

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Spring 2015  
Newsletter  
Issue No. 378



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

Many local residents consider it wholly appropriate that the date chosen for the newly-created Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council to come into being will be All Fools' Day (1st April 2015). By a strange coincidence, it was exactly eighty years ago (on 1st April 1935) that 'Greater Margate' came into being having 'swallowed up' Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington (as well as parts of Acol, Garlinge and Minster). On that occasion, a ceremonial beating the bounds of the Greater Margate was held on 1st April 1935. It is therefore very timely that the 80th anniversary of that historic beating the bounds should be marked by articles in this issue of our Newsletter. Perhaps next year, the Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council will want to have their own beating the bounds!

When Margate Charter Trustees asked Thanet District Council to carry out a community governance review, it was expected by many of the Charter Trustees that the residents of Margate would wish to see the Charter Trustees replaced with a Margate Town Council. However, the results of that ill-fated community governance review were that the residents of Margate had no appetite to replace the Charter Trustees with a Town Council but what had not been expected was that a small number of Westgate's residents wanted to see a separate Parish Council created for Westgate. So, the outcome of the review is that the area covered by the Charter Trustees is diminished (as is their Council Tax Base) along with the loss of three Westgate TDC Councillors sitting as Charter Trustees. But there are also other adverse consequences for the Charter Trustees for the assets of the Charter Trustees are to be split with the new Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council. Those assets will certainly include bank balances and almost certainly will include Margate's 'treasure chest'. It is possible that Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council will receive some £20,000 as their share of the Charter Trustees' bank balances. On top of that, it has been suggested that the cost to TDC of carrying out the community governance review will be recharged to the Charter Trustees (as the review was carried out specifically at the request of the Charter Trustees). Furthermore, because Westgate will at least receive a share of the Charter Trustees' bank balances, suggestions have been made that Birchington Parish Council might also have a claim for a share of the bank balances (presumably, based on the Charter Trustees' bank balances at 1st April 1986 when the new Birchington Parish Council came into being).

When a certain local Councillor championed the desire to replace Margate Charter Trustees with a Margate Town Council, he clearly had no inkling of the extent of the far-reaching unintended consequences of his actions. □

**James Brazier**  
Newsletter Editor

## Welcome to new members

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

Victor Cheffey  
Elizabeth Peters  
Margate Town Team (Corporate member)

**Roger Hayes**  
Membership Secretary

## Civic Day 2015

**WWI Centenary &  
75th Anniversary of  
Operation Dynamo**

### 'Bring along your own memento' event

This year, we will be holding our Civic Day event on **Sunday, 21st June**. Plans are afoot for our Society to again participate in this national event which is overseen by Civic Voice. This year, we are holding a '**Bring along your own memento**' of anything connected with the First World War or anything relating to Operation Dynamo (the evacuation of Dunkirk). Initially, we felt that it would be timely to hold such an event during the centenary of the First World War. However, having regard to this year being the 75th anniversary of 'Operation Dynamo' and to the important part played by Margate in that historic event, we felt that the event should be widened to embrace both anniversaries. We would like to see all ages, particularly school-children, bringing along objects - such as postcards, letters, certificates, badges, medals, etc - for identification or whatever. We will also be showing throughout the day a slide-presentation of Margate during the First World War. Our '**Bring along your own memento**' event will be held in "The Drum" meeting room at the back of Droit House from 11.00am to 4.00pm. We are most grateful to Thanet Visitor Information Service for making this space available to us. Do be certain to make a note of the date (**Sunday, 21st June**) and the venue in your diary.

Your Committee very much look forward to seeing you at our Civic Day event this year and to you giving it your full support. □

**Pamela Pople**  
Chairman

## Heritage Open Days 2015

This year's Heritage Open Days are **Thursday, 10th September to Sunday, 13th September**. Details of local organisations participating in this year's HODs will be listed in the Summer Newsletter. □

# Nominations for Town Pride Awards 2015

This year, the Society received ten nominations for Town Pride Awards. All of the properties nominated for the 2015 Town Pride Awards are shown below:



*April House, 69 Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea  
(Conversion to eight apartments)*



*4 Bridge Road, Westbrook  
(Renovation)*



*St Cecilia's House, 83 Sea Road,  
Westgate-on-Sea  
(Renovation - house was originally  
known as West Bay Lodge)*



*Crescent Victoria Hotel,  
25-26 Fort Crescent, Cliftonville  
(Recently re-opened as a hotel)*



*Beside the C, 131 Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea  
(Extension to property)*



*39 Addington Street,  
Margate*



*PDSA (formerly James Décor),  
Northdown Road, Cliftonville  
(Former DIY centre recently re-opened as a  
Pet Clinic)*



*Hidden Hearing,  
6 Cecil Street, Margate*



*12 Zion Place, Cliftonville  
(Renovation)*



*The Viking Gallery, Cliftonville Avenue  
(one-time Turkish Baths)  
(Recently opened as an art gallery)*

The results of the judging for the Society's 2015 Town Pride Awards will be announced at our meeting to be held on Thursday, 14th May 2015 when presentations of the Awards will be made to the winners. □

**MARGATE CIVIC SOCIETY**

**COACH TRIP TO**

**MUSEUM DU SOUVENIR,**

**DUNKIRK, FRANCE**

**TUESDAY, 19th MAY 2015**

At the time of writing, only three tickets remain unsold for our trip to the Museum du Souvenir in Dunkirk. This museum commemorates the 1940 Dunkirk evacuation (Operation Dynamo) and this year, of course, is the 75th anniversary. Many events are being planned in Thanet to mark the huge part played by both Margate and Ramsgate in the evacuation and this trip takes place right at the beginning of Operation Dynamo week, when those local events take place.

The Museum du Souvenir is located in the fortifications that were built in 1874 to reinforce France's coastal defence. Bastion 32 served as the headquarters for the French and Allied forces during the Battle of Dunkirk and Operation Dynamo. The museum contains a rich exhibition of maps, pictures and both allied and German military material. Scale models of the sites of the operation, uniforms and weapons complete the collection. A film using dramatic period footage, with a duration of approximately 15 minutes, gives an excellent overall view of the events of May-June 1940.

Following our visit to the museum, we will have between three and four hours to look around the city of Dunkirk before returning home. The journey will be with Carol Peters and will cross the Channel via Eurotunnel.

Pick-ups are The Wheatsheaf (7.30am), Beacon Bingo (7.35am), The Hussar (7.40am), Summerlands (7.45am) and Birchington Square (7.50am). The price is £30 per seat which includes the coach fare and admission to the museum. We will be back in Thanet at around 7.30pm.

To book tickets, please send a cheque made out to **Margate Civic Society** to Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF, stating the desired pick-up point. As there are so few tickets left, you may wish to contact Mike first to make sure that tickets are still available; his contact details are on the back page of this Newsletter. □

**ANDREW'S PASSAGE - LATEST**

At our meeting on 5th February, our Chairman, Pamela Pople, made the following announcement:

"We are chasing KCC as there appears to have been no developments since we wrote six months ago. Prospects for getting it (Andrew's Passage) back into service by Easter look remote which is greatly disappointing."

Come and be part of the most inspiring time in history

**75** TH ANNIVERSARY  
of the evacuation of  
**DUNKIRK**  
(Operation Dynamo)



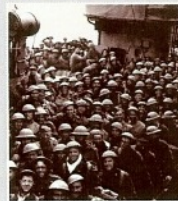
**RAMSGATE & MARGATE**

20th to 25th May 2015

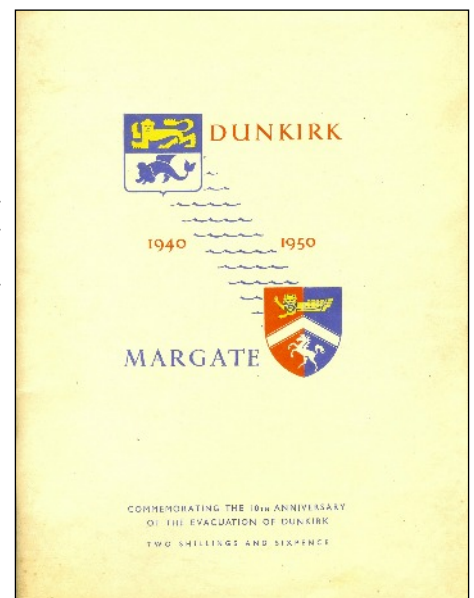
*A living history event for the next generation to experience*

For more details visit:

[www.operationdynamo75th.co.uk](http://www.operationdynamo75th.co.uk)



*The front cover of the special booklet published in 1950 by Margate Corporation to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the evacuation of Dunkirk (Operation Dynamo). Copies of the booklet were sold at 2/6d each. Copies of the booklet occasionally come on the market (eBay and local auctions in particular) and it is well worth while looking out for a copy of this booklet*



# Margate General Post Office to move to WHSmith in the High Street



*The opening of Margate Post Office by the Postmaster General, Rt Hon Herbert Samuel MP, on 19th July 1910*

Tuesday, the Nineteenth of July 1910 was a 'red letter day' in Margate for it was on that day that the Postmaster-General, the Rt Hon Herbert Samuel MP came to the town to open Margate Post Office in Cecil Square. On that day, the Postmaster-General was met at the former Margate West Railway Station by the Mayor (Alderman W. H. White) before being driven along the seafront, which was decorated with flags for the event, to the Town Hall where Sir Herbert Samuel was introduced to members of the Corporation. The party then proceeded to the handsome new post office where Sir Herbert Samuel was presented with a golden key with which he unlocked the door and declared the post office open in front of a great crowd.

Since that day, Margate Post Office has served the town well for more than a century but, with some sadness, the post office will shortly be vacating the building when it transfers its business to an area inside WHSmith at 94 High Street. Royal Mail recently consulted the public with regard

to the likely move to WHSmith. According to Royal Mail, around 30 representations made to them regarding the move.

The old building in Cecil Square (which was listed at Grade II in January 1988) is built in the Neo-Classical style and will, of course, continue to grace the eastern side of Cecil Square but, just like what has happened in so many other towns around the country, the post office building will cease to be a post office.

Many Margatonians are immensely proud of their post office and

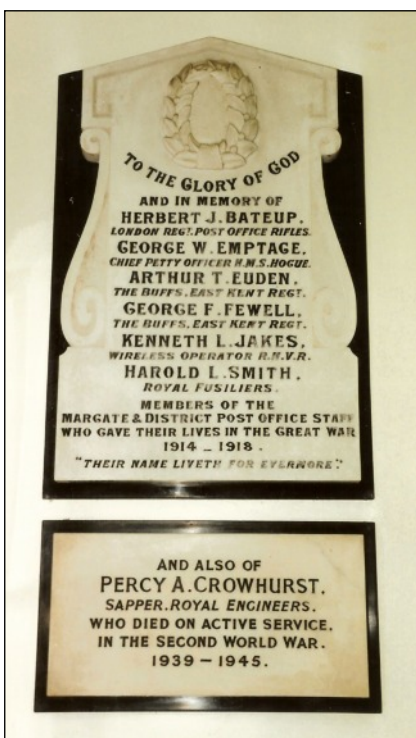
its rich architectural design and, for those, the transfer of post office transactions to WHSmith will mark the end of an era as the post office was located in those handsome purpose-built premises throughout their entire lives. Whether the building will become a coffee-house or wine bar remains to be seen. But, as a listed building, it is most important that no changes to its external appearance will be made although, no doubt, advertising signs, etc will grace the building in the coming months.

