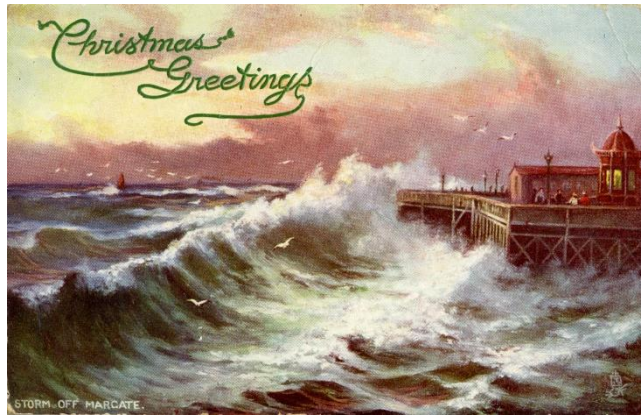




# Margate Civic Society

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER  
ISSUE NO. 413

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



**The Margate Civic Society Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish members a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

## CHAIR'S REPORT

*Dear Members*

How are you all?

This year has continued to be a very unsettled, frightening time with so much sadness and loss of life. We send our thoughts and prayers to those affected by the conflict in Ukraine and the Middle East in the hope that peace may find a way.

I hope that most of 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 like a mention in the Spring 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 two have sadly passed away since the autumn newsletter was published.

**Fred Piggott:** I was saddened to hear of the passing of Life Member Fred, who died on 29 October at the age of 94. Fred had been unable to attend meetings over the past few years due to his deteriorating health, being cared for initially at Shottendane Nursing Home and since June last year, residing at Maurice House, British Legion care home, where he was very settled and received excellent care.

I have fond memories of Fred when he attended our Christmas Quiz a few years ago. He enjoyed himself, despite receiving the lowest score and his face was absolutely delighted when I gave him a prize for coming last! You will see in this edition, I have included a tribute to Fred, details of which were provided at an uplifting remembrance service organised by the Thanet Male Voice Choir that was held at St Andrew's Church on 24

November that my husband, Ray, and I attended, together with Pat and Tony Snow, Harry Scobie, Glenys and Richard Clements and Steve Villette. Our thoughts are with his wife Pam at this sad time, and we look forward to welcoming her back once again next year when we resume our meetings.

**Geoff Orton:** Earlier this month, I received an email from Uwe Derksen (Director of The Margate School and MCS Member) with the devastating news that our very proactive, enthusiastic former Honorary Secretary and friend: Geoff Orton had passed away suddenly at his home. Geoff had been very ill for some time, and I maintained contact with him every month to see how he was progressing. His passing has come as something of a shock, as Geoff had thought that, following treatment and months of pain, he was at last turning a corner and on the way to recovery. Alas, this was not to be.

The following tribute was posted by Kathy Bailes on-line. Uwe Derksen, Director of The Margate School has also written a moving tribute to Geoff who had been a main stalwart supporter since its inception: -

<https://thisislofthantnews.com/2023/12/06/tribute-paid-to-witty-and-generous-community-stalwart-geoff-orton/>

Geoff was exceedingly proud when opportunity presented itself by representing our Committee at very 'high profile' events and Mike Wilton and I both had the same thought of including the two photographs (see next page), taken in 2015 at a Civic Voice Event in the St James State Apartments which illustrate this admirably: the first being introduced to the then HRH the Prince of Wales and the second, holding the 2015 Civic Design Award Plaque for 'The Harbour Steps' which also won our Town Pride Plaque in the same year.



*Civic Voice Event in St James' State Apartments*



*An exceptionally proud Geoff!*

Details of Geoff's funeral arrangements have now been confirmed and will take place at the Thanet Crematorium, Crematorium & Cemeteries, Manston Road, Margate CT9 4LY on Tuesday, 2 January 2024 at 1:00 pm. As this is very recent news, a special tribute will be included in the spring edition and contributions are welcome from Members who knew him and had fond memories. There will also be a minute's silence in Geoff's memory at our March meeting.

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

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**Blue Plaque Leaflets:** these were revised and updated in memory of our past President Ralph Handscomb. Some Members have already kindly made donations, so if you would also like to contribute, please let us know, either by sending a donation by post or on-line. Mike Wilton kindly oversaw the design free-of-charge, and these are now on sale at a cost of just £2.00 each. We do hope that you will support this small, worthwhile project which not only raises the profile of our Society and the famous people connected with our area but represents a project that was close to Ralph's heart.

**Membership:** You will see our Treasurer's Report further on and I hope you will support us by renewing your annual Membership this year and thank those Life Members who have already made donations, which is very gratifying. 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 over the past year and for their 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! The summer meetings have proved very popular, with the 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, who has now returned to work, following recuperation from an operation. 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 in 2024 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:** I have now finalised this, full details of which are included 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 **80<sup>th</sup> 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. 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, 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:** The two Mikes (Wilton and Thompson) have continued to work diligently for over a year, which has continued to be challenging and somewhat frustrating. Robin Colyer has also been giving assistance, which has been much appreciated! A full report will be given as soon as they are able to do so.

**Tour of Margate Caves:** My thanks to Kate Wilson for organising this for Members, which was a great success, as you will see further on in this edition.

**One: One Collection Visit:** Now that Frank Martin at Hornby has confirmed that they have received planning consent for the car park and next phase of the works, this is to remind you that Mike Thompson is keen to organise a second visit for Members, details of which will be revealed in February. Something to look forward to in the spring when hopefully the weather will be a little warmer so watch this space!

**Newsletter:** With edition thirteen being published this December, what was once a new regime quarterly newsletter edition, this is now well-established, with Sally as Editor and the Editorial Team: Mike Wilton, Mike Thompson, and me working together. We have received a very positive response from Members wishing to make contributions, for which I am very 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 and Joanna Brown 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, etc, please let me know. I hope that you will enjoy reading your Winter Edition and welcome feedback as it is always good to hear from you, especially if it is favourable!

**Historical Walks:** Vice-President, Robin Colyer's final walk of the year entitled "**Cliftonville Walk**" was held on 28 October and I am delighted that he has confirmed he will be continuing with a new programme of enjoyable and informative walks in 2024. I would like to take this opportunity to thank 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 with a nominal donation requested of £5.00 minimum per person. Please don't forget that Robin is also willing to organise private walks, so should you have any

enquiries: you can contact him on his mobile: **07878 537 448**. To whet your appetite, details of three of these (including a **new walk** in June) are given below:

**Saturday, 13th April** 2pm from the Droit House: **“Old Town Walk”**  
**Saturday 18th May** 2pm from the Droit House: **“Maritime Margate”**  
**Saturday, 15th June** 2pm from Holy Trinity Church **“Northdown to Walpole Bay”**

## Community News

**The Margate School:** With so much on offer to benefit the community: TMS is an exciting venue in Margate High Street, with studio spaces for hire, a darkroom, various guest lectures and exhibitions, workshops, short courses, FabLab and venue hire. Various exciting Post Graduate courses are also offered: ‘The Still and Moving Image’, ‘Visual Communication Design’, ‘European Fine Art Masters’, and ‘Sound Arts.’

Should you wish to find out more, see [www.themargateschool.com](http://www.themargateschool.com)

**Cliftonville Farmers’ Market** was 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 very 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. The dates for the next quarter are 29 January, 26 February and 26 March. For further details, contact [cliftonvillefm@yahoo.com](mailto:cliftonvillefm@yahoo.com) or ring 07568 37901.

**Wilderness-to-Wonderland:** This successful, commendable community project, under the Chairmanship of founder, Rory Waitt continues to demonstrate civic pride, engaging with a group of diverse volunteers. For more information contact [Rorywaitt008@gmail.com](mailto:Rorywaitt008@gmail.com); Instagram; or Facebook



*Rory Waitt on the right with other volunteers involved in Wilderness-to-Wonderland*

**GRASS Cliftonville CIC - Oval Bandstand & Lawns:** This group has had a very busy year. To see the latest news of what was organised in 2023, together with details of their outdoor cinema viewings and other activities planned for 2024, see their website: [www.theovalbandstand.co.uk](http://www.theovalbandstand.co.uk) or email them at [info@theovalbandstand.co.uk](mailto:info@theovalbandstand.co.uk).

**A Date for Your New Diary:** The first meeting of our new programme is being held on **Thursday, 7 March**, commencing at **1930 hrs** with attendees requested to be seated by 1915 hrs. Our speaker will be Sally Whitworth, who is our Newsletter Editor with an interesting topic entitled **“Westgate-on- Sea a New Town.”**

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

*Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and Good Health, Happiness, and Peace in 2024.*

*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.

There will be no meetings in January or February 2024

### 7 March

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

**Topic:** "Westgate-on-Sea - a New Town". **Speaker:** Sally Whitworth (Newsletter Editor, Margate Civic Society and Westgate Heritage Centre)

### 4 April

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

**Topic:** "Boys and Girls Come Out to Play" Dolls, teddies, yo-yo's, train sets. What toys did you play with as a child? **Speaker:** Felicity Stafford (Vice President, MCS & Margate Museum Trustee)

### 2 May

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

**Topic:** "Margate Millers". This interesting talk will tend to focus on Drapers Mill but will also include other long-gone mills.

**Speaker:** **Michael Cates** (Retired Museum curator who ran working museums locally and in other parts of the country). Michael is a real authority on windmilling history, has been involved in research on families who were involved in the trade and was also involved in the restoration at Drapers.

### 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 highlighting some of the events and individuals involved on this momentous day.

**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.

August No meeting (summer recess)

### 5 September

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

**Topic:** " We Will Burn Yours Barns - Rural Unrest in East Kent in the 1830s".  
**Speaker:** **Robin Colyer** (Vice President, Margate Civic Society and Local Historian)

### 3 October

(Renewal of Subs Due)

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

**Topic:** Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk entitled: - "My Life in the Theatre and the World of Entertainment"

**Speaker:** **Gordon Clarkson** (Margate born, Thanet based, Theatrical Producer, Entertainer, Writer and Public Speaker)

There will be no meetings in November or December 2024

**FREDERICK HARRY PIGGOTT**  
**27 July 1929 to 29 October 2023**



*(Courtesy of Thanet Male Voice Choir)*

Fred was born in Gillingham, Kent but brought up as a country lad in Sandhurst, near Tenterden, by his mum and dad who was the village policeman.

A child of the Second World War, Fred watched the Battle of Britain raging overhead, followed the horse-drawn plough, went ferreting for rabbits with his dad and often reminisced about evacuee girls, Land Army girls and “hopping tackle” as the young girls of the London families who came down to Kent for the hop-picking were called - always one for the ladies but always a gentleman.

He won a place to Cranbrook Grammar School and later became a Health-Inspector before doing his National Service as an Instructor with the Royal Army Medical Corps after which he resumed his lifelong career as an Environmental Health Officer; a job that he did with compassion and common sense.

At one time he kept an aviary of budgerigars but always supported women in sport (darts and hockey in particular) by organising their trophies and fixtures. A keen “Gills” supporter, Fred took his son Ian to football matches from a very early age, and they remained loyal to the “Gills throughout his life.” Fred took office in whatever he joined, giving of his diplomatic but methodical organisational skills to groups as varied as the Maidstone Cage Bird Society, Ladies Sport Leagues and, when he retired and moved to Thanet, Margate Civic Society, Margate Probus Club, Margate RNLI, Westbrook Bowls Club, Foreland Special School, and Thanet Male Voice Choir (TMVC) and Thanet Festival Choir. He also enjoyed cooking, BBQ’s, gardening and tending his allotment. Fred and Pam met through work, married in 1987 and lived very happily in Thanet thereafter amongst many friends and family near and far. Although Fred had never travelled before he met Pam, he soon made up for lost time and enjoyed travelling all over Europe.

Amazingly, Fred was well enough to attend a concert for the Poppy Appeal Launch where he and Pam spent a lovely, if emotional evening out together singing along with Fred’s beloved Male Voice Choir, happily surrounded by friends. At 6.00 am the following morning, Fred had peacefully breathed his last. A ‘Grand Finale’ to a long life very well lived.



*Pamela presenting Fred with a cheque from Margate Civic Society for RNLI (Margate) in 2015, as a donation from the Society from its surplus Time Ball funds. (Photograph courtesy of James Brazier).*

## MOLLIE HOLDEN – 100<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION by Mike Thompson



It is with the greatest pleasure that we are able to report this wonderful achievement by one of our members. Mollie Holden, a Westgate resident, celebrated the event on 28th September 2023.

As well as receiving the congratulatory card from Buckingham Palace, a few extra surprises included a trip to her hairdressers where she was presented with a birthday sash and a mini tiara. A birthday cake came from her neighbours decorated with scrabble letters in recognition of her having hosted the local Scrabble club. More cake and flowers were the order of the day too at her favourite destination for coffee at the M&S store at Westwood Cross.

Mollie told me she had joined up in 1941 at the age of 18 and became a WAAF in the Royal Air Force. Based at Gloucester she was part of a team looking after personnel records.

At the end of the war she was demobbed and looked forward to some time to herself but her mother had other ideas and saw an advert for a job with a local coal merchant so it was straight back to work. To this day she can still remember the price of 'nutty slack', a very low grade of coal dust mixed with small lumps (nuts) of coal and, being such poor quality was not rationed after the war!

It was an absolute joy and a pleasure to meet this lovely lady and I wish her all the very best for the future - Happy Christmas Mollie and all the very best for 2024.



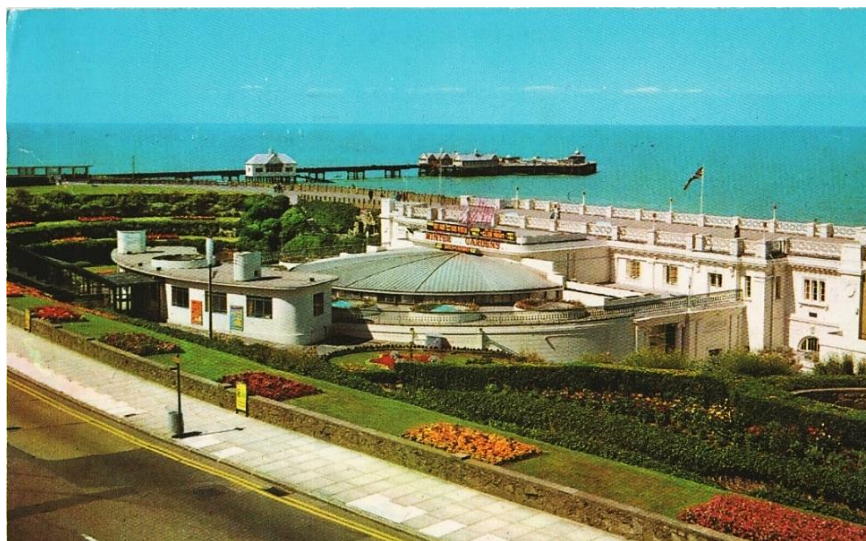
*Mollie is in the front row, second from the left*

**UPDATE FROM THE MARGATE MUSEUMS TRUST**  
by Felicity Stafford

The focus for the current exhibition for 2024 is:

**THE WINTER GARDENS**

The Winter Gardens was the premier entertainment venue in Margate. It hosted a variety of entertainment from its opening in the 1900's. These included national orchestras, operatic stars, TV stars, pop groups as well as local operatic and dance groups. Dinner dances in the Main Hall allowed people the chance to dance on a beautiful sprung floor. Come along and take a look at some of the original posters and see how many performers you can remember.



*The Winter Gardens in the 1960s*

**PLEASE NOTE: THE MUSEUM IS CLOSED UNTIL THE END OF JANUARY 2024.**

**Margate Museum** is in The Market Place, Margate, CT9 1EN. Telephone: 01843 231213. 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.

**The Birchington Heritage Trust's** next event is on Thursday 29 February 2024.

**Archaeological Landscape Mapping Project**

Victoria Hosegood, Heritage Conservation Team at Kent County Council, will be giving a talk about the new Archaeological Landscape Mapping Project which began in 2023. The objective is to produce a map and compendium of current related research and information or all the sites in Thanet.

The event will as usual be held at The Centre, Birchington at 7.30 pm (doors open 7pm). Free to our members, guests invited to make a donation of £3.

For details of future talks, please visit

**[www.birchingtonheritagetrust.org.uk](http://www.birchingtonheritagetrust.org.uk)**

**The Westgate on Sea Heritage Centre's** next talk will be on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2024

**Remembering the six men whose names are inscribed on Christ Church War Memorial Tablet**

In this illustrated talk, James will tell the stories of each of the six men and where they are commemorated by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission. The tablet was unveiled over a century ago and it is important that these men are not forgotten. The tablet was unveiled by a brother of one of the men named on the tablet and it is hoped that a grandson of that man will be able to attend the meeting on Saturday, 6 January 2024. The talk will end with details of some now forgotten local WWI 'war trophies'.

The event 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.



## MEMORIES OF A CHILDHOOD IN CLIFTONVILLE... Part 1: Walpole Bay to Foreness Bay

Summer days in the 60s..... I run down Cornwall Gardens where I live, across Eastern Esplanade, past the Walpole Bay hotel on my right, the bowling green behind the glossy green hedge to my left. Redcoats from the Butlin's hotels out on the lawns, entertaining the children in their care. The photograph kiosk with its battered-looking Sunbeam donkey, people gathered round the window display, eager to find their photos. Down the stone stairs, the grey steps hot under my bare feet, tiny fragments of mica glistening in the sunshine, then the boardwalk to the sundeck with its beach goods stall – sandcastle flags emblazoned with our national flags, five for 6d. The fruit stall too, its toffee apples simply the best in the world! The sundeck café, rarely ventured into with my few pennies, just occasionally to buy some Daddies' cookies. And on the other side of the café, the ice-cream kiosk with its wafers, cones and ice-lollies, a magnet for all the children.

Under the sundeck all is cool and dark, the sand cold even on the sunniest day. Behind the sundeck, the hot dry soft sand where the sea never reaches. On the other side, damp golden sands extend far out towards the tidal pool with its rocky surrounds, the walls lined with seaweed waving its fronds dreamily, especially noticeable round the rough stone steps. Donkeys walking patiently back and forth giving rides – some familiar names are Blondie, Elvis, Ole Bill, Timmy.....Ole Bill is my firm favourite! Pedalos for hire a little further along the beach when the tide is right, though they are a luxury beyond my family's means.

Hodge's Gap, with its little extra path at the side of the slope leading to the Bungalow Café's ice-cream kiosk, where we buy so many ice-lollies each year. The Bungalow Café itself, with tables outside and its calm air of gentility, families taking tea on the lawn. The gently sloping path from the upper to the lower prom – or scrambling down the grassy slopes instead, racing with our friends for rather more excitement! WW2 bullets are to be found in the cliffs here as well as in the rock pools and are carefully hidden as treasure in the garden at home. The remains of Hodge's flagstaff at the point, a wooden framework gradually disintegrating year by year. The Scout Hut, mysterious and empty-looking, with the scouting emblem painted on the promenade in front of the building, and the sports hut and tennis courts beyond.

Palm Bay and Foreness Bay, where we often go on wild winter walks, our mother insisting that we get some fresh air every day. Hunting for shells, especially the tiny cowrie shells, which are pounced on with huge delight. Shells, fossils, mermaids' purses – we learn so much about nature simply from being out on the beach in all weathers, though in winter we often have to watch out for the many blobs of sticky black tar washed up on the sands amongst the seaweed. Rows of colourful beach-huts brighten up the lower proms in summer. The rather grand lavatory building at the base of the flagstaff steps, where spending a penny means just that. The photo kiosk built into the cliff, another beach goods stall nearby, and then the springy boardwalk leading to the Palm Bay sundeck - the girders beneath this sundeck are our chosen venue for 'secret societies', where we plan glorious adventures and imagine ourselves invisible to anyone who might wander below. Pony rides along the sands in the summer, and families taking full advantage of the lack of rocks in this part of the bay to paddle or to go for a swim further out at low tide.



*Above: Palm Bay in the 1960s*

No fencing at all along much of the clifftop from Palm Bay towards Kingsgate, and often we choose to walk sure-footedly along the clifftop path in the grass, just a couple of feet away from the cliff edge. The two large shelters, waymarks along the prom. That distinctive grassy hump with its small brick structure a short distance inland from the coastguard station at Foreness Point is an air-raid siren and shelter according to children's hearsay, with donkeys grazing in the enclosure there during the winter months. Behind that, the 'gallops' used by the local riding stables.

The beaches and clifftops are our playground, and we are out in all weathers with friends, on our bikes or on foot, seeking out Famous Five-type adventures. Our parents rarely know exactly where we are but seem completely unworried as to our safety so long as we are back home for mealtimes. So many carefree days, so many memories, so many happy times past.....

**Joanna Brown**

*Below: Postcards from the 1960s/1970s - Hodges Gap (top left), another view of Palm Bay (top right) and (bottom) Walpole Bay*



## **CARRYING THE BANNER FOR MARGATE** by Arnold Schwartzman, OBE, RDI, FRSA



Some years ago, I was having dinner with two of my former wife's uncles WWII veterans, one a Dunkirk survivor the other a former Japanese prisoner of war on the island of Formosa. They mentioned that they were going to take part the following day in the annual Jewish ex-servicemen's parade at London's Horse Guards Parade. They then asked if I was going to join them. As I had not served during WWII, I did not think that I was qualified to do so. On reminding me that as I was a veteran who as a National Serviceman had served in the British Army of the Rhine and in South Korea I was entitled to do so. The next morning I arrived early at Horse Guards Parade in order to join the large gathering of fellow veterans. They gathered from each London borough plus contingents that arrived from all over Great Britain, each assembling in their local groups behind Boy Scouts, holding a banner bearing each districts names.

I anxiously looked through the growing throng for my uncles without success, so I finally decided to join the ranks of my former hometown of Margate, however thus far the group had not yet arrived. Suddenly the parade commander gave the order for the Boy Scouts to fall out, at which point the scout carrying the Margate banner turned around to me and handed me the sign. This was soon followed by the command for the parade to quick march. As we passed the saluting dais, with my one hand holding up the sign on the command of "to the right salute" I gave a smart salute to the reviewing General. The parade then marched on through Admiralty Arch and Trafalgar Square making a right wheel into Whitehall where I observed hundreds of cheering spectators.

As Margate's single representative I marched along Whitehall toward the Cenotaph proudly holding aloft my town's banner. I soon heard even louder cheers as the Margate sign was spotted, presumably by the town's former seaside holiday makers! At the conclusion of the parade I telephoned my father to enquire as to what happened to Margate's large Jewish veterans group, explaining that due to the passage of time and the passing of so many of the local Jewish veterans, it was decided to hold the Memorial in Margate.

**Note:** On given the task to carry his regiment's colours onto the last LST out of Inchon to board the troopship, Arnold became the very last of 60,000 British servicemen to serve in the Peninsular.

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## **A VISIT TO THE MARGATE CAVES** by Sally Whitworth

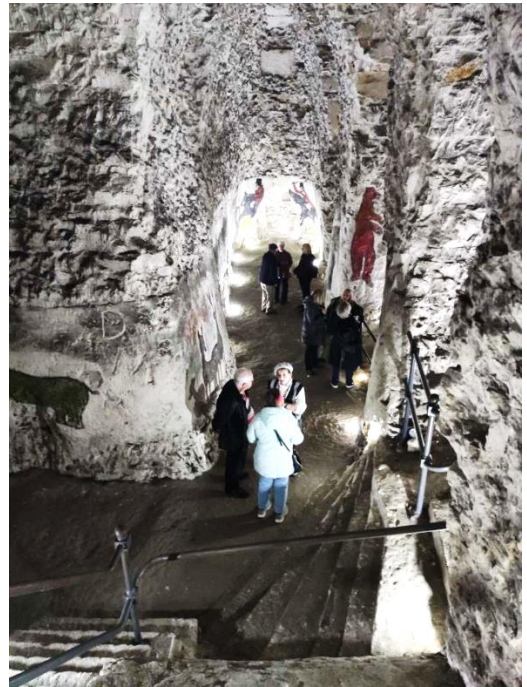
On the 16<sup>th</sup> November, a group of Margate Civic Society members and committee members visited the Margate Caves. The visit was arranged by Kate Wilson (committee member) and everyone arrived at 2 pm on a very wet and windy day, eager to see what the caves had to offer. Some members remembered the caves from years ago, some had visited recently and for others, it was their first visit ever.

The caves are fascinating, originally dug as a chalk mine in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, they have been welcoming visitors since 1863. (A history timeline can be found on the Margate Cave's website - [www.margatecaves.co.uk](http://www.margatecaves.co.uk)).

Outside the main entrance are some preserved tiles which were part of the entrance hall floor of Northumberland House; a Georgian property owned at one time by a Mr Forster, with the caves used as a cellar to the house. Mr Forster was a very well-to-do Northumberland gentleman who had inherited a great deal of money and decided to move to Margate.

Two expert guides explained some of the history of the caves to the group, including information about the drawings on the walls. It would be a shame to spoil a future visit with too many photographs of the caves themselves, but one very interesting fact told to the group, was that, possibly, the man with the top hat in the drawing of the Thanet Hunt was Mr Forster himself, as he enjoyed hunting and that figure had been painted

in a most complimentary way by the artist; perhaps wanting to ensure he kept Mr Forster happy! Among other things, a giant was pointed out to the group, which had been painted when the caves were excavated by students in the 1950s, who wanted to leave something suitable behind as a memory of their visit. A Kentish giant had been considered a suitable subject and this was added alongside other cave drawings.



Above – Members of the Thanet Hunt, possibly showing Mr Forster in the top hat and (right) members of the Margate Civic Society in the Margate Caves.



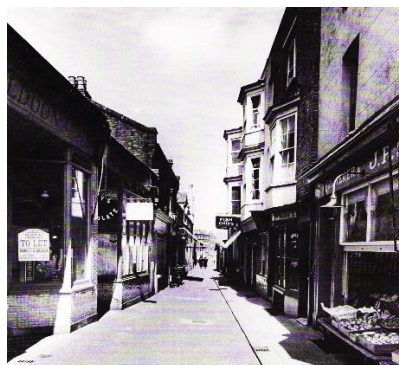
Above – after the subterranean visit, members looked around the visitors' centre. A very good time was had by all!

# A FUN QUIZ TO ROUND OFF THE YEAR

Answers on page 15



1. Where could you see this creature?



2. This street no longer exists in Margate, can you recognise where it was?



3. Can you guess the year donkeys were first seen on the beach in Margate?



4. A well-known dairy in the local area – where could you pop in for a pint of milk?



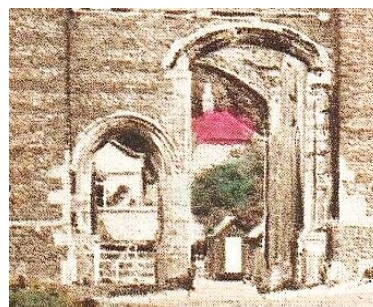
5. This village street is not quite so peaceful today. Where is it?



6. This property was the home of the owner of the London Illustrated News – who was he and where was the building?



7. This area, full of good air, has changed out of all recognition. Where is it?



8. The view through the arch has altered but the old building still stands. Where is it?

9. In what year could you have seen all these events and attractions in Margate and Cliftonville?

**ENTERTAINMENTS**

**WINTER GARDENS**

**CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR**  
AT THE  
**WINTER GARDENS**  
SUNDAY 26th DECEMBER at 8.15 p.m.  
SPECIAL CHRISTMAS EDITION  
**CLUB NIGHT**  
TED & MILDA WITH NOGEL DURANTI ★ HOPKINS  
GERRY BRERETON ALAN SHAZON & ANNE YVONNE ASH  
**THE BERT HAYES QUARTET**  
ADMISSION 30p CHILDREN 15p

MONDAY 27th DECEMBER  
**BOXING DAY DANCES**  
3 p.m. to 6 p.m. | 8 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
**TEA DANCE** | **GALA DANCE**  
AND BOOK YOUR TABLE EARLY! AND FLOOR SHOW | FLOOR SHOW  
TICKETS 10p | 15p | 20p  
**BERT HAYES BAND**  
FRIDAY 31st DECEMBER at 8 p.m.  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION**  
**DINNER DANCE & FLOOR SHOW**  
**BERT HAYES BAND**  
DINNER TICKETS SOLD OUT  
TELEPHONE BOOKINGS MUST BE COLLECTED BY MONDAY 27th DEC  
LIMITED NUMBER DANCE AND FLOOR SHOW TICKETS TO  
**BOOK EARLY. BOOK NOW**  
BOX OFFICE OPEN 9.00am TO 4.00pm AND 7.00pm TO 11.00pm  
TELEPHONE 263798 SAT 10 a.m. TO 5 p.m. CHRISTMAS EVE 10 a.m. TO 11 p.m. AND 7.00pm TO 11.00pm

**THE SALVATION ARMY ANNUAL CAROL SERVICE**  
IN THE WINTER GARDENS  
This Sunday 12th December at 8 p.m.  
TAKING PART:  
CITYRICK BAND & BONGERS BRIGADE  
TUBBELL GROUP - OUR JUNIOR CHORUS - HUGHES SCHOOL MUSIC GROUP - AS WELL AS YOUNG MEN  
ADMISSION FREE (but collection or donation of Money Sea Basking Herring. The proceeds Pool Fund which will be received by  
HER WORSHIP THE MAYOR (Councillor Harry Ashby)

**PANTOMIME**  
**BABES IN THE WOOD**  
Saturday, 1st January  
Performances at 2.30 and 7.30 p.m.  
Price: 30p, 40p, 50p. Boxes Children & Children 50p

TUESDAY 11th JANUARY AT 8 PM  
DAVE MARSH INTERNATIONAL  
**WRESTLING**  
**STEVE LOGAN**  
VERSUS  
**PETER STEWART**  
DAVE BARRIE & ALAN COLBECK  
CASWELL MARTIN & TONY CHARLES  
TAG MATCH - SENSATION  
**KEN JOYCE & THE BORG**  
**ED CAPELLI** v **TWINS**  
RESERVED SEATS 50p 40p UNRESERVED 30p  
Buckington Guild of Players present  
**DICK WHITTINGTON**  
Wed Thurs Fri and Sat Jan 18, 20, 21, 22 at 7.30 p.m.  
Sundays - Sat Jan 22 at 2.30 p.m.  
RESERVED SEATS 50p 40p 30p  
ADVANCE RESERVATIONS until Jan 8 please THANET 41917

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW TELEPHONE NO  
**THANET 53555**  
For Christmas Party Celebrations we offer  
DINNER DANCE CHRISTMAS EVE  
LUNCHEON CHRISTMAS DAY  
LUNCHEON & DINNER BOXING DAY  
and MONDAY 27 DECEMBER  
NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATION  
WITH CABARET

Do not miss - bring your reservation at  
**HOVERLLOYDS'**  
**FLIGHT DECK RESTAURANT**  
THANET INTERNATIONAL HOVERPORT  
POWELL BAY

**MARGATE MODEL VILLAGE**  
Open 4 Days At Christmas  
Phone Thanet: 26379 (22180)  
For Party Bookings.

**BOUZOUKI**  
at  
**THE THANET RESTAURANT**  
MARINE GARDENS, MARGATE  
THE BOUZOUKI IS COMING  
TO TOWN AGAIN -

ON NEW YEAR'S EVE BELLY DANCING & CABARET.  
COME AND ENJOY A GOOD EVENING OUT  
BOOK NOW SEATS LIMITED!  
DINNER & DANCE £3.00  
DRINKING & DANCING UNTIL 1 A.M.  
ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY.  
PHONE THANET 20930

ALSO: CATERING FOR PARTIES, BANQUