issues around employability, regeneration and economic prosperity, innovation and entrepreneurship, national security, climate change have become part and parcel of the identity of educational establishments. For higher education institutions and universities student fees, research excellence, international student recruitment, partnerships, information and communication technologies and other technological changes etc, are additional to learning and teaching. Art schools in the UK, even after post-merger, are classified as specialized higher education institutions, and are small compared to mainstream universities. Within the university pecking order the art schools (now university colleges or universities) are very much at the bottom end and need to work hard to make their voice heard, many have been subsumed by larger universities. Similar pressures are now starting to exert themselves in the arts

school sector across Europe, here too, for example our French neighbours have merged or are merging smaller art schools (see École Supérieure d'Art et Design Le Havre-Rouen, École Supérieure des Arts Modernes in Normandy or Ecole Européenne Supérieure d'art de Bretagne in Brittany who are also supportive of The Margate School). But scale, financial and centralizing administrative pressures to compete with these external expectations are not the only ones that bear on the art schools today. Fundamental philosophical questions about the future of arts education continue in the sector in this country as elsewhere. Debates around art education and its standards as practice and academic endeavour, art research, applied and theoretical knowledge, studio practice and field practice, critically reflective and commercially useful, the relationship between the various art, design and media disciplines, connections to non-art disciplines, art education as cross- and inter-disciplinary approach. These and other defining academic discourses are shaping the sector and intersect with the wider external pressures mentioned above. Periodically, the sector has responded to these debates and evolving pressures in innovative ways, demonstrated for example with the creation of the Bauhaus School in Weimar, Germany or the Black Mountain College in the US in 1933. The latter was recently described in an exhibition in Berlin as follows: "Black Mountain College was a paradoxical place, built on a continuous discourse about the conditions necessary for the free development of its residents. The institution's radical self-determination, which extended even to communal construction work on the new campus and subsistence farming, contained the essence of the college's political significance: a rebellion against all dogmatic rule and economic subservience".

The Margate School idea arrived out of these debates in the arts education sector on the one hand, and the urban and cultural regeneration agendas on the other and can build on Margate's rich cultural and educational heritage. The Margate School was proposed by Uwe Derksen, who has resided or worked in Thanet over the last thirty years and worked in the arts education sector for the last fifteen years at the University for the Creative Arts, whilst now completing his PhD with the University of Kent researching the effects of culture on regeneration in Folkestone and Margate. In the nineties, he was heavily involved with Thanet's regeneration development; which prepared the ground for the establishment of Canterbury Christ Church University Thanet Campus. Early supporters of The Margate School idea were the Oscar-winning film-maker and graphic designer, child of Margate and student of Margate School of Art Arnold Schwartzman OBE, RDI, who is a champion and a patron of The Margate School; former Thanet District Council Leader and Margate ward Councillor Iris Johnston; and former High Sheriff of Kent Hugo Fenwick. Other artists and educators from around the world, including the UK, Germany, Holland, France, Canada and the US have been supportive and encouraged the founders to pursue the idea for the school, that is the School's first principle, a liberal arts school in and for Margate. As such it proposes a new independent cross-disciplinary post-graduate level school with the arts at its core; collaborative and project-based learning in the

expanded field, avoiding 'schooled' imagination; inspired by Margate's past and passionate about the future; a private-public partnership; a socially based not-for-profit enterprise and organizational structure.

Embedded in Margate and east Kent and closely related to its immediate neighbours (Kent, Nord, Pas de Calais and Flanders), the School functions as an organic and democratic functioning organization; a financially independent, intellectually, socially and physically self-sustaining school.

The Margate School will provide weekend, week-long and summer school programmes covering arts practices plus related experiential provision. A mixture of workshop activities, studio practice, local and cross-channel cultural visits, salon and guided gallery visits, will be combined to create exposure to local socio-economic and ecological issues. Encouraging the deployment of creative talents towards solving real life problems and expanding students' dynamic library of ideas in order to broaden the scope of their creative output are further important aspects of the School, as well as opportunities for expert support for arts talent development of Thanet based school students and local individuals, including portfolio surgeries.