A number of members of our Society have quite rightly expressed concern about the future of the two war memorial plaques which are mounted on the wall just inside the main door to the post office. One of the plaques commemorates the five post office staff who gave their lives in the First World War and the second plaque commemorates a sapper who died on active service during the Second World War who had previously worked for the post office. I took the opportunity to raise the question of these memorials during the Post Office's public consultation exercise. As a 'consultee', I subsequently received a letter from Post Office Ltd advising me, *inter alia*, that they will be proceeding with their proposal to move the Post Office to WHSmith. Their letter contained the following paragraph:

*With regard to the war memorial, as with other war memorials located in Post Office branches across the UK, the memorial at Margate Post Office is dedicated to those of our colleagues who worked for the organisation when it was known as the General Post Office (GPO), which included what is now Royal Mail. Post Office Ltd will apply for planning permission for the war memorial to be moved to the Royal Mail sorting office at 12 Addington Road, Margate CT9 1NQ. Royal Mail have told us they intend to display it in the public callers office, which means that members of the public can continue to pay their respects to those of our colleagues who fell.*

It is understood that the Cecil Square Post Office will close for business on Wednesday, 18th March and will open for business at WHSmith at 9:00am on Thursday, 19th March 2015. I am sure that I am not alone amongst our members in feeling that this move marks another sad day in Margate's history. □

JB



*The two-part war memorial in memory of former staff of Margate Post Office*



*A postcard view of Margate Post Office shortly after its opening on 19th July 1910*



*The Chapel from where the walks start*

# Margate Cemetery Walks for 2015



*The two Cemetery Chapels*

The cemetery is on Manston Road just past the crematorium entrance. Limited parking is available on the outside road and within the adjacent crematorium

## General Cemetery Tours

These tours are about the general cemetery and will include some of the listed graves and give an overview of the site. This tour starts at the times detailed below from the left-hand side Chapel which is inside the entrance road past the Entrance Lodge (now, a stone-mason's office). The tour will include graves of both World Wars including a visit to the German War Graves still present at the cemetery within the Commonwealth War Graves Commission area.

1. Saturday, 6th June at 2.30pm
2. Wednesday, 24th June at 7.00pm
3. Wednesday, 8th July at 7.00pm
4. Saturday, 25th July at 2.30pm
5. Saturday, 8th August at 2.30pm

## Maritime Tours

These tours use the same chapel as the General Cemetery Tours and are specifically about the lives of those people interred in the cemetery who have had links with the sea. Being a coastal town and a base for a RNLI lifeboat, this tour focuses on those who have had involvement with the sea. In this year's tours there will be visits to graves of those involved in the Dunkirk evacuation which resulted in over 46,000 troops arriving at Margate.

1. Saturday, 30th May at 2.30pm
2. Wednesday, 17th June at 7pm
3. Wednesday, 1st July at 7.00pm
4. Saturday, 18th July at 2.30pm
5. Saturday, 1st August at 2.30pm



*The CWGC WWII area*

All tours take place in the cemetery and on occasions those taking part may be invited to leave the main footpath and roadways to look at specific memorials. Accordingly, sturdy walking shoes are recommended. Tours generally take two hours. □



*The Surfboatmen's Memorial - a Grade II\* listed building*



*The Entrance Lodge*



*The two Chapels are both Grade II listed*

These walks are highly recommended



*The CWGC WWI Cross of Sacrifice*

## **BEATING MARGATE'S BOUNDS**

### **A Great Occasion Celebrated**

#### **THE MAYOR WAS BUMPED**

The Mayor and daughter towns of Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington drowned their differences in a loving cup of ale on Monday, the day on which Greater Margate was officially born. Revival of the historic ceremony of beating the bounds gave everyone a chance to join in the celebrations, and the new Margate could not have had a happier start. For five years, the Councils of Margate, Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington were in opposite camps and the smaller towns offered the strongest possible resistance to incorporation. But the Minister of Health found in favour of Margate's extension, and warm demonstrations during the long tour of the boundaries on Monday suggest that the people of the added area have accepted the new administration cheerfully and with confidence.

The only tribute to the departed glories of rural government was an elaborate floral wreath placed on one of the pylons marking the boundary at Brooks End Hill. The wreath was tactfully removed before the arrival of the Mayor and his escort.

The bounds were beaten with all traditional ceremony and good humour. The physical beating was done by choir boys armed with willow wands, and Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington Councillors solemnly bumped the Mayor of Margate and many of his colleagues on the boundary stones. To make the occasion a genuine revival of ancient custom, the choir boys even submitted to being caned by stalwart police officers. Fortunately, the Mayor decided on a departure from custom by introducing motor transport for the long trip. Margate's seafront alone is nearly nine miles long and to tour the boundaries is far more than a good day's hike.

The bounds of the enlarged Ramsgate were beaten on the same morning, and when the two parties met

on the common boundary the Mayors shook hands symbolising the friendly relations which have made Margate and Ramsgate good neighbours.

#### **THE CHILDREN'S PART**

Monday was indeed a great day for the children of Greater Margate. All the schools in the enlarged area had a holiday, and two children from each received personal invitations from the Mayor (Alderman F. L. Pettman JP, CC) to accompany the civic party on the expedition. Perhaps some of them, like Alderman W. H. Hughes JP, will have the pleasure of recounting their experiences many years hence, when, possibly further extensions are made but it is extremely unlikely that they will be able to recall three such occasions as Alderman Hughes can do.

It was bright and sunny when the official party assembled near the Town Hall at ten o'clock, and quite a large crowd of onlookers watched the car conveying the Chief Constable (Mr W. Palmer) start the procession. Next to his came the Mayor's car, which contained also the Mayoress (Mrs Pettman), the Town Clerk (Mr P. T. Grove), the Vicar of Margate (the Rev C. F. Tyrrell) and the Town Sergeant (Mr A. J. Swain). Then followed five motor coaches conveying Aldermen, Councillors, officials, photographers, Press representatives and members of the general public not forgetting Mr H. E. Shallcross and choir boys of Margate Parish Church who later were to take part in a service at the extreme western end of the boundary. Many people followed in private cars and, by the time the first halt was made at the junction of Margate and Westgate-on-Sea former boundary in Westbrook Avenue, the length of the procession had increased to over half a mile.

At this spot, a ribbon was stretched across the road and as the Mayor advanced from the Margate side he was challenged by the three Councillors of the new Westgate-on-Sea Ward: Councillors C. C. C. Kenrick, W. O. Walker and G. S. Britton. When asked to produce his authority for entering Westgate-on-Sea, the Mayor replied: "I am the Mayor of Margate and my authority is the County Review Order." A copy of

the Order having been presented to the senior Councillor (Councillor Kenrick), the ribbon was cut and wine was drunk from a silver loving cup.

This loving cup, which was the subject of much curiosity, was presented to the town in 1892 by Mr Robert Wood JP, on his retirement from the Council after thirty years' service, during which time he occupied the offices of Alderman and Mayor.

Augmented by a number of Westgate-on-Sea residents and a crowd of enthusiastic school children on bicycles and on foot, the "invaders" pushed on to the old Westgate-on-Sea - Birchington boundary in Sea Road. On the way, the presence of a Margate Borough Police-Constable at the junction of Roxburgh Road and Westgate Bay Avenue provided the first noticeable evidence of the change of administration.

The challenge offered by Birchington was by no means as resolute. Perhaps their hearts were softened by the certainty of a reduction in the rates. Anyway, the loving cup went the rounds with great geniality.

But, alas, Birchington's senior representative, Councillor A. H. Scott JP, was among the missing, leaving Councillor F. W. Mellanby JP and Councillor G. B. Farrar to face the music alone. However, Councillor Farrar had no hesitation in hewing down the barrier (with a pair of scissors), while Councillor Mellanby accepted the Mayor's authority for entering Birchington.

Just as the Mayor was drinking the health of Birchington and Greater Margate, Councillor Scott was seen striding along the road, a walking advertisement for the health-giving properties of Birchington's air.

Determined to be in at the death, so to speak, Councillor Scott drank deeply from the loving cup when he reached the scene of action and then made a speech of welcome to the Margate party. "There could be no more appropriate day than the first of April," he declared "for anyone to obstruct the Mayor of Margate entering the new ward of Birchington. He and the Mayoress are entering the prettiest part of their domain and I am

sure they will do nothing to destroy the amenities and the beauties of our ward." Councillor Scott expressed the hope that the Parks Superintendent would take steps to preserve trees in Birchington, and that every tree that had to come down would be replaced by two more.

Traffic in Birchington Square was held up for about ten minutes for the Vicar (the Rev A. O. Hayes) and choir boys of the Parish Church to board one of the coaches. It was here, too, that a large supply of the traditional willow wands was taken on board for beating the boundaries.

Station Road was lined on both sides by enthusiastic onlookers, mothers with their children, schoolboys and girls waving flags, and shopkeepers forsaking business for the moment to witness an epoch-making procession.

The next stage of the journey, over the narrow railway-bridge down Beach Road and on to Minnis Bay, was perhaps the most interesting of all. It afforded a glimpse of Birchington-picturesque tree-lined avenues, broad open greens, an unspoilt seafront, snug little bungalows contrasting with hotels and wide stretches of land awaiting development beyond Minnis Bay. Besides all this, one gained, possibly for the first time, a true impression of the extent of Greater Margate's boundary finishing in the west at Plum Pudding Island on the way to Reculver.

#### PLUM PUDDING ISLAND

For the last mile, it was necessary to proceed over a rough cart-track at funeral pace and a halt was called in a most desolate-looking spot marked by two flags, one the tricolour of France. There was also a very forbidding ditch and, remembering the ancient custom of ducking certain unfortunate individuals in any available streams, a few misgivings were doubtless felt in approaching this part of the ceremony.

The Vicar of Margate conducted a short religious service with the assistance of the choirboys. A Psalm and the hymn "O God of Jacob, By Whose Hand" were sung and there were appropriate prayers.

Afterwards, everyone scrambled up the embankment to see the boundary stone where the Mayor was seized by

Councillors Scott and Farrar and vigorously bumped. He weighs 16½ stone. Perhaps it is not quite fair to mention that a rug was placed over the stone for this procedure. Why, though, was it removed when Alderman P. H. Osborne was bumped for the part he played in the extension?

The bumpers were almost guilty of negligence in carrying out their duty for it was only at the last minute that the Mayoress was subjected to the same "indignity" as her husband.

The chief function of the choir boys was fulfilled in the beating of the bounds along the edge of the ditch, a severe beating too judging by the splash made by the willow wands.

At the next halt, Brooks End Hill, there were several surprises. The first was the sight of the two massive white pylons on either side of the road, specially erected for the occasion to mark the entrance to the enlarged borough. Each bore the borough arms. It is understood that they are only temporary structures, but permanent pylons may be erected later. The idea originated from the Conferences Sub-Committee and the pylons were designed by the Borough Engineer (Mr E. A. Borg).

#### WHOSE WREATH?

Some Birchington diehards decorated one of the pylons with a wreath of daffodils earlier in the day, but the emblems were removed before the arrival of the Mayor.

The health of Greater Margate was drunk in Prince's Ale - brewed from Kentish hops in 1932 by the Prince of Wales - but the Mayoress found it distasteful and took only a sip. Alderman Osborne sampled the Prince's brew and seemed to like it.

