



Margate Civic Society

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE NO. 414

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Members

How are you all?

What a strange, unsettled world we live in with so much anger, sadness, intolerance, and loss of life. We send our thoughts and prayers to those affected by the conflict in Ukraine which has now been raging for two years, and in the Middle East, in the hope that peace may find a way to enable people to resume their normal lives.

I hope that you are now all managing to stay well and safe and our best wishes go to anyone who is suffering from any health issues currently, caring for a loved one or has been recently bereaved. As sadly, some of our more senior Members are now unable to attend our meetings, due to poor health, I should, like to give them a special mention. If you would also like a mention in the Summer Edition, or would like another Member included, please do not hesitate to contact me.

In Memoriam: Since I have been Chair of our Society, one of the sadder aspects, especially over the past two years, is the realisation that many senior members are now becoming infirmed, and, regrettably, another has sadly passed away.

Life Member Reverend David L Cawley: Reverend Cawley became a member when he was the Resident Priest at All Saints' Church in Westbrook and some fascinating details which give an insight into his interesting life can be found at www.whittingsociety.org.uk.

Geoff Orton: Geoff's funeral was well-attended, with representation from the various groups and societies, which were a part of his life. I attended with my husband Ray, together with other Society Members and a gathering followed at The Margate School, hosted by Uwe Derksen.

As has become tradition: a one-minute silence took place on 7 March, which was our first meeting of the year, after which Members shared their memories. There is a special tribute in this edition with contributions from Uwe Derksen, Director of The Margate School, Vice President: James Brazier and Pat Morrish, whose husband, David also sadly passed away in March last year.

'Requiescat in pace Geoff - Non oblitus'

I should also like to give a special mention to Uwe Derksen, whose wife, Caron, sadly passed away unexpectedly on 27 March.

Margate Civic Society sends heartfelt condolences to all family and close friends who have been touched by sadness.

Membership: I am grateful to those who have renewed their annual Membership this year and thank those Life Members who have already made donations, which is very gratifying. Of course, lapsed Members are still able to attend our lecture evenings but will have to pay a nominal fee per talk, so it is obviously far more viable to be a paid-up Member! By giving talks voluntarily, donating raffle prizes, purchasing raffle tickets, refreshments, and merchandise, this enables us to make a small profit. All help is most appreciated,

especially in these increasingly challenging times! A big thank you to all members of the Committee and Auxiliary Committee for pulling together and for their ongoing commitment in striving to sustain the Society.

Lecture Evenings: As you are aware, I always endeavour to organise a diverse programme of lectures, with something hopefully appealing to all Members' tastes, without breaking the budget! I am sure the summer meetings will prove popular, with the promise of lighter, brighter evenings, so this format is certainly the way forward.

Our new venue continues to be a popular choice, with excellent facilities, enabling us to sell refreshments (including Diane's delicious home-made cake) at reasonable prices which adds to the enjoyment of the evening. There is also greater parking provision, with well-lit user-friendly access and heating, which obviously will be extremely welcome during the colder months. We are also grateful for the added assistance of the caretaker. It is our intention that these meetings will continue to be inclusive, welcoming, comfortable, and friendly, so I sincerely hope that more of you will wish to come along this year to meet your fellow Members, whilst also showing your support to the Committee and the speaker, making these evening more financially viable.

Lecture Programme 2024: full details of which are in this newsletter. You will see that I have organised topics covering aspects of local history, social history, theatre, and entertainment, together with two special evenings: our annual **Town Pride Awards** (which will be held in July this year) and an **80th Anniversary D-Day Talk**, entitled "**A Short Talk on the Longest Day**" which takes the form of a virtual battlefield tour. Although our speaker, Steve Hookins is generally known for his amusing, 'off-the-wall', knowledgeable talks, please note this evening will be in keeping with the serious subject matter and Steve has written this in the respectful manner it deserves, and he is exceptionally proud to be able to present this to Members on the evening of **6 June – SAVE THE DATE!** This is likely to be the last time that Steve will be able to give a talk, as he is due to move away next year to be nearer to his wife, Helen's family.

Planning: Mike Thompson, our Planning and Conservation Representative, has been very diligent lately and continues to monitor and scrutinise planning applications, making representation when necessary. Should you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact him.

Blue Plaque Projects: At long last the arduous work undertaken by the two Mikes (Wilton and Thompson) for over a year, together with Robin Colyer has borne fruition. See Mike Wilton's article further on in your newsletter. Congratulations to you all for completing this first-class historic project!

One to One Railway Collection at Westwood – Locomotives, Carriages and Memorabilia: Mike Thompson has organised two visits, on **30 April** (now fully booked) and **3 May**, respectively. Members are extremely fortunate to have the opportunity of a second visit to the above collection as the work progresses towards an opening date.

We will assemble at the Hornby visitor centre at **10.00am** and with the consent of the owner, we are making a charge of **£5.00 per head** to go towards the Society's funds and this will be payable on the day. If interested: please contact Mike either by emailing mike.thompson6565@gmail.com or via his mobile: 07890 494001.

Visit to Walmer Castle & Gardens on 29 June. We do hope you will be able to join us. My thanks to Kate Wilson for organising this for Members.

Town Pride Awards: Final call for any nominations. Have you noticed any new-build developments, renovations, community projects or open spaces that in your opinion are worthy for consideration? If so, please let me know by **3 May**.

Newsletter: this will be edition fourteen and what was once a new regime quarterly newsletter edition, is now well-established, with Sally as Editor and the Editorial Team: Mike Wilton, Mike Thompson, and me working together. We have received a positive response from Members wishing to make contributions, for which I am incredibly grateful as feel it is important that all Members' input is respected which makes for interesting, varied reading. This edition includes articles from Arnold

Schwartzman, Uwe Derksen, James Brazier and Pat Morrish, which I hope you will enjoy reading as much as I have. Should you wish to contribute to forthcoming editions by forwarding articles, photographs, postcards, life stories, news of events, book reviews, poems, and anything else of interest, please let me know. I hope that you will enjoy reading your Spring Edition and welcome feedback as it is always good to hear from you, especially if it is favourable!

Historical Walks: Vice-President, Robin Colyer will be continuing with a new programme of enjoyable and informative walks this year, the first of which took place on 13 April. My thanks to Robin for giving his time voluntarily and for his generosity in donating all proceeds to our Society. These walks are excellent value for money, lasting approximately 90 minutes. Booking is recommended for all these walks, which you can do by telephoning or texting Robin Colyer on **07878 537448**. A donation of £5.00 per walk towards the work of the local heritage charity, Margate Civic Society. Please do not forget that Robin is also willing to organise private walks, so if you are interested, he would love to hear from you! Details of these (including a **new walk** in June) are as follows:-

Saturday, 18th May “**Maritime Margate**” – Meet at the Droit House at 2pm.

Saturday, 15th June “**Northdown to Walpole Bay**” – Meet at Holy Trinity Church at 2pm.

Saturday 13th July “**West of the Brooks**” – a walk around **Westbrook and Hartsdown Park**. Meet at Margate Railway Station at 2pm.

There is no walk in August

Saturday 7th September “**Six Squares Walk**”- a walk around the **Georgian Town**. Meet at the Droit House at 2pm.

Saturday 12th October “**Cliftonville Walk**” – a walk around a **Victorian seaside suburb**. Meet at the Droit House at 2pm.

Community News: The Margate School: Following a successful Crowdfunding campaign, the National Saturday Club sessions have got off to a great start at The Margate School with a full cohort of twenty young people aged 13 to 16 from across Thanet. The sessions, which have been designed and put together by the talented team at The School, led by Sam Giles and coordinated by Poppy Phibbs, both of Dream Safari, cover many aspects of the Art & Design theme, including creating zines, designing tote bags, banner making with natural dyes, typography, printing and self-portraits which will be displayed at the end of year exhibition at Somerset House in London as part of the National Saturday Club’s annual Summer Show. The Margate School are incredibly grateful for the financial support they have received which has enabled them to deliver these sessions, which are running from March to July, both from the generous supporters of our Crowdfunder campaign and from the Thanet Community Small Grants Fund as part of the Thanet Shared Prosperity Grant Fund. The Margate School Art & Design Saturday Club has received £10,000 from the UK Government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is delivered by Thanet District Council.

Also scheduled for this year are Exhibitions, Workshops, an Auction of original works to raise funds (enabling bursaries for students), various Courses and Building improvements (thanks to funding from the Community Ownership Fund). Course applications are now open – should you wish to find out more, see www.themargateschool.com



Cliftonville Farmers' Market established in September 2001 by the

Cliftonville Residents Association. It is run entirely by volunteers who give their time freely and it is self-funded. It has won nine prestigious awards being voted 'Best in Kent' six times and three 'Pride in Thanet' awards.

A reminder that these successful markets are held on the **last Sunday of each month (excluding December) from 1000-1300 hrs**, on the Walpole Bay Lawns, behind the Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville, CT9 3HF. Admission is free and the dates for the next quarter are 28 April, 26 May, and 30 June, so why not go along and give your support. For further details, contact cliftonvillefm@yahoo.com or ring 07568 37901.

Wilderness-to-Wonderland: This successful, commendable community project, under the Leadership of founder, Rory Waitt continues to demonstrate civic pride, engaging with a group of diverse volunteers. They have created a positive, energised, powerful spirit and made an enormous difference to the entrance at Margate Station which was their biggest project to date and completed in three days. They are collaborating with local schools and have received positive interaction with the public and have regular quiz nights which are well-supported.

They are now looking at setting up a community garden in front of the tennis courts in Westbrook. Rory confirmed that thanks to **Your Move** Charterhouse and **The Bike Shed** in Westbrook, they have secured their first two local sponsors which will make their goals achievable and sustainable. However, they still need two or three additional sponsors to donate large sums but are also grateful to Goodwins for their support as well as other organisations, including Margate Town Team.



Students from King Ethelbert School help plant tulips for us all to enjoy at the station approach

Over the winter, Wilderness-to-Wonderland have planted bulbs in the big pink planters along the seafront, and now residents and visitors have a delightful display of hyacinth and daffodils with tulips to follow. Simply stunning which I am sure you will agree!



GRASS Cliftonville CIC – Oval Bandstand & Lawns: To see the latest news of what is organised this year, together with details of their new **Wellbeing classes** covering a variety of topics suitable for all levels: such as yoga, boxing, dance, fitness and even belly dancing, outdoor cinema viewings and details of their Summer Sundays Support Live Music see their website: www.theovalbandstand.co.uk or email them at info@theovalbandstand.co.uk.

A Date for Your Diary: The next meeting will take place at 1930 hrs on Thursday, 2 May, with a request for attendees to be seated by 1915 hrs. Our speaker will be the highly acclaimed Michael Cates (retired museum curator) with an interesting topic entitled “Margate Millers”. This talk will focus on Drapers Mill but will also include various other long-gone mills. Members are very honoured as Michael does not give talks very often, so this is one not to be missed!

We hope you will come along and give your support on this evening.

Best wishes

Pamela

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2024

Please note that all meetings are held at Holy Trinity Margate Hall, Margate CT9 3TN. Refreshments, merchandise and raffle tickets will be on sale every evening. Talks commence at 1930 hrs and attendees are requested to be seated by 1920 hrs.

2 May

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

Topic: **Margate Millers.** The talk will focus on Drapers Mill but will also include various other long-gone mills.

Speaker: **Michael Cates (retired museum curator)**

6 June

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

Topic: **A special 80th anniversary D-Day talk**, entitled “A short talk on the longest day” which takes the form of a virtual battlefield tour.

Speaker: **Steve Hookins (After-dinner speaker and historical presentations)**

(Please note prior to the raffle, there will be a collection for Cancer Research UK.)

4 July

Guests: £4.50 nominal fee

Topic: **TOWN PRIDE AWARDS** (followed by refreshments and raffle)
Following the awards, a complimentary glass of wine, juice, cup of tea or coffee will then be served, enabling an opportunity for Members to mingle.

There is no meeting in August 2024. Please see the next newsletter for future 2024 talks or visit www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Birchington Heritage Trust

On the 30th May, Trust Chairman Neville Hudson will be delivering a talk about the development of The Centre, as part of a weekend of celebrations marking 50 years since it opened.

This event is free to members of the Trust but all are welcome (non-members are asked to make a donation to the Trust). Membership of the Trust is open to everyone. Our new year starts on 1 May. Single adult membership is only £10; or £15 for two adults living at the same address.

For details of future talks, please visit – www.birchingtonheritagetrust.org.uk

The Westgate on Sea Heritage Centre

On Saturday 5th May, Robin Colyer will be talking about “West of the Brooks” which will be an interesting look at the Westbrook area.

On Saturday 1st July, Sally Whitworth will be looking at Street Lodge (now Streete Court) and other buildings in Westgate-on-Sea.

The events will be at Christ Church URC, Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea. Doors open at 10 am and the talk starts at 10.30 am. Non-members are welcome and pay just £2 on the door.

Visit www.westgateheritagecentre.org.uk for more information

THREE TRIBUTES TO GEOFF ORTON (1946-2023)

It was shortly after Geoff retired from a job in the publishing world and moved house from the London area to Westgate-on-Sea for his retirement, that he joined Margate Civic Society in the summer of 2011. Geoff made an immediate impact by volunteering his services to our Society whenever the opportunity arose. Needless to say, when the position of Secretary became vacant a little over a year after he joined our Society, Geoff immediately offered to take on the role which he continued to hold until 2021 when he began to suffer from serious health problems.

Geoff's attitude to any local organisation which attracted his interest was to 'throw his hat into the ring' in order to be involved. In addition to joining Margate Civic Society, Geoff was also a member of the Thanet Archaeological Society, Draper's Mill Trust, CPRE (formerly the Council for the Preservation of Rural England), Monkton Nature Reserve and CAMRA (Campaign for Real Ale). Geoff was even co-opted to serve on Westgate-on-Sea Town Council's Planning & Environment Committee but he gave that up after only a few months due to finding himself unable to work with certain town councillors! But the establishment that meant most to Geoff was undoubtedly The Margate School (TMS). He was possibly their most ardent supporter and would volunteer to help the TMS in any way that he could. Geoff, in my opinion, ought to have been invited to participate in the Margate Town Team's deliberations as the representative of Margate Civic Society but, for some unknown reason, the Society was never invited to nominate a member to serve on the Margate Town Team.

From a personal point of view, Geoff was a great help to me in the distribution of printed copies of our Newsletter. I would pick them up from the Copy Shop at St Peter's and drop them off at Geoff's house in the knowledge that he would arrange, with much efficiency and without any fuss, the hand-delivery of the majority of the printed copies and post the remainder to those of our members who lived outside our area.

Geoff was a great character and is sorely missed by his many friends and acquaintances as evidenced by the very large number of mourners who attended Geoff's funeral on 2nd January – including Sir Roger Gale MP.

James Brazier - Newsletter Editor 2005-2020 and Vice President MCS



Geoff Orton carrying the Town Mace at the Margate Clock Tower event organised by Margate Civic Society to mark the restoration of the Time Ball atop the Clock Tower in April 2014. Geoff stood in as Acting Town Sergeant on that occasion and carried off the role with great aplomb! Photo: James Brazier

Tribute from Uwe Derksen

A wonderful man, someone who, without any sort of self-interest, batted for Margate! It was not nexpected, yet still a shock and deeply upsetting, to have found that Geoff is no longer amongst us. Geoff's passing is a loss to his family and friends but also to The Margate School, Monkton Nature Reserve, Margate Civic Society, Margate Town Team, Margate Rotary Club, Thanet District Committee CPRE, Margate Museum, CAMARA, Margate in Bloom, Western Front Association and many other initiatives and organisations in Thanet and those in Margate and Westgate in particular.

He gave his time and vast knowledge selflessly and often with great determination. He supported local film makers lending his voice, planted trees and acted as a steward. He supported me, like he supported many others. He helped me in my efforts to get The Margate School off the ground from the very early days and was instantly committed to the concept of The Margate School when we first met in 2015. He continued to do so literally until his very last days when we were still in communication. Only earlier this year he had agreed to become a trustee of the newly formed The Margate School CIO charity.

Geoff was a man with many interesting anecdotes, which, as many will know, he generously shared. Some, I must admit, I could not always follow, not least as he would love to throw in the odd Latin phrase.

He was especially keen to reference Julius Caesar. In his communication, Geoff would always seek connections to someone else's story. In spring 2019 I went to the Tandragee 100 motorbike road race in rural Northern Ireland. In September 2019 Geoff went to the Isle of Man and sent me a postcard saying:-

"a good place for kippers and motor bikes and trams! Geoff
Ps. Beer £3 a pint"

His contributions to Margate and to the many initiatives, and for me and my colleagues The Margate School specifically, are too numerous to mention all. Geoff would help sweep floors and unload deliveries, advise on legal issues, organise important conferences on regeneration and sustainability. He contributed significantly in putting The Margate School on the map and I would like to think he did so for Margate too.

Tribute from Pat Morrish

Since living in Westgate for the last ten years, it has been an honour and a pleasure to have Geoff as a friend to, both myself, and his 'Brummie buddy' Dave, welcoming him into our home many times, particularly when his companionship and intellectual stimulation was just what was needed to give Dave a 'lift' and help him still feel part of the community that he loved, albeit at a distance at that time.

They were true friends who found one another late in life, but nevertheless became kindred spirits, passionate about their many shared interests, and definitely of a 'like kind', bookends perhaps!

His friendship will never be forgotten by me and my family. God Bless you Geoff. X



Above: Geoff with Dave Morrish

UPDATE FROM THE MARGATE MUSEUMS TRUST by Felicity Stafford

THE TUDOR HOUSE GARDENS NEED SOME HELP!



The gardens of the Tudor House are a calm and peaceful oasis in the middle of the busy Old Town. Have you ever stopped to admire them? Or wondered who looks after them? The answer is that volunteers from the Margate Museums Trust put in all the hard work for the benefit of the people of Margate.

MMT needs some extra volunteers to keep them looking lush and green. If you could donate some spare time or expertise to help, please give MMT a ring, an e-mail or drop into the Museum during opening times.

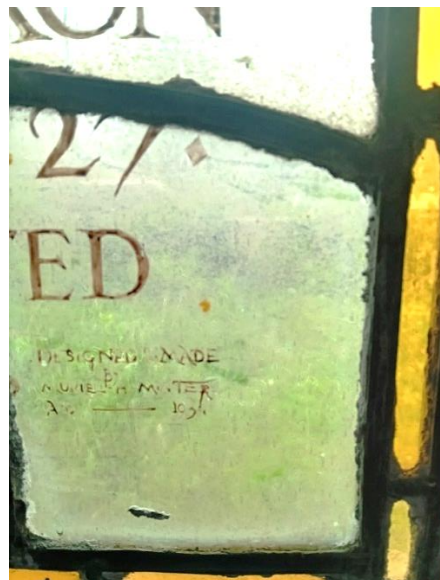
Margate Museum is in the Market Place, Margate, CT9 1EN.

Telephone 01843 231213. E-mail info@margatemuseums.org

Usual Opening Times and Prices: Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays from 11 am to 3 pm.
Last entry at 2.15 pm. Adults - £2. Concessions - £1.50. Accompanied Children (up to 16) free.

UNIQUE STAINED GLASS

On Sunday, 14th April 2024, I was moved to examine a couple of stained-glass windows in the Northeast transept of St Paul's Church, Cliftonville. The inscription read, 'Designed and made by Muriel H* Minter, 1937'. Curiosity piqued, I googled the name and was thrilled to discover that this female artist, studied at Rochester and was a contemporary of Barbara Hepworth, whose currently on exhibition at the Turner Contemporary. *H stands for "mythical hunter of God" in Celtic tradition. Muriel was Welsh born.



ALFRED DELLER COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE IN ST JOHN'S
by Mike Wilton



Some years ago, Dr John Whyman, noted local historian and life member of the Society, suggested that the Society provide a Blue Plaque to commemorate perhaps Margate's most famous musician, Alfred Deller. Covid and the lockdown intervened, but for the past twelve months, Robin Colyer, Mike Thompson and I have been working towards the installation of a plaque in St John's Church, where Alfred was a chorister in his early teens.

Alfred Deller was born on 31st May 1912, probably in Clifton Terrace, Margate, now part of Northdown Road. At an early age, he sang in the choir of St John's Church, subsequently joining the choir of Canterbury Cathedral. He married Kathleen Lowe, known as Peggy, in 1937 and they had three children. Alfred suffered a fatal heart attack on 16th July 1979, whilst working in Bologna. He and Peggy are buried in the churchyard of All Saints Church in Boughton Aluph.

As shown in the following biography, he became world-famous, recording over 130 albums, many of which are still available.

Robin was tireless in submitting our proposal to the Canterbury Diocesan Advisory Committee (DAC). Eventually, following rather a lot of bureaucracy, we received permission from the Commissary General of the Diocese for the plaque to be installed. The one change is that our original submission was for a traditional Blue Plaque, but the DAC asked that a wooden plaque be provided instead. Mike Thompson has been working closely with the manufacturer of the plaque.

We are very pleased that Alfred's eldest son, Mark, will be joining us to unveil the plaque to his father at an evensong service at St John's. Mark is himself a distinguished musician who sang duets with his father on a number of occasions. He has sung in the choir of St Paul's Cathedral and has served as Director of the Canterbury Festival and, from 1975 to 2019, Festival Director of Stour Music. He is pictured below singing with his father. We will also welcome Alfred's daughter, Jill, and possibly his second son, Simon.

The Society's grateful thanks are due to Dr John Whyman and his brother Colin, who both live in Spain. They not only proposed the provision of the commemorative plaque but have been most supportive throughout and have paid for the purchase of the plaque. Regrettably, they will not be able to attend the service.

We hope that members will be able to join us at the special evensong service to celebrate the installation of the plaque. It is planned that a countertenor will join the St John's choir. In the words of the churchwarden, Ann Smith, we hope to do Alfred proud. The service will be held on Sunday 2nd June at 4.00pm and all are most welcome.

ALFRED GEORGE DELLER CBE BIOGRAPHY

Alfred Deller (1912–1979) was an English singer and one of the most renowned countertenors of the 20th century, credited with revitalizing interest in early music and establishing the countertenor voice as a legitimate soloist in the classical music world.

Born in Margate, Alfred's early musical training was as a choirboy at Canterbury Cathedral. His exceptional voice was evident from a young age, and he later studied composition and voice at the Royal College of Music in London.

During World War II, Alfred served in the Army, where he continued to develop his musical talents, singing for fellow soldiers and performing in concerts for the troops. It was during this time that he began to explore the repertoire of early English music, particularly the works of composers such as Henry Purcell.

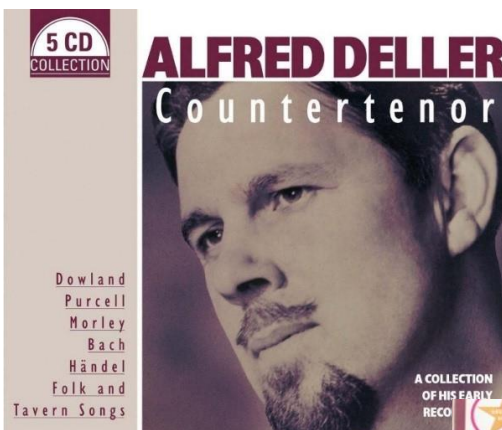
After the war, he embarked on a professional career as a singer, quickly gaining recognition for his unique vocal timbre and expressive interpretations. He became particularly associated with the performance of Renaissance and Baroque music, specializing in works by composers such as John Dowland, Thomas Tallis, and J.S. Bach.

His performances were characterized by their purity of tone, impeccable phrasing, and deep emotional resonance. He possessed an extraordinary vocal range and an ability to convey the subtlest nuances of the music he sang, earning him widespread acclaim from audiences and critics alike.

In addition to his solo career, Alfred founded the Deller Consort in 1948, a vocal ensemble dedicated to the performance of early music. The group achieved considerable success, touring extensively and recording numerous acclaimed albums.

Throughout his career, he remained committed to the promotion and preservation of early music, collaborating with leading musicians and scholars to research and revive forgotten works. His contributions to the revival of early music and the elevation of the countertenor voice earned him numerous accolades, including a Grammy Award for Lifetime Achievement in 1979.

Alfred Deller's legacy endures today through his recordings, which continue to inspire and captivate audiences, and his influence on generations of countertenors who have followed in his footsteps.



Alfred Deller Album



Mark and Alfred Deller



Alfred and Mark Deller Album (right)

ARNOLD SCHWARTZMAN OBE, RDI, FRSA – HONORARY FREEMAN OF MARGATE by Pamela Pople

I was absolutely delighted when I received Arnold's invitation to this momentous, prestigious event and here are some photographs taken on his very special day.



The beautiful, colourful invitation designed by Arnold Schwartzman for his Honorary Freeman of Margate Investiture.



A very smart Arnold Schwartzman posing at Turner Contemporary before receiving his prestigious Award.



The ceremony: Arnold receiving his Award from the Town Mayor of Margate: Cllr Rob Yates, aided by the Town Sargeant.



Posing in the sunshine after the ceremony: Arnold and Isolde



Sir Ben Kingsley with Isolde and Arnold



Procession leaving Turner Contemporary after the Ceremony



l-r The Town Mayor, Isolde, Uwe Derksen (Director of The Margate School), Arnold and Sir Ben Kingsley



Honorary Freeman of Margate: Arnold Schwartzman OBE RDI FRSA enjoying a celebratory glass of bubbly at the reception at The Margate School

Congratulations!

AN APPRECIATION OF THE TOWN by Arnold Schwartzman, OBE, RDI, FRSA



On Friday September 29th, a most perfect sunny day, I was ceremoniously appointed as an Honorary Freeman of Margate by the Trustees.

A most grateful honour from the town I grew up in and provided me with the tools that shaped the career that I so very much enjoy to this day. Following in the footsteps of Sir Winston Churchill and more recently Tracey Emin, a person whom I admire, not only for her acclaimed position in the art world but also for her unstinting generosity and devotion to Margate.

The ceremony held on the terrace of the Turner Contemporary Gallery, which was followed by a reception at The Margate School, was presided over by His Worship the Mayor of Margate Rob Yates, Mayoress Iris Johnson, Town Clerk Ingrid Spencer, and Uwe Derksen, the Director of The Margate School, the art school of which I'm most proud to be its Patron.

Over one hundred guests attended the event, each representing many of the landmark stepping stones of my life and career, along with my wife, Isolde and daughter Hannah, cousins, and in-laws. Regrettably, my Margate born sister Diana was unable to join us due to her current disability. My late parents, who are laid to rest in Margate's St. John's Cemetery, would have been so proud to have learnt of the occasion.

Attendees included my oldest friend, John Tribe, a fellow King Ethelbert School pupil, he plus two other former designer colleagues from my days working in television joined us, all three becoming internationally celebrated artists. Two former British Ambassadors, Oscar winning Actor, Sir Ben Kingsley who so graciously came from Hollywood to pay tribute to me, Hugo Fenwick, the former Kent Ambassador, and a director of TMS, six fellow Royal Designers.

Long standing local friends including Jane Bishop of the Walpole Bay Hotel, James Brazier, Jan Ryan the director of ARK the cultural space that now occupies the former Margate Synagogue, plus members of that congregation, the Margate Civic Society, brethren of Margate's Freemasons Union Lodge, representatives of BAFTA and the British United Services Club, Los Angeles. Last but by no means least, I appreciated the attendance of my fellow Freeperson Tracey Emin who I was pleased to discover had shyly positioned herself among the throng! She like myself had benefited from a rounded education at Thanet's Holy Trinity and King Ethelbert schools, and later as students at the University for the Creative Arts, which I later became a member of the University's board of governors.

In conclusion, I wish to offer my gratitude to Uwe Derksen of the Margate School for initiated the prestigious honour, an accolade which I deem to be among the most significant of those that I have had the good fortune to receive in the past. All of which would not have happened without the collaboration & loving support of my wife Isolde.

Today I have the pleasure of witnessing my beloved Margate reinvent itself as a universally respected Gateway to the Arts.

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES **by Arnold Schwartzman, OBE, RDI, FRSA OBI**

Following the brilliant memories of Cliftonville featured in the Winter Newsletter, written by Joanna Brown, her happy youth paralleled my own so much I thought I must share with you some of my memories. The mention of Butlin's Red Coats indicated that my memories of my youth growing up in Cliftonville were prior to Butlin's arrival in Cliftonville. At age fifteen my father had worked as a waiter in Cliftonville and later my parents had their honeymoon there. So, I gather that at war's end it seemed to be a familiar friendly place for us to resettle our lives. Our first home was in Warwick Road where my mother ran a boarding house while my father was engaged as the manager of the Walpole Bay Hotel. At age nine I would wait each day under the canopy of the remains of the bombed Astoria Cinema on Northdown Road to get my bus to attend Holy Trinity School opposite the war damaged Holy Trinity Church, since then completely demolished.

Over the road from our home, "Rosanda", a combination of my parents' names, Rose & David was a bomb site of a demolished house destroyed during the war. One day I was playing in the open basement with a couple of friends when one of them threw a large piece of roofing slate down which hit me on the head, I ran home bleeding at which my mother rushed me to a doctor in Cornwall Gardens who following a few stitches she gave me a bar of rationed Cadburys chocolate for my bravery! Which brings me to Moylers, the corner confectionary shop on the corner of our street and Northdown Road. There I would eagerly pick up my weekly copies of Film Fun and recall the day of the end of sweet rationing.

Following several successful busy years my parents purchased the former Kingsthorpe on Lewis Crescent right opposite the Art Deco lift down to Walpole Bay where I would gather the war's numerous spent brass shells, one day I brought home much to my mother's horror a mortar bomb! Later the small cowry shells which I continue to gather during my frequent return visits to this day. As I could not swim, I would float in my army surplus rubber dinghy in the tidal pool. Next door to our right at number 13 was the newly named Hotel Majestic was the Edwardian summer residence of margarine magnate, Jacob Van Den Bergh who had in 1938 given it as refuge to the Kindertransport children, sadly it was demolished and replaced by a block of flats.

When we moved into the Majestic, I would enjoy playing inside the deserted mansion which became a hospital for New Zealand soldiers following the evacuation from Dunkirk. I admired the creative graffiti on the walls of the building's rotunda. Next to the Hall was the Bowling Green where I would lazily watch lying on the grass bank the annual Bowls tournament.

Close to the Queen's Promenade was an enclosure which housed the town's Metrological instruments, under the supervision of Mr. John Turner who allowed me to assist him in his daily recording of Margate's weather. My friend, Chris Fright, the Sunbeam photographer would patrol along the promenade photographing the numerous visitors. A few years ago, I interviewed him about those early days when he told me that at the Sunbeam lab in Sweyn Road, they would process each day as many as 60,000 photographs! Yet more holiday makers visited the Majestic during the summer months enabling my parents to purchase the next door building the former "Carisbrooke".

In the Majestic's entrance hall was a large board advertising The Winter Gardens and the Lido and other local entertainment venues. This provided us with free tickets to the shows, where we enjoyed the pleasure of seeing at the Winter Gardens, Tommy Cooper, Tony Steel, Gracie Fields, Beniamino Gigli and Laurel & Hardy. Behind the Pavilion a mechanical elephant would give children rides up and down the slope, it was later owned by Peter Sellers. At the Lido we were entertained by Reg Varney and Benny Hill appearing in "Gaytime". On Sundays during the summer, I would visit Dane Park to watch the cricket on occasion the comedic duo would sit behind me on the grass bank, while armed with my book on how to draw faces that I had bought from Lovely's art store on Northdown Road, I would carefully copy from the book's examples. On one occasion Benny Hill leaned over to me and remarked that my noses were coming along nicely!

During the winter months we lived in our home in Avenue Gardens. At age eleven failing my eleven plus taken at Chatham House School, Ramsgate, I attended King Ethelbert's School in Birchington. On leaving school at fifteen I obtained employment as the assistant projectionist at the Cameo Cinema on Northdown road. There I projected some of my favourite MGM musicals starring the likes of Esther Williams, Ann Miller and Danny Kaye who I got to know on my move to live and work in Hollywood. Despite my love of film, I wished to pursue my love for drawing. Good fortune came in the guise of two guests at the Majestic. The first being, Abram Games, the famous poster designer, the second was Ralph Sallon the distinguished

Newspaper caricaturist, both of whom encouraged me to attend the Thanet School of Arts & Crafts in Hawley Square.

The rest as they say is history.

Arnold Schwartzman

Two of the places mentioned by Arnold in his 'Thanks for the Memories'



Warwick Road, Cliftonville
Queens Promenade, Cliftonville





Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity (No.257884) and a founder member of Civic Voice. 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.

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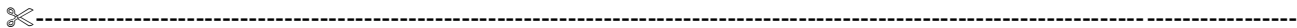
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