As such the Margate School will enrich young local artistic talent, help build and diversify the cultural profile of the town, contribute to stronger local community pride and cohesion and provide a new additional driver of urban and social regeneration and economic growth in east Kent. Artistic activity raises the profile of urban areas and makes them fashionable, thus helping stimulate renewal of rundown disused buildings and transform the ambience and attraction of the town, it can help stimulate attraction of visitors, spending, investment, new residents and knowledge based businesses, as the Turner already does. The Margate School will help attract strong groupings of high wealth generating creative industries and make Margate self-sustaining.

Our aim is to help artists to connect their practice with challenges and demands, which are the primary drivers of many professional fields. The Margate School's curriculum will prepare them to become professionally engaged in the areas of sustainability and social practice as artists, designers, researchers or entrepreneurs.

TMS courses will proactively involve students in global issues that the world faces today. Participants will earn the knowledge, language, and skills necessary to become cultural contributors to a more resilient, equal and sustainable world.

The MA programme would be structured as a hybrid study between disciplines, based on three complementary units. It will include the social practice, the sustainable practice and the business practice. All units will embrace experimental studio/field work, practical tutorials and academic teaching. The programme will also involve student presentations, discussion, and project exhibitions.

The school will enable students to play an active and transformative role in communities, extending the learning privilege as they involve the public in resilience projects, environmental campaigns and social experiments.

The skills and knowledge that students will gain can be applied to many fields, across emerging industries. The

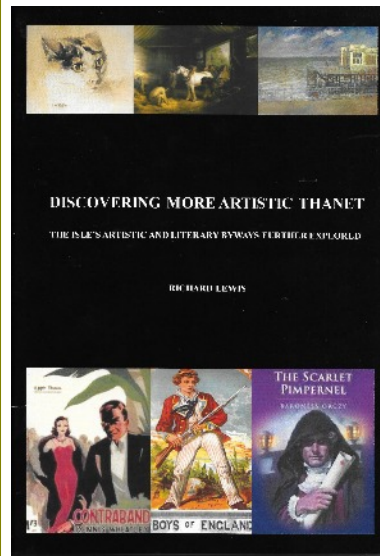
issues of sustainability and social practice are not specific to any one field, material, or discipline and, as such, The Margate School will offer a cross-departmental development programmes open to all interested learners. We hope to have our first short, professional practice-based courses on offer in spring 2016.

Incorporated in 2015 as a not-for-profit company, The Margate School is committed to Margate, which serves as the home for the School, and rather than seeing Margate at the edge it can be perceived as being at the 'heart' of one of the most exciting regions in Europe, rich in natural and cultural heritage, thriving urban centres and capital cities with artistic hubs, art and design schools and universities.

Of course there is a long road ahead for The Margate School, not least securing the financial investment and a home to operate out of alongside its pedagogical and artistic approach. Progress is inevitably slow but steady, agreement has been reached with the École Supérieure d'Art et Design Le Havre-Rouen to certify future provision, negotiations with other universities and art schools, nationally and internationally continue. The Margate School business plan is now completed, an advisory group about to be set up and negotiations are taking place with property owners in Margate. Further support and help will be very much appreciated, for example through the expertise of retired or semi-retired professionals sympathetic to the School's ideals. □

Uwe Derksen FRSA
Former Governor
University for the Creative Arts
 (e-mail: uwederksen@hotmail.co.uk)

Book Reviews



Discovering More Artistic Thanet: The Isle's Artistic and Literary Byways Further Explored by Richard Lewis A5 40pp Available from Turner Contemporary Shop and The Margate Gallery, Lombard Street at £4.99.

This is the third volume by the author on the theme of artists and writers linked to the Isle of Thanet. This latest volume features Louis Wain, George Morland,

Christopher Alexander, Dennis Wheatley, Edwin Brett and Baroness Orczy - all of whom (with the exception of Edwin Brett) had links with Margate and its environs.

