

# Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



**Autumn 2012**  
**Newsletter**  
**Issue No. 368**



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

If you haven't yet visited Turner Contemporary, you really should do so if only to take the opportunity to see the superb Victorian oil-painting by James Webb, *Margate 1869*, before it is returned to Thanet District Council. The painting, which has been on display at Turner Contemporary since it opened in April 2011, is due to be removed on 7th October 2012 and it will return to hang in the East Room at the Winter Gardens. The painting will no longer be on public view although an assurance has been given by TDC that Thanet Leisure Force will make the painting available to be viewed by groups by prior appointment.

Much credit has been given to both Turner Contemporary and to TDC for the arrangements that were made for this painting to be on public view at Turner Contemporary and I know that our members were very pleased to see the painting put back on public view after its removal from Margate Library some years ago. Sadly, Turner Contemporary have taken the view that the gallery space is now required for the display of other art exhibits. However, an assurance has been given by the gallery's Director, Victoria Pomery OBE, that the James Webb painting could well be put on display again in her gallery at some future date. Let us hope that we don't have to wait too long for that to happen. I have been told that the James Webb painting is the most popular exhibit in the gallery. That might be an exaggeration but I feel sure that future visitors to the gallery will be deprived of the benefit of both admiring the Webb painting and of leaving the gallery with a much greater understanding and appreciation of the importance of the gallery's site in the history of our town.

A last-minute attempt to persuade Turner Contemporary to change their made about removing the Webb painting from their gallery proved unsuccessful although it did achieve support from Cllr Iris Johnston, TDC's cabinet member for community services and the *Isle of Thanet Gazette* gave welcome publicity to the attempt.

It came as a big surprise for me recently to learn that Hartsdown House is not a listed building. In this issue of the Newsletter, Hartsdown House is looked at as being a magnificent example of the Queen Anne Revival style of architecture that was so favoured by the Aesthetic Movement in the period from the late-1860s to the early-1890s. To encourage our readers to look out for other examples of Queen Anne Revival architecture in our area, a number of decorative features on some of these buildings are illustrated in this issue of the Newsletter. □

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

## Welcome to new members

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

Jo Davies  
Christine Attwood  
Chris & Shu Newton  
Clive Polden

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

## Subscriptions now due

Our new year commences on 1st October 2012 and subscriptions for the year become due on that date. Please note that the subscription rates for 2012/13 remain the same as for 2011/12 and are as shown on the back page of this Newsletter. Any donations we receive on top of the subscriptions are very much appreciated. Members can renew at our AGM on 4th October (or at subsequent meetings) or by post to me at:

5 Addington Square  
Margate CT9 1NN

We also offer the facility of membership payment by electronic transfer. For details, please see our website [www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk](http://www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

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

## The Annual General Meeting of the Margate Civic Society

will take place at the Walpole Bay Hotel on Thursday,  
4th October 2012

Any proposals or nominations should be submitted as soon as possible before the meeting to the President at:  
14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville  
Margate CT9 3AB

## Committee Vacancy

A volunteer is urgently wanted to represent Margate Civic Society at meetings of the Margate CAAG (Conservation Area Advisory Committee) as Steve Villette is no longer able to perform this task due to his work commitments. Can you help us with this task? If so, please contact any member of the Committee for further information.

## President's Report for 2011/12

Dear Members

The summer seems to have gone before it started but I hope you enjoyed the sun when it decided to shine on Thanet. It is amazing the number of visitors who appear on the beach as soon as the sun shines.

A lot has happened during the last few months. Your committee has been going ahead with the Jubilee Clock Tower Time-Ball project and I hope soon we will be able to tell you of our progress.

The 26th June was Civic Day when we displayed our project in Pat Wilson Smith's gallery on the Harbour Arm. Thanks go to those who manned the gallery on the day and to Pat for allowing us the use of her gallery.

Mike Wilton and James Brazier produced an excellent new brochure for the Society which we hope will draw in some new members.

I am not going to report on the various happenings in our area you will read about these in our newsletter or in the *Isle of Thanet Gazette*.

Our very able Chairman, Pamela Pople, was extremely active during the preparations for the Olympics in her position as co-ordinator of Cliftonville Partnership but she still found time for her duties with the Society. Her coverage of the Town Pride Awards and her other work for the Society must be commended.

Harry Scobie, our Vice-Chairman, proves himself to be a reliable back-up and a great help with matters relating to Thanet District Council.

James Brazier, our Newsletter Editor, continues to produce an excellent newsletter full of facts and articles of interest. He is always looking out for interesting topics.

Mike Wilton, our Treasurer, controls our finances and our website with very little fuss. And Heather, his wife, has taken on running the raffle at our monthly meeting for which we are extremely grateful.

Lynda Smith, our Membership Secretary, is a veritable 'live wire' full of energy and enthusiasm, seeking out new members and organising the distribution of the newsletters.

Geoff Orton, our Minutes Secretary, and - until we find a new Secretary - is acting in that position as well. Unfortunately, Fiona Kempa, handed in her resignation owing to personal circumstances.

Steve Villette helps when he is able to get to meetings but, owing to work timetables, he sometimes is unable to join us. He is now helping Julian Smith in preparing for our Thursday evening meetings.

So there we have our very competent committee. All we need now is a good Secretary. It is important that anyone who joins our committee should be IT literate. Knowledge of computers is so important.

I shall end this report with my thanks to all the committee members past and present for their continued work in our effort to make life in Margate and its environs a better place to live.

**Ralph Handscomb  
President**

## Civic Day 2012



Photo: Lynda Smith

The above photograph shows three of our Committee members at the Society's Civic Day event which was held at the Harbour Arm Gallery on Saturday, 26th June 2012. Left to right: Harry Scobie (Vice-President), Julian Smith and Geoff Orton (Minutes Secretary). The display was mounted by James Brazier and featured old photographs and other interesting images of the Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee Clock Tower. The event promoted the Society's aim to see the Clock Tower Time-Ball restored in order to commemorate Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee.

For the second year, the Society is again most grateful to Pat Wilson Smith of the Harbour Arm Gallery for allowing us to mount the display in her gallery free of charge. Pat's website address/information details are as follows:

[www.i-machine.co.uk](http://www.i-machine.co.uk)

<http://brisonsveor.org.uk/drawing-in-four-dimensions-patricia-wilson-smith/>

Her designs are simply stunning. □

**JB**

## Correspondence

Dear Mr Brazier

I finally had time last weekend to go to Margate Library, where I read the good review you wrote on my late mother's book *Thanet - The Unknown Island*. Thank you very much indeed. I did, however, notice that it said that copies of the book are available from Birchington Heritage Trust. Unfortunately, this is not the case. I did write to the BHT in early July enquiring about the possibility, and have just received a negative reply from them, as they prefer to sell their own publications only.

I wonder whether it would be possible for you to tell your members in the next newsletter that copies are available either by emailing [rkiqusted@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:rkiqusted@hotmail.co.uk) or, alternatively, they can telephone 01843 845745.

This would be much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

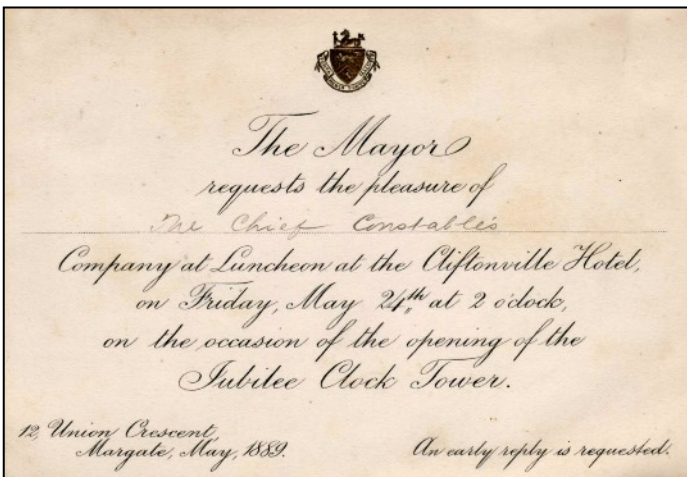
Natasha

# Jubilee Clock Tower - Update

## Time-Ball - Restoration

At our last meeting held at the Walpole Bay Hotel in May, Mike Bundock gave a talk on Margate's Jubilee Clock Tower. At that meeting, the membership gave their support to the suggestion originally made by Arnold Schwartzman OBE in an article published in the Newsletter that the Time-Ball mechanism inside Margate Jubilee Clock Tower should be restored as the town's commemoration of Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee. Members are reminded that the Jubilee Clock Tower commemorated Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887 although the Clock Tower was not opened until 1889. Our Civic Day event (see report on page 2 of this Newsletter), which promoted our project of restoring the Time-Ball, received further support from both Society members and members of the public. Since then, your Committee has given further consideration to the suggestion and has set up a working party to pursue the matter further. Progress reports will be made in future issues of the Newsletter.

## Original Invitation Card



Society member Anthony Lee (author of Margate in the Georgian Era) kindly provided this image of an invitation card to the luncheon held at the Cliftonville Hotel on the the occasion of the opening of the Jubilee Clock Tower on 24th May 1889 - Queen Victoria's 70th birthday.