One of the first to be bumped at Brooks End was Miss I. Gray JP and, after her, Alderman Hughes the "father" of the Council. One of the choir boys was seized and bumped and then, to complete the ritual of tradition, he was gently whipped with a willow cane.

Time was now growing short and the next two boundary marks at Sparrow Castle Farm and Cheeseman's Farm were passed by in order to meet the Ramsgate civic party midway between Vincent and Pouces. The Margate party, comprising about a hundred

cars, must have looked like an invading army to the Ramsgate "beaters" who were accommodated in two motor coaches and three or four cars. Greetings were exchanged between the two Mayors, who shook hands and drank one another's health from the loving cup. The Town Clerk of Margate (Mr P. T. Grove) and the Town Clerk of Ramsgate (Mr H. G. Curtis) went through a similar ceremony. Brief farewells were taken before the Margate party moved on to the Star Inn, Westwood, where Mr Grove was bumped and the bounds beaten once more.

Further bumpings were administered at the final stopping place in Botany Bay, the eastern extremity of the Borough. The Deputy Mayor (Councillor W. H. Noble), the Town Sergeant, The Vicar, Captain J. I. H. Friend MC, JP, Alderman W. C. Redman and the Chief Constable all suffered the same fate, the Chief Constable at the ready hands of Police-Constables E. Norris and Sutherland. Two school children were bumped by their fellows and choir boys were whipped by the Mayor and police officers.

On their return to the Town Hall at about 1.30 pm, the party were served with much needed refreshment.

A toast to the Mayor was proposed by Alderman Hughes who said although the present extension was the fourth in his experience, he considered it the most important of all. He thought a debt of gratitude was owing to the Mayor for his part in the work, and he also wished to congratulate Alderman Osborne and the Town Clerk.

Replying, the Mayor said he could claim no credit for the work was initiated by his predecessor, Alderman Osborne. "We can be captains of the ship," he said, "but we cannot go on without a good lieutenant and, without the superior knowledge of the Town Clerk, we should not have pulled through. We have all pulled our weight." At the suggestion of the Mayor, a toast was drunk to the Town Clerk who briefly replied. □

*(Later that same day, a "Wedding Feast" dinner was held at the Queen's Highcliffe Hotel, Cliftonville, to commemorate the extension of Margate's boundaries)*

# Beating the Bounds on 1st April 1935 - A Photographic Record

Sadly, none of these photographs can be identified as having been taken at Westgate-on-Sea. However, it is hoped that members will enjoy seeing these pictures which show how important the occasion was to 'Greater Margate' in 1935



The above photos were taken at, or near, Plum Pudding Island where the party beat the bounds with willow wands. The embankment seen in the background of the picture on the right is to prevent flooding



The Mayor and Mayoress with, it is thought, the Vicar of St John's Church. Perhaps the lady on the left is Miss I. Gray JP?

Thought to be the Rev Cuthbert Tyrrell, Vicar of St John's church, walking out to Plum Pudding Island



Could this show one of the pylons in the background that were erected at Brooks End Hill?

Two more civic dignitaries in their top hats. Note the Royal Standard seen flying in the background. It would be very good if some of those shown in these photographs can be identified



The Mayor's party look as if they are receiving a delegation in this photo. Note the coach in the background



Another of the civic dignitaries drinks to the success of 'Greater Margate' from the loving cup



# Historic meeting of the Mayors of Margate and Ramsgate whilst Beating the Bounds



*The meeting of the Mayors*

The above photo shows the historic meeting of the Mayor of Margate (Alderman F. L. Pettman) and the Mayor of Ramsgate (Alderman E.E. Dye) midway between Vincent and Pouces at the common boundary of the two towns). The silver loving cup used that day was given to Margate Town Council by Mr Robert Wood in 1892



The Mayor of Ramsgate takes a drink from the loving cup held by the Mayor of Margate. Margate's Town Sergeant (Mr A. J. Swain) can be seen on the extreme left holding on firmly to Margate's Mace. It is believed the clergyman in the centre, wearing a Canterbury cap, is the Rev Cuthbert Tyrrell, Vicar of St John's Church, Margate. The Canterbury cap was much favoured by clerics at the time



Margate's Town Sergeant, Alfred James Swain, leads the procession near The Star Inn at Westwood with the choir boys following. The buildings in the background are largely unchanged today but the road (the Margate - Ramsgate road) is much busier now with a constant flow of traffic. Note the willow wand in the Mayor's right hand



Perhaps the three men around the cup were Councillors of the new Westgate-on-Sea Ward, or Birchington Ward, of 'Greater Margate'?



The oil painting by Miss Grace Hawkins of Ald F. L. Pettman wearing the robes of the Mayor of Margate

The Mayoress has a sip from the loving cup held by her husband. Perhaps this was the sip of Prince's Ale referred to in the report published in the Isle of Thanet Gazette!



Can anyone identify where the above photo was taken? It shows - left to right - the Chief Constable, the Mayor and, possibly, either Alderman Hughes or Alderman Osborne. Can anyone positively identify him?



Presentation of a basket of daffodils to the Mayor and Mayoress

## It seems no one was spared the “bumps” that day!



*The Mayor of Margate being “bumped” on the common boundary with Ramsgate. It is thought likely that the “bumpers” were Margate’s Town Clerk (Mr P. T. Grove) and Ramsgate’s Town Clerk*



*The Mayor of Ramsgate being “bumped” on the common boundary with Margate. It is thought likely that the two “bumpers” were the Town Clerk of Margate (Mr P. T. Grove) and the Town Clerk of Ramsgate*



*The Mayor being “bumped” - again! Can anybody identify the uniformed man on the left wearing a cap? The “bumper” on the left also features in one of the photos on page ?*



*These three men were clearly enjoying themselves although the Town Sergeant (on the extreme left) looks rather startled. Perhaps he thought he might be next!*



*It would seem that there was no regard to age as to who was given the “bumps”. The Mayor is seen clearly enjoying himself greatly. Perhaps he was just pleased that it was someone else’s turn to be “bumped”!*



*These two photos are believed to have been taken at Botany Bay. The police sergeant in both is Sergeant Fleet. The police constable wearing a cap in the second photo is PC Norris who, with another PC, is giving the Chief Constable, W. Palmer, the “bumps”*



*The Mayor and Mayoress giving the “bumps” to a lady (perhaps Miss I. Gray JP) whilst the Town Sergeant looks on somewhat disapprovingly!*

## BEATING THE BOUNDS Some Odds and Ends



The Robert Wood Cup complete with its silver lid. This cup featured prominently in the Beating the Bounds on 1st April 1935 and can be seen in a number of the photographs reproduced on the previous pages. The Robert Wood Cup, along with numerous other silver cups and trophies held by the former Margate Corporation, are today held by Margate Charter Trustees as part of the town's 'treasure chest'. The Town Mayor, Cllr John Edwards, very kindly accompanied me to the Old Town Hall building to allow me to take this photograph.

The inscription on the cup reads:

Presented to the  
Mayor and Corporation of Margate  
by Robert Wood J.P.

on his retirement from the Council after Thirty Years association  
with that body as Councillor Alderman and Mayor  
9th November 1892

My thanks go to Cllr John Edwards for his assistance in this matter

### Editor's thanks

Special thanks go to both Anthony Lee and Richard Clements as well as to the Mick Twyman Collection for permission to reproduce the many photographic images of the historic 1935 Beating the Bounds ceremony. Thanks also go to Kathy Bailes, Editor of *The Isle of Thanet Gazette* for giving permission to reproduce the *Gazette's* original reports of that event. The bringing together of those photographs and the reports of the Beating the Bounds make for a very timely article exactly 80 years after the event and when the new Westgate-on-Sea Parish Council is about to come into being. □

JB



These remnants of the ribbon, that was stretched across the road at Westgate on 1st April 1935, were very kindly donated to the Westgate Heritage Centre last year. Importantly, they were still in their original envelope which bore a description of the ribbon. It is believed that the envelope containing the ribbon was given by the Borough of Margate - possibly by the Mayor himself - as the back of the envelope bears the Borough of Margate coat-of-arms imprint. The colours of the ribbon are those of the Cinque Ports and it is reported that a small number of rosettes were made from the ribbon and presented by the Mayor at the "Wedding Feast" held during the evening of 1st April 1935



The back of the envelope bearing the Borough of Margate coat-of-arms imprint

My thanks go to Dr Dawn Crouch, Consultant Historian, Westgate Heritage Centre for permitting me to photograph both the ribbon and the original envelope

**CYCLING**  
STRICTLY  
PROHIBITED  
ON THE  
**PROMENADE**  
BY ORDER  
WM. PALMER  
Chief Constable

The wording (above) on the notice-board seen in this photograph of Margate's Chief Constable, William Palmer, being "bumped" by two of his Police Constables at Botany Bay on 1st April 1935. How times have since changed over the last 80 years: cycling on the promenade is now positively encouraged rather than prohibited!



## “EPIC OF DUNKIRK”

### Picture Presented to Margate

### Lifeboatmen's Heroism Commemorated

At the Margate Town Hall on Monday morning an interesting presentation was made before a representative gathering which included the Mayor of Margate (Alderman G. B. Farrar), Alderman G. P. Hoare, Councillor G. A. Abbott, Mr P. T. Grove (Town Clerk) and Mr Ian Cowan (Borough Treasurer), and the following members of the Margate lifeboat, the Lord Southborough: Messrs E. Parker (coxswain), T. Harman (second coxswain), H. Parker (bowman), D. Price (signalman), E. Jordan (mechanic), and A. Ladd, A. Morris, W. Hopper and E. E. Parker. Mr E. Parker, jun, a member of the crew of the Walker II, was also present.

The lifeboatmen assisted in the evacuation from Dunkirk. The new Secretary of the Margate Branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, Mr A. C. Robinson, manager of the Arcadian Hotel, was also present, but the lifeboatmen had to leave before the actual presentation as a call was made for their services.

The presentation was a picture which was an imaginary painting in oils inscribed as follows:

“Presented to the Borough of Margate by the Northern Aluminium Co. Ltd., in commemoration of Margate's part in the memorable evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk, June 1940.” “The Epic of Dunkirk,” a painting by Charles Cundall, A.R.A.

The ceremony of handing over the picture was performed by Mr H. D. Simmons, director of H. K. McCann Co. Ltd., incorporated practitioners in advertising, who said:

“I am sure you are busy these days grappling with problems which a year ago we little realised Margate would have to face. In view of this, I do not intend to take up your valuable time this morning in making the presentation.

#### “Hazardous Enterprise”

“I would ask you, sir, to accept on behalf of Mr P. S. Mitman, managing director of the Northern Aluminium Co. Ltd., This oil painting by Charles Cundall A.R.A., “The Epic of Dunkirk.” It is presented to the borough to commemorate the part taken by the boatmen and yachtsmen in this district who answered the call for the unusual and hazardous enterprise, and who through their undaunted efforts assisted in the evacuation of Dunkirk.

“It is the hope of us all that Nazi-ism will soon be crushed, and that Margate next season, or possibly before will once again resume its peace-time activities for the pleasure and welfare of a peace-loving nation.”

Mr Simmons then explained that the picture was one of a series of illustrations run by Northern Aluminium Co. Ltd., to make known the uses of aluminium. So many people were under the impression that aluminium was a non-belligerent metal used for such things as pots and pans, etc., and it was their privilege to make its uses known to everyone.

It was also used in certain industries, rail and road transport, and in the production of aircraft. As a result of the publicity which had been going on intensely for two years before the war, they hoped to build up an industry for after the war which would compare very favourably with America and other parts of the world. They knew they would have to do this as the full possibilities of aluminium were not appreciated. Steel, iron and other metals were known. Aluminium was a thing of lightness, lightness included strength; it had a third of the weight of steel but had practically the strength of steel and was able to resist corrosion.

It was revealed that the presentation had originated through the Mayor of Margate, who had seen the picture in a newspaper and noticed the name “Sea Spray” Margate painted on a boat, wrote to the paper regarding the company's advertisement. This communication was passed on direct to the advertiser, with the suggestion that as no art plates would be supplied, the company might have a printed copy on their files which Margate might have, and they asked the company to reply to Mr Farrar direct.

The Northern Aluminium Co. Ltd., replied that they had received the letter asking for prints of the original painting and the Mayor received a letter, from the managing director (Mr F. S. Mitman) stating that owing to shortage of paper they were not taking steps to obtain prints but that they would endeavour to produce the original. If they were successful they would be only too glad to present it to the town of Margate.

Mr Mitman also took the opportunity of recording his admiration of the important part in which Margate played in the evacuation of Dunkirk.

Further correspondence from Mr Simmons revealed how they had been requested by the Northern Aluminium Co. to forward the original painting to the Mayor of Margate and disclosed that at the moment the painting was being held in connection with the production thereof and would be released within the next few weeks.

A further letter said that Mr Simmons would visit Margate on Monday to present the framed original painting and the presentation on Monday was the outcome of the communications. □



The picture shows a representative of the Northern Aluminium Company presenting the picture to the Mayor of Margate (Alderman G. B. Farrar). Others in the group are Councillor G. A. Abbott, Alderman G. P. Hoare, Mr P. T. Grove (Town Clerk), and Mr I. M. Cowan (Borough Treasurer)

## Painting: *The Epic of Dunkirk* by Charles Cundall



The text printed on the mount reads:

### ***THE EPIC OF DUNKIRK*** *A painting by Charles Cundall A.R.A.*

*Presented to the Borough by the Northern Aluminium Company Ltd in commemoration of Margate's part in the memorable evacuation of Allied Troops from Dunkirk, June 1940*

With grateful thanks to Kate Wilson, Thanet District Council's Community Regeneration Officer, for permission to photograph this historic painting which is owned by TDC and currently held at Margate Museum. Thanks also go to Chris Sandwell and Nick Smith for their assistance in digitally 'improving' my photograph of the painting



*These two super images of the RNLB Margate Lifeboat The Lord Southborough are from the Mick Twyman Collection. The Christening Launch of The Lord Southborough was in 1925. This lifeboat and its crew will feature large in James Brazier's talk to the Society on Thursday, 14th May 2015 at the Walpole Bay Hotel*



Stuck on the back of the picture-frame containing Charles Cundall's painting *The Epic of Dunkirk* are a number of interesting items including the following:

**The Epic of Dunkirk**


**P**LEASURE craft, which in carefree days gaily swayed at anchor while their owners lustily proclaimed "Nice day for a sail!"; stately vessels from the yacht clubs; fussy little paddle steamers from the Channel ports, all co-operated with the Navy, Air Force and Mercantile Marine in the epic evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk. The call came for volunteers for an unnamed and hazardous enterprise, and the response was overwhelming. With assurance of equal enthusiasm from all concerned with the nation's war effort on the industrial front, there are no odds which will undermine such high morale.

"Speed up the production of armaments"

is the only request our fighting forces make. This call is being answered with increasing impetus. Aluminium supplies, for example, for aircraft construction and other applications are being produced in ever greater quantities. The skill of our work-people, numbering some thousands, is directed to the making of materials, the lightness and strength of which have been proved by the Royal Air Force. Aluminium is greatly reducing deadweight in equipment which hitherto was handicapped in operating efficiency by excessive weight.

In this war aluminium is indeed playing a decisive rôle. In peace it will be ready to answer the call for lightness and strength in all moving parts, all mass-in-motion. With this project in view our Research and Development Department is ready with constructive suggestions now. Consultations are invited.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.** *Owing to the shortage of paper supplies, it will not be possible to continue our offer of fine art prints. We greatly regret, therefore, that applications cannot be accepted for reproductions of the above illustration and correspondence cannot be entered into on this subject.*



**NORTHERN ALUMINIUM COMPANY LTD.**

BANBURY, OXFORDSHIRE. Telephone: BANBURY 2244. BIRMINGHAM: MIDDLEMORE ROAD, HANDSWORTH, 31. Telephone: BIRMINGHAM NORTHERN 3898

Transcription of above:

## The Epic of Dunkirk

Pleasure craft, which in carefree days gaily swayed at anchor while their owners lustily proclaimed "Nice day for a sail!"; Stately vessels from the yacht clubs; fussy little paddle steamers from the Channel ports, all co-operated with the Navy, Air Force and Mercantile Marine in the epic evacuation of Allied troops from Dunkirk. The call came for volunteers for an unnamed and hazardous enterprise, and the response was overwhelming. With assurance of equal enthusiasm from all concerned with the nation's war effort on the industrial front, there are no odds which will undermine such high morale.

"Speed up the production of armaments" is the only request our fighting forces make. This call is being answered with increasing impetus. Aluminium supplies, for example, for aircraft construction and other applications are being produced in ever greater quantities. The skill of our work-people, numbering some thousands, is directed to the making of materials, the lightness and strength of which have been proved by the Royal Air Force. Aluminium is greatly reducing deadweight in equipment which hitherto was handicapped in operating efficiency by excessive weight.

In this war aluminium is indeed playing a decisive rôle. In peace it will be ready to answer this call for lightness and strength in all moving parts, all mass-in-motion. With this project in view our Research and Development Department is ready with constructive suggestions now. Consultations are invited.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE.** *Owing to the shortage of paper supplies, it will not be possible to continue our offer of fine art prints. We greatly regret, therefore, that applications cannot be accepted for reproductions of the above illustration and correspondence cannot be entered into on this subject.*

**NORTHERN ALUMINIUM COMPANY LTD**

There is also an undated press-cutting stuck on the back of the picture-frame which reads:

Asked what were the most terrifying sounds in their experience, most people on the south-east coast would include the tortured roar of an aeroplane in its death dive from a great height. At one town on Monday, the Mayor, an alderman, a councillor, and officials were receiving a presentation to the borough at the Town Hall, when the ceremony of taking a photograph was interrupted by just such a noise. As one man, they dived for shelter beneath the tables. I am sure the photographer would have loved a picture of that sea of struggling legs. But his were among them. The Mayor told the story, with much enjoyment to his Town Council.

# What's On

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

Date	Subject
<b>2015</b>	
2nd April	Part II of 'An Illustrated talk by Dr Steven Alexander on the artwork of his father, Christopher Alexander ARE, ARCA (1926-1982) - a figurative artist of the highest calibre and certainly among the very best of his generation'
14th May	Presentation of Town Pride Awards 2015 followed by an illustrated talk by James Brazier to mark the 75th anniversary of the evacuation from Dunkirk and Margate's large contribution to that event
19th May (Tuesday)	<b>COACH TRIP TO MUSEUM DU SOUVENIR, DUNKIRK, FRANCE</b> For details of this day trip by coach to mark the 75th anniversary of the evacuation of Dunkirk (Operation Dynamo), see page 3

## Forthcoming Exhibition of Christopher Alexander's Artwork at Turner Contemporary

An exhibition of Christopher Alexander's artwork will go on display at Turner Contemporary from Tuesday, 14th July 2015 to Sunday, 13th September 2015. Don't miss the exhibition - and don't miss Part II of Steven's talk at our April 2015 meeting at the Walpole Bay Hotel.



**Westgate Heritage Centre** (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Spring//Summer Programme 2015**  
On the first Saturday of each month at **10.30am**, there will be a talk by Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator of Westgate Heritage Centre

**1st April 2015 marks the 80th anniversary of the creation of "Greater Margate" when Westgate-on-Sea and Birchington were swallowed up by the Borough of Margate and was celebrated by "Beating the Bounds". The Heritage Centre is commemorating it with three events:**

**Saturday, 4th April: 10.30am at the Westgate Heritage Centre** Talk by Dr Dawn Crouch "Westgate 1935 - Losing our identity. What difference did it make?"

**Friday, 10th April:** The weekly "Health Walk" led by Heather Letley will re-trace the Westgate portion of the Beating of the Bounds Ceremony. **Starts at Westgate Library at 10.30am**, but can be joined at points along the route. Those unable to walk can travel by car

**Wednesday, 15th April: 7.30pm at Christ Church URC Church, Westgate Bay Avenue.** "Beating the Bounds" – Talk by James Brazier, with fabulous photographs taken of the event on 1st April 1935

**Summer talks at the Westgate Heritage Centre – all start at 10.30am:**

**Saturday, 2nd May:** "Taking a Vacation in Westgate-on-Sea in the mid-1880s" – based on the diaries of Captain George Dawson. This talk will be illustrated

**Saturday, 6th June:** "Thanks for the Memory" - Remembering June 1940, when the people of Thanet faced invasion. The talk will be based entirely on the stories of those who were there at the time, especially those who were evacuated with their schools. It is hoped that there will be the opportunity to meet some of them

**Saturday, 4th July:** The Heritage Centre celebrates the **150th birthday of the "new town" of Westgate-on-Sea.** The talk will explain how Westgate-on-Sea came into being with the building of the first two houses in 1865.

There will also be an **evening social event** in July with a talk by Dr Crouch, illustrated with photographs from the extensive collection of James Brazier, about the first Westgatians at St Mildred's Bay. Details to be announced later

**Saturday, 1st August:** "One year on - Westgate in 1915" – a look at the way the war had affected the town in the first year from August 1914

**Saturday, 5th September:** "The end of an era" – the 90th anniversary of the death of Lady Ingram in October 1925 brought to an end nearly half-a-century of the influence of a charismatic family. This talk will be illustrated

There will also be an **evening social event** to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the Second World War

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



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity. It is a founder member of Civic Voice and is affiliated to both the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and the Kent History Federation.

The Society's purpose and aims are to encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Margate and its environs (Birchington, Westgate-on-Sea, Cliftonville, Westbrook, Garlinge, Acol, Sarre and St Nicholas-at-Wade); to stimulate public interest and care for the history and character of the area; and to encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general amenity and historical interest. To this end, Town Pride awards are given annually to those buildings which have been refurbished, cleaned or modified and which, in the opinion of the Society, have enhanced the appearance of the town. New high-quality buildings are also eligible for the award. The Society also vets planning applications and makes known to Thanet District Council any objections to those applications which it considers necessary.

Evening meetings are held monthly between October and May at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville. The lectures, mostly illustrated with slides, are interesting and of local interest; they are also varied in their appeal. A Newsletter is published four times a year.

## Committee for 2014/15:

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

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

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

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

**Membership Secretary:** Mr Roger Hayes, 11 Saltwood Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3HQ  
(Tel: 01843 228858) (e-mail: [membership.mcs@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 2014/15:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£10.00	£14.00	£3.00	—
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