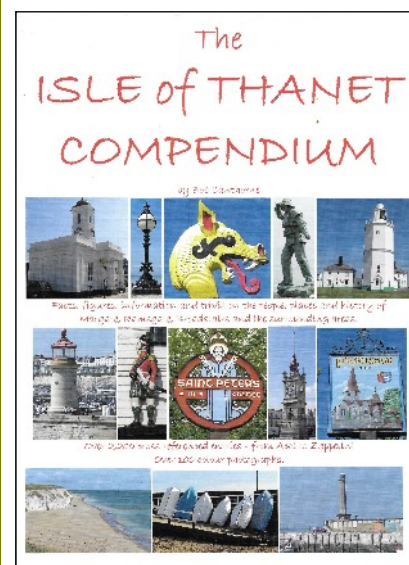
Christopher Alexander, of course, needs no introduction to our readers and I found it pleasing that Louis Wain has found an entry in this latest volume. The book provides an introduction to the work of the local artists covered in this volume and to their association with Thanet. Over the years, Thanet has been blessed with many artists and writers and the author is to be congratulated on his latest volume.

Richard Lewis gave a talk to Margate Civic Society a couple of years ago and I suspect that he may well be invited to give another talk to the Society in the coming year or two.

My only real criticism of the book is that the font used for the text (?) is too small for most readers. No doubt, the font used was deemed necessary to accommodate the amount of text in 40 pages and to have increased the size of the book to, say, 48 pages, would have added to the cost of its production and, consequently, to a higher sale price.

The Isle of Thanet Compendium by Bob Cawthorne. Published 2007 in softback by Scribble & Doodle Books at £20 A4 size 259pp with numerous colour photographs.

This is an amazing book covering all the average reader would ever want to know just about almost everything in Thanet.. Indeed, it is more of a reference book than one which is read from cover to cover. Yes,



the book occasionally leaves the reader wanting to know more about why some of the entries actually appear in the book but for someone new to Thanet, this book would be very good value for money. □

JB



Margate Civic Society

OUR NEXT
COACH TRIP IS
TO BRUGES

TUESDAY 24TH
MAY 2016

Travel via Eurotunnel

Tickets: £30 per person

Pick-ups:

Wheatshaf 7.30am
 Beacon Bingo 7.35am
 Hussar 7.40am
 Summerlands 7.45am
 Birchington 7.50am

Approx 4 hours in Bruges

Return via Carrefour, Cité Europe.

Book tickets at any of our meetings or by post to Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF. Please make cheques payable to "Margate Civic Society" and state where you would like to join the coach.

The Dutch and Flemish gabled houses of Margate

Margate is noted for a number of attractions but rarely for a feature that is more important than some others. What is that? The number of buildings mostly in the Old Town with a gable (the side wall up to the roof) that is curvilinear rather than the normal straight line; they are often attributed to Protestant refugees from the Netherlands or Huguenots from France and are equally often called Dutch or Flemish houses. As it happens both views are incorrect or partly so.

Refugees have been coming over from the Netherlands since the 12th century but refugees would not normally be in a position to build themselves houses until they had been here for many years when they are more likely to want to appear English. The curvilinear gables were mostly built in the period 1660 to 1720 both here and in the Netherlands. But the earliest go back to 1571 in England and around 1590 at St Nicholas at Wade in Thanet and a few 'stragglers' were built in the second half of the 18th century. But where did they come from? The fashion for curving edges to gables almost certainly started in Italy around the 15th century. From there it spread northwards to the Baltic States then westwards following the trade routes established in the days of the Hanseatic League to the Low Countries and England. There have always been ships sailing between the southeast of England (particularly Margate, Ramsgate but also Broadstairs) and the Netherlands and consequently the fashion impressed itself most strongly in the south eastern counties of England.

It was reinforced by the royalists that fled across the North Sea when King Charles was beheaded, who returned upon the restoration of the monarchy in 1660 with a flavour for the fashions of the Netherlands. The greatest period for numbers of these curvilinear gables being built was in the final decades of the 17th century and the early decades of the 18th century. It is well attested that the restoration of the monarchy (after the puritanical Commonwealth) led to an economic boom.

Determining accurate dates for buildings that are three to four hundred years old can be difficult, but it appears from my studies and others (mainly KCC) that Margate's Flemish gables are earlier than Ramsgate's even though we only have one definite date for Margate that being on 29/31 King Street of 1683, number 27 being later. The number in High Street Ramsgate all appear to be early 1700s except the cottage possibly 1697 – half of the date plaque is

missing! Back in King Street Margate, ignore 12b and 14 as the gables were rebuilt in the early 21st century! Across the road 15, 17 and 19 are a problem as to date being all in flint. A small inset stone has a possible date of 1604 on it, yet the architectural expert Pevsner stated 18th century and KCC say 19th century! The style of 17 is unique in Kent and the three appear to have been built in stages at different times but I feel early 18th century is the most likely as by

the 19th century bricks were cheap enough and easier to lay thus cheaper to have replaced flint. Outside the town Drapers Homes (Yoakley's Almshouses) were started in 1709 with curvilinear gables and the extensions in the 19th century all had curvilinear gables. One early candidate of circa 1620 is at West Northdown off Holly Lane originally a very small cottage.

Unfortunately, in Thanet a number of such cottages and houses have been lost by neglect or for redevelopment. A photo in Margate Library shows a house in Hawley Street on the corner of Cecil Square. We have good evidence of a number lost in Minster, Reading Street and Ramsgate the latter two places fortunately recorded by artists in the 19th century.

Traditionally these properties have been called Dutch; my research has shown that this is wrong. They were almost

certainly built by locals and the style is Flemish rather than Dutch. In Amsterdam the gables are on terraced houses and face the road and are mostly *halsgevels* i.e. neck facades or drawn up (as translated by Dutch friends) gables quite unlike those in England.

Those wanting to learn more can go to the Kent Archaeological Society website at:

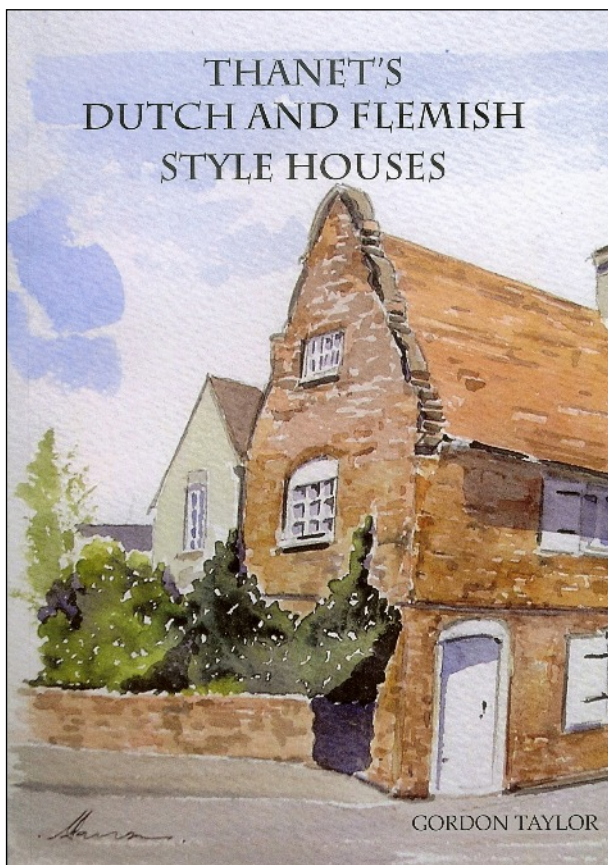
www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/136-2015/136-16a.pdf for my list of all Kent's examples.

For a breakdown of the number in Deal, go to:

http://www.northdowns.plus.com/dealweb/history-deal/dutch_gables_in_deal.html

Finally, for a potted history of the gables and details, maps, date list and 34 colour photos of many of those in Thanet (58 in total) you can buy my book: *Thanet's Dutch & Flemish Style Houses* for £11.99 (£9.99 + £2 post + packing) via gordonsgables@hotmail.co.uk or direct from Oakwood Homes Cecil Square, Margate for just £9.99. □

Gordon Taylor
Former Chairman of the Isle of Thanet
Archaeological Society



The attractive front cover of Gordon Taylor's book



in association with



PANTHER
SECURITIES PLC

Christmas Night Market

18th December 2015

3pm to 9pm

Piazza and High St Margate

For your last minute presents and foodie treats!

Lots of festive fun for the whole family

Food and craft stalls

Live music and entertainment from
local choirs, bands and dance schools including

Thanet Gospel Choir and Thanet Rock Choir

Best Christmas cake Competition.

Children's art exhibition – Christmas in Margate

Christmas Carnival procession finishing in Old Town

Real Reindeer, Kiddies Rides, face painting

Still time to book a pitch at the Christmas Night Market

please email sharon@margatetownteam.org.

We also have indoor space for Artisan crafts this year



What's On

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

Date **Subject**

2015

10th December Christmas Social with James Brazier presenting a quiz of 100 rare images selected from the Collection of the late Mick Twyman. There will be a free glass of wine, fruit juice, cup of tea or coffee plus a mince pie at this meeting for members. Guests are welcome at a charge of £3.50 a head payable at the door

2016

January No meeting

4th February 'Shades and Zephyrs: The History of Fans and Parasols' by Lee Ault

3rd March 'Policing the Past: Heritage Crime' by Dr Andrew Richardson, Canterbury Archaeological Trust

7th April 'The Artwork of Christopher Alexander - Part III' by Dr Steven Alexander

12th May Town Pride Awards followed by a talk by Nick Conington (subject yet to be confirmed)

Kent Family History Society - Meetings are held at Birchington Village Centre at 7.30pm for 8.00pm

Date **Subject**

2016

20th January 'Margate during the Great War' by James Brazier

17th February 'Further explorations in Africa by Major Percy Powell-Cotton' by Quex's Education Officer

16th March 'The dregs of the people remain: the Black Death and its aftermath' by Imogen Corrigan



Westgate Heritage Centre (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Winter Programme 2016**

On either the first or second Saturday of each month, at **10.30am**, there will be a talk by one, or more, of our members

Date

2016

9th January* 'A Local Family' - An illustrated talk by Sally Whitworth on the results of her research into the Huckstep family of Garlinge and Westgate

* Please note this is the **second Saturday** of the month

6th February 'The Faversham Munitions Explosion of April 2016' - An illustrated talk by James Brazier on the Faversham Munitions' Explosion of April 1916, in which over 100 men lost their lives, including Thomas Randall of Westgate

12th March* The Heritage Centre's Third Annual General Meeting followed by a short talk by Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator, Westgate Heritage Centre on the bells of St Saviour's Church, which were installed 40 years ago, but which are much older than the church itself

* Please note this is the **second Saturday** of the month

2nd April 'Westgate-on-Sea: a gated estate town, exclusive, but not isolated' - An illustrated talk by Heritage Centre Volunteers Jean Osikoya and Anne Short

Come and browse through our collection of material and photographs of Westgate, which is growing all the time. We have large-scale maps and plans which reveal great detail about your street or area

Margate Civic Society

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 digitally illustrated, are interesting and of local interest; they are also varied in their appeal. A Newsletter is published four times a year.

Committee for 2015/16:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb, 14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 01843 293169)
(e-mail: handscomb@talktalk.net)

Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople, Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 01843 221689)
(e-mail: pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk)

Vice-Chairman: Mr Harry Scobie, 59 Gloucester Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3NP (Tel: 078 6227 6466)
(e-mail: harryscobie@hotmail.com)

Secretary: Mr Geoff Orton, 25 Norman Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8RR (Tel: 01843 835085)
(e-mail: geoff.orton@tesco.net)

Treasurer: Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF (Tel: 01843 844717)
(e-mail: wilton@btinternet.com)

Membership Secretary: Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ
(Tel: 01843 228858) (e-mail: membership.mcs@gmail.com)

Newsletter Editor: Mr James Brazier, "The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ
(Tel: 01843 298038) (e-mail: jasbrazier@talktalk.net)

Planning and Conservation issues: Mr Mike Thompson, 7 Seymour Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5HT
(Tel: 01843 832834) (e-mail: mike.thompson6565@btinternet.com)

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 2015/16:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£11.00	£15.00	£4.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£9.00	£13.00	£2.00	£20.00

Please note that Life Membership subscription is no longer available

and send it to the Membership Secretary, Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ

* A Paper Newsletter means that a black-and-white printed copy of the Newsletter will be delivered to you

Electronic Newsletter means you will have a full-colour copy e-mailed to you which you can view on screen or print