In those days, Margate had its own police force and its own Chief Constable

## Listing of the Clock Tower

Members will recall that the description of Margate Clock Tower shown on English Heritage's website for the listing of the Clock Tower as a Grade II building was incorrect. The error was drawn to the attention of English Heritage and I am pleased to report that the error has now been corrected. The corrected entry now reads:

### MARINE TERRACE CLOCK TOWER

**List entry Number:** 1351073

**Date first listed:** 22-Feb-1973

**Map reference:** TR 3570 NW 1/230

Built in 1888-89 to commemorate Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. Built of Kentish ragstone with Portland stone above. Small octagonal cupola and dome in cast iron surmounted by a weathervane and a Time Ball. four clock faces set in stone with heraldic beasts below and plaques with busts of Queen Victoria, Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII), Princess of Wales (later Queen Alexandra), and the Crown encircled by the word 'Jubilee' and the year '1887' (the original terracotta plaques by Doulton have since been replaced with copper repoussé panels).

The error was detailed in an article in Newsletter number 366 (Spring 2012).

Sincere thanks are expressed to English Heritage for correcting the error. □

JB



Marine Drive and Clock Tower c. 1895



This artist-drawn imaginative image is captioned MARGATE FROM THE SEA and is believed to date from around 1885 (the Jubilee Clock Tower is not shown). The skyline is interesting in that it shows all the buildings stretching from the White Hart Hotel to the Cinque Ports Arms Hotel & Tavern and part of the sign for the Margate Sands Railway Station can just be seen on the extreme right of the picture

**Architect's perspective view of the first row of shops in Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea designed by W. H. Lockwood and dated February 1880**

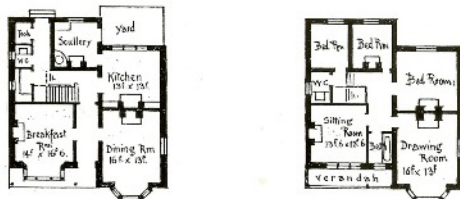


## More line-drawings of Westgate's fine buildings



:VILLA at WESTGATE ON SEA:

A.G. LOCKWOOD & Co. CONTRACTORS:



GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

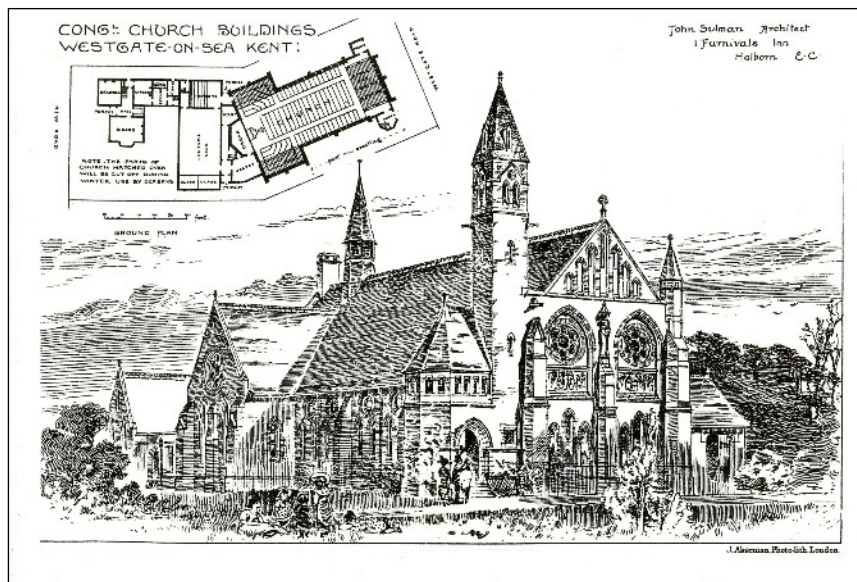
3 Bed rooms on 2<sup>d</sup> floor.

J. Akerman, Photo-lith. London.



This architect's perspective view and plans (possibly drawn by a member of the Lockwood family) of a 'Villa at Westgate-on-Sea' shows a detached house in what would appear to be a country setting. By a little detective work, the house has recently been identified as being *Thornhill*, 22 Roxburgh Road and today its external appearance is virtually unchanged apart from the absence of its tall chimneys. The house is believed to have been built in the early 1890s by Lockwoods. The tree on the right of the above photograph would appear to be the same as that in the line-drawing. Note the terracotta sunflower panels now partly painted white. The line-drawing is amongst the Lockwood papers that were kindly donated to Westgate Heritage Centre by Queenie Johnson. The architect's perspective view of the row of shops in Station Road (shown on the page opposite page) is also courtesy of Queenie Johnson.

Shown below is a copy of the architect's perspective view of the Congregational Church (now the United Reformed Church) in Westgate Bay Avenue. The architect was John Sulman and the foundation stone was laid on 12th June 1883. The church was opened on 22nd April 1884. A comparison of the line-drawing with the accompanying photograph, taken in September 2012, shows that, although the front is virtually unchanged from its original design, the depth of the building was reduced when it was built. The lithograph is from the *Congregational Year Book 1882*.



# Some of Westgate-on-Sea's lost fine architectural houses



*Above:* This sketch by F. Watkins and published in 1876 shows Ledge Point House (which stood on the corner of Sea Road and Rowena Road where Palm Court now stands). Ledge Point House was built for Lady Rose Weigall and her husband Henry Weigall RA. Ledge Point House was designed by Charles Nightingale Beazley and a perspective view of the house was published in *The Building News* dated 17th September 1875. Note the letter 'W' (for Weigall) between the two small windows on the first floor immediately above the front door. Ledge Point House was demolished in 1996 and Palm Court built on the site



*Above:* This sketch, also by F. Watkins and published in 1876, shows St Mildred's Court (demolished in 2005) on the left and Clifside (demolished in the late 1970s) on the right. The house to the rear is Ellingham which is the only one of the three houses in this sketch which still stands and is Grade II listed. St Mildred's Court and Ledge Point House were both designed by Beazley and it is probable that he also designed both Clifside and Ellingham



*Left:* A perspective view and plans for Cottages, Canterbury Road, Westgate-on-Sea published in *The Building News* dated 20th December 1901. Architect: Banister, Fletcher & Sons. Sadly, these cottages were never built. The Grade II listed house The Observatory in Sea Road was designed by Banister Fletcher and built in 1899/1900

# Charles Nightingale Beazley - Westgate's Estate Architect

In the last Newsletter (No 367 - Summer 2012), the house originally known at St Mildred's Court (and later known as Eventide Home) was featured. The architect of that once-grand house was Charles Nightingale Beazley. Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator of Westgate Heritage Centre has very kindly provided the following information, in note form, which I feel sure will be of much interest to our readers:

## CHARLES NIGHTINGALE BEAZLEY - 19th century architect

Described in the *Directory of British Architects 1834-1900* as "Fleurit" (presumably "working") 1853-1897 in London. Amazingly, no mention is made of his time in West Margate and Birchington, where he was probably the leading architect from about 1870-1890

He was already known to Corbett and McClymont (the first developers of the Westgate Estate) as Corbett referred to him in 1878 as "my old friend, Charles Nightingale Beazley, whose name has come several times before you (the Royal Insurance Company) in connection with the Westgate Estate"

## In 1870, Beazley was appointed architect to the Westgate Estate by Corbett

Beazley drew up a plan for the Estate, which contained six squares of town houses, a church and parsonage, a grand hotel on the headland, etc. He started work on the eastern part of the Estate shortly afterwards – referred to in an article in *The Builder* in October 1870. This almost certainly included the shops in Station Road, which are built in the light coloured brick decorated in red brick, and Adrian Square. Compare the façade of the Hollywood Arms on the West Brompton Estate in Kensington, which Corbett and McClymont were developing, with the entrance to Jackson's Stables in Station Road and 38 Redcliffe Gardens, West Brompton with 21 Adrian Square, Westgate. Interestingly, the area in London on which Corbett and McClymont were working in the 1860s also has an Adrian Mews which continued to be known as Adrian Terrace until 1909

## Beazley's Public Works:

**1872/3 St James' Church Westgate** (now St James' Garlinge) – although outside the Westgate Estate it was thought that a church in such a position would serve the "two new towns of Westgate and Westbrook" Canon Bateman, St James' Church archives)

**1876 St Mildred's Church, Acol near Birchington** "Acol, C.E. St Mildred's, Plumstone Road, 1878, C.N. Beazley. Early English. Flint with stone dressings and tiled roof" Roger Homan, *The Victorian Churches of Kent*, Chichester, 1984, Gazetteer, p. 33

**1882 First plan for the church of St Saviour Westgate on Sea.** Lithograph shows church with steeple to seat 800. Plans altered as sufficient funds could not be raised. A second lithograph shows the church as it was built in 1883/4. Originals with signature in Canterbury Diocesan Record Office under St Saviour's parish records

## 1883 Designed the reredos of All Saints' Church, Birchington

"The chancel is dedicated to All Saints. The beautiful reredos, completed in 1883, takes the form of a tryptich and was designed by a Mr C.N. Beazley and painted by Mr M.H.J. Westlake FSA a well-known artist at that time" Alfred T. Walker, *The Ville of Birchington*, 3rd edition 1991

## 1886 St Saviour's C.E. National School, Elm Grove. Westgate-on-Sea

## 1887 Consultant architect for the Queen Victoria Golden Jubilee Clock Tower, Margate

Amongst the houses that he designed for Westgate was **Exbury** for A.B. Mitford

"Exbury House, Westgate-on-Sea, built to the order of A.B. Freeman Mitford Esq. C.B. under the personal supervision of C.N. Beazley Esq FRIBA"

For sale by auction, catalogue, 6th June 1891 (Rogers and Hambidge collection)

It is thought likely that Beazley also designed Forest House, Westgate Bay Avenue and Barkstone Court, Roxburgh Road

Beazley was paying insurance on numbers 3 and 4 Westgate Road (now Westgate Bay Avenue) and on his offices in Delahoye Street London via the Westgate Royal Insurance Agent in 1882. His plans were insured for £300, no single one to be more the £20. □

**Dr Dawn Crouch**  
Curator, Westgate Heritage Centre



The first row of shops that were built in Station Road in the late 1870s. It is thought most likely that this row of shops was designed by Charles Nightingale Beazley. Compare this photograph, taken in September 2012, with second row of shops that were designed by William Henry Lockwood illustrated on page 4 of this Newsletter

# Beazley's Westgate Churches

St James's Church was built in 1872/73 to serve the developing areas of Westgate and Westbrook. However, the residents of Westgate wanted a church that was closer to the town centre. The accompanying illustration of St James's Church, dating from 1876, shows the Vicarage that was built at the same time as the church. The Vicarage was subsequently demolished and four houses built on the site in the 1960s/1970s.



This was Beazley's first design for the new church of St Saviour's to serve Westgate. The design dates from 1882. Note the tall tower that was originally planned for St Saviour's Church.

This design was part of the appeal leaflet distributed by the Revd Augustus Lyne, Curate of Minster and Vicar Designate of St Saviour's, Westgate-on-Sea, in 1882. The Building Committee needed £10,000 (approximately £500,000 today) to build a church to seat up to 800. Cancellation of those plans cost the Building Committee approximately £15,000 in cancellation fees to the architect.

Beazley's original design (above) for St Saviour's Church proved to be too expensive and he was asked to produce a more modest design. St Saviour's Church was built in 1883/84. The accompanying photograph shows the church around 1920. Note the War Shrine that stood in the church grounds at the junction of St Mildred's Road and Westgate Bay Avenue from around 1917 to 1920. This War Shrine was one of six that were put up in Westgate towards the end of the First World War recording the names of those from the locality who were serving their King & Country. Note also the number of trees along the pavement





**Some of Westgate's fine Queen Anne Revival buildings dating from the 1880s which are known to have been designed by the Westgate Estate Architect, Charles Nightingale Beazley, and which - thankfully - still remain with us**



*The eastern end of the former St Saviour's School (now apartments), Elm Grove, Westgate-on-Sea*



*The 'Queen Anne Revival' gable at the eastern end of the former St Saviour's School, Elm Grove  
Note the decorative brickwork in front of the seagull*



*The matching 'Queen Anne Revival' gable at the western end of the former St Saviour's School, Elm Grove*



*Exbury, Sea Road photographed September 2005  
Note: Exbury is Grade II Listed*

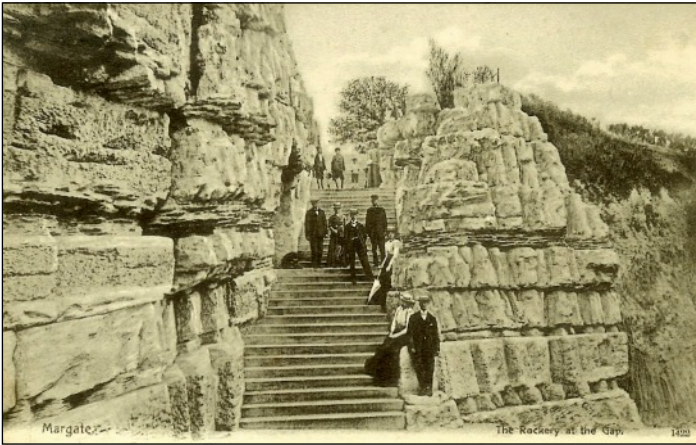


*Penrhyn (formerly Penrhyn Lodge), Sea Road photographed in September 2005 shortly after the commencement of the large rear extension*



*Penrhyn photographed in June 2011 after the completion of the rear extension*

## Pulhamite in Margate - Newgate Gap Rockery



*Caption to postcard: Margate - The Rockery at the Gap  
This posed photograph, published as a postcard, was probably taken shortly after the opening of Newgate Gap Rockery*



*This photograph was taken in September 2012 - after I had moved two bags of litter which would otherwise have detracted from this image*

Earlier this year, I came across this - to me - irresistible Edwardian postcard at a postcard fair in Canterbury. I have to admit to having previously unaware of this artificial rockery. I was not even sure which 'Gap' it was - but I rightly guessed that it was Newgate Gap as I found out the following day. I have to say that I surprised to see the rockery virtually unchanged from that shown on the postcard. The only differences were the installation of a central handrail and the quantity of litter which has amassed over a long period. Indeed, it would be most interesting to know when Thanet District Council last cleaned it!

Readers will probably be aware of the large quantity of Pulhamite to be found at Ramsgate - Madeira Walk, the West Cliff Chine and Winterstoke Gardens - but how many readers - before reading this article - were aware of the Pulhamite in Margate? Very few, I surmise.

Newgate Gap Rockery was probably built around 1895-1900. The steps leading from Ethelbert Terrace to Newgate Gap would have been used by residents of the Cliftonville Hotel and the many other other establishments which formerly graced that area.

Wanting to find out more about this rockery, I was very kindly put in touch by Nick Dermott with Claude Hitching, the author of the recently-published superb book titled *Rock Landscapes: The Pulham Legacy*. I sent copies of both the old postcard and some of my recent photographs of the Newgate Gap Rockery to Claude Hitching and he confirmed that the rockery was, indeed, Pulhamite - the name given to the artificial rockeries created by James Pulham & Son. For further information on Pulhamite, visit Claude Hitching's website [www.pulham.org.uk](http://www.pulham.org.uk)

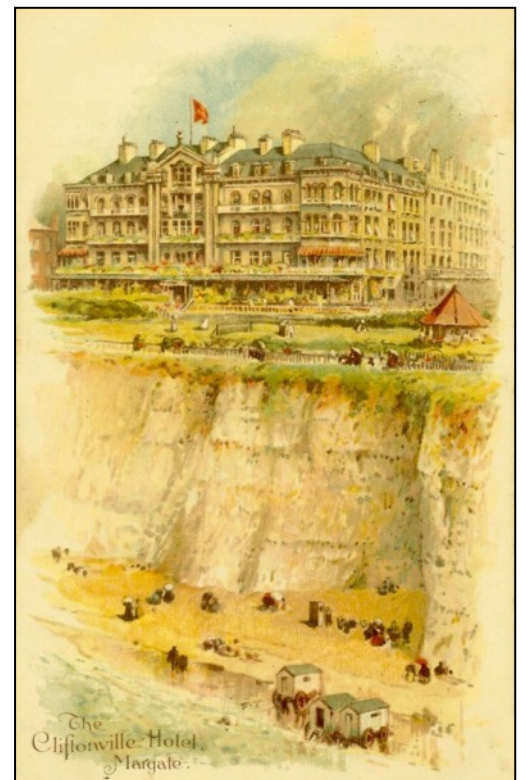
Do take a look at this rockery. It is well worth a visit although, sadly, it is now clearly neglected and would benefit greatly from a good clean-up. TDC please note!

**JB**



*The Edwardian postcard shows the original wrought-iron railings and the top of the flight of steps through Newgate Gap Rockery. Note the absence of motor-vehicles. Note also the Bath-chairs which were available to hire by visitors to the town. The Cliftonville Hotel can also be seen in this picture*

*Another Edwardian postcard showing the Cliftonville Hotel in its heyday. Note the bathing-machines on the sands and the absence of a lower promenade. The Cliftonville Hotel was, for many years, Margate's best hotel and Oscar Wilde is known to have stayed there*



## Hartsdown House - probably Margate's best Queen Anne Revival house



*Hartsdown House today - extended in 1873 when the architectural style-of-the-day was Queen Anne Revival*

Today, Hartsdown House is used as a children's nursery (Manor House Nursery School) and the building is probably not known to many of our residents. It is located in Hartsdown Park not far from the Council's leisure centre. Surprisingly, the building is not listed although it strongly deserves to be - and probably at Grade II\* - for it is a wonderful example of the architectural style adopted by the Aesthetic Movement from the late 1860s to the 1890s. One of the architectural features of Queen Anne Revival properties is the extensive use of the sunflower and it will be seen from the photographs accompanying this article that Hartsdown House has sunflowers in abundance. Perhaps the principal feature of Queen Anne Revival properties is the extensive use of red brick allied with sash-windows containing a multitude of glazing bars. The window frames and the glazing bars were painted white as often were the balconies and other ornamental features usually made of wood on the exterior of the properties. The Queen Anne Revival style was more commonly used for private houses but a number of shop premises can be found in Margate High Street. Westgate-on-Sea is blessed with a range of properties including a church and a school in addition to a number of shops as well as houses. It is hoped to feature examples of a number of other Queen Anne Revival properties in our area in some future issues of the Newsletter.

The area in which Hartsdown Park now forms part was once known as Hertedowne - a grazing ground for stags and harts in the Middle Ages. The use of the name Hertedowne for this area has been traced back to 1451.

Ownership of the land has, of course, passed through many families and a James Taddy took over the former Hartsdown House in 1801. In 1839, Charles Taddy Hatfeild acquired the house together with some 500 acres of land including the Tivoli Park area. James Taddy was a great benefactor to Margate providing most of the original funds for the establishment of the first National Schools in Margate in 1824. James Taddy founded a snuff and tobacco empire which continued to function through three sets of cousins until the 1920s when it closed during the General Strike. Ann Taddy, daughter of James Taddy, married John Hatfeild from Norwich in 1771.

Before the railway first came to Margate in 1846, the former Hartsdown House had a farm and a clear view to the sea. Indeed, there were few buildings between Hartsdown House and the sea - just Buenos Ayres and the Coastguard Station at the Nayland Rock. In the 1840s, the South Eastern Railway purchased land from the Hatfeild family in order to build the Margate Sands Station which opened in 1846 and, a few years later, the London, Chatham & Dover Railway bought further land from the Hatfeild family for their Margate West Station (which opened in 1863). Margate West Station was subsequently replaced with the present-day Margate Railway Station built in 1926. It would seem likely, therefore, that the Queen Anne Revival extension to the original day Hartsdown House was probably largely funded by railway monies.

It is reported that, in 1915, the then Prime Minister Andrew Bonar Law rented Hartsdown House from the Hatfeild family for a two-month holiday and his house guests during that period included David Lloyd George, Winston Churchill and F. E. Smith (later Lord Birkenhead).

The Hatfeild family suffered through the loss of their son Captain Eric Charles Hatfeild who was killed in action in September 1918. Captain Hatfeild was posthumously awarded the Military Cross. Another member of the family, Mrs Maud Hatfeild, served as a local councillor and was Margate's first lady Mayor in 1926. She was one of the first lady mayors in the country and she died in 1931. Margate Corporation had decided to purchase Hartsdown House and its grounds in 1927 and, in September 1929, Hartsdown Park was formally opened to the public. In August 1930, the Margate Collection and Museum was opened in Hartsdown House. After the Second World War, Hartsdown House was used by the Council's Parks Department for their offices; it was also used as offices by the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths for a while. In 1974, on the reorganisation of local government, Hartsdown Park, including Hartsdown House and the leisure centre, were transferred to Thanet District Council. Do go along to see the house for yourself and look out for the sunflowers and the many other decorative architectural features adorning the building. You will not, I feel sure, be disappointed. □

**JB**



*An early print showing the original Hartsdown House before its 1873 Queen Anne Revival style extension*

**[The kind assistance of Manor House Nursery School with this article is acknowledged]**

# Some of the Queen Anne Revival architectural features at Hartsdown House



The imposing front entrance to Hartsdown House



A close-up of the vase and flowers (including a sunflower) above the front door



A close-up of the decorative Queen Anne Revival decorative terracotta panels incorporating the year (1873) that the house was extended



The oriel window above the front door with three sgraffito panels. It would appear from this photograph that there had, at one time, been some form of terracotta decoration - possibly the Hatfeild family crest - contained within the pediment



Two terracotta sunflowers within a semi-circular recess above each of the windows shown in the picture immediately above



The attractive round window above the terracotta date panel to the left of the front entrance



A pair of terracotta sunflowers within a circular moulded red brick circular surround at one of the house's many gable ends



Close-ups of the three sgraffito panels, incorporating sunflowers, above the glazed sash-windows

... and more architectural ornamental detail at Hartsdown House



*There is an abundance of sunflowers shown in the above photo - including a wrought-iron sunflower (see picture below). It is a little unfortunate, however, that the Union Flag in the first-floor window is hanging upside down - a former naval distress signal!*



*This north-east-facing pediment features not only sunflowers but also the head and horns of a stag - probably in memory of the land once being a grazing ground for stags and harts. A row of sunflowers incorporated in the brickwork can also be seen below the pediment*



*Close-up of the superb wrought-iron balcony railings featuring yet another sunflower*



*This pediment is above the front entrance. It would appear that it once contained a decorative feature - possibly the Hatfield family crest. All that now remains is the small sunflower motif at the apex (see inset)*

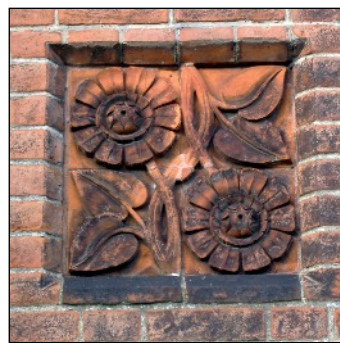
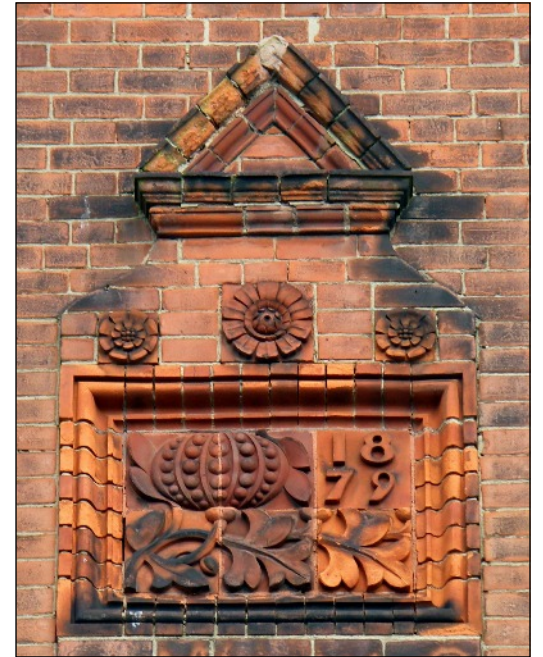


*Close-up of the single sunflower motif shown in the photograph on the left. See also the picture at the top of this column showing a further five sunflowers on the front of this red brick projection.*



*This impressive bay window with the coloured leaded lights is on the south-west aspect of the house*

Some of the other Queen Anne Revival terracotta sunflower, pomegranate and year-date panels in our area. How many can you locate? See the next issue of our Newsletter for the correct answers



## What's On

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

Date	Subject
<b>2012</b>	
4th October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin' by Catriona Blaker, The Pugin Society
1st November	'The Ramsgate Tunnels Heritage Project' by Peter Borrough, Project Manager, Ramsgate Tunnels Heritage Project
6th December	'Music Hall & Pantomime' by Gordon Clarkson
<b>2013</b>	
7th February	'Hell Fire Corner' by John Grimwood (ex RAF)
7th March	'Rationed Clothing - Clothing of the 1940s' by Lee Ault
4th April	'The Hidden History of Leeds Castle' by Nic Fulcher, Heritage Manager, Leeds Castle
9th May	Presentation of our Town Pride Awards for 2013 followed by 'Herne Bay Clock Tower' by Mike Bundock



**Westgate Heritage Centre** (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Autumn/Winter Programme 2012/13**  
Open first Saturday of each month 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. At 11.00am, there will be a talk on some aspect of Westgate history by Dr Dawn Crouch. The Westgate Heritage Centre will be re-launched on Saturday, 6th October 2012 (see below for further details)

Date	Subject
<b>2012</b>	
6th October	<b>The re-launch of the Westgate Heritage Centre and the handing over to a new Committee followed by a short talk by Dr Dawn Crouch:</b> ' <i>Westgate...a remarkable town. It is there in Thanet but, in many respects, it is not OF Thanet</i> '. An opinion of 1908, but what was it that made Westgate on Sea so remarkable – indeed it might be said, unique?
3rd November	'70 years ago - 1942 – A Bleak Year for the Nation – and for Westgate.' The Centre will make its annual tribute to Westgate's Fallen Heroes with its display on those who fell in both World Wars
1st December	' <i>Out of sight and out of mind</i> '. A focus on those who served the Estate – grooms, engine drivers and laundresses amongst others.
<b>2013</b>	
5th January	'St James' Church, Westgate' To commemorate its 140 <sup>th</sup> anniversary we look at why its being built was regarded as an essential for the successful development of Westgate and Westbrook
2nd February	' <i>Sir William Ingram Bart</i> '. A look at the life and character of this interesting man who left his mark on Westgate-on-Sea
2nd March	' <i>Let's walk along Sea Drive!</i> ' (from The Ingleton (now The Swan) to the Birchington border
6th April	' <i>1883 - A new look for a fashionable watering place?</i> ' What was the importance of the arrival in Westgate on Sea of the Revd John Hawtrey, founder of St Michael's School?

**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 Operatic Society - Production of Aladdin

**ALADDIN at the Winter Gardens - Wednesday 28th November to Sunday 2nd December 2012**

Performances, Wednesday to Saturday at 7.30pm and matinee performances on Saturday and Sunday at 2.30pm. Please contact MOS box office on 01843 297780 for tickets. Ticket prices booked in advance are £10 or £8.50 for seniors and children

# 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. Margate Civic Society is also an Associate member of Margate Town Partnership.

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 2011/12:

**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

45 Cornwall Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JQ (Tel: 01843 291298) (e-mail: [harryscobie@hotmail.com](mailto:harryscobie@hotmail.com))

**Secretary:** *VACANT*

**Treasurer:** Mr Mike Wilton

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

**Membership Secretary:** Mrs Lynda Smith

5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN (Tel: 01843 228174) (e-mail: [lyndylou\\_smith@talktalk.net](mailto:lyndylou_smith@talktalk.net))

**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))

### Other Committee Members:

Mr Steve Villette, 29 The Ridgeway, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2TL (Tel: 01843 221250) (e-mail: [stevillette@tesco.net](mailto:stevillette@tesco.net))

Mr Julian Smith, 1 Barn Crescent, Margate CT9 5HF (Tel: 01843 298292)

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))

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 2012/13:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual (Paper Newsletter*)	£9.00	£13.00	£2.00	—
Annual (Electronic Newsletter#)	£8.00	£12.00	£1.00	£15.00
Life Membership	£75.00	£100.00	—	—

and send it to the Membership Secretary, Mrs Lynda Smith, 5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN

\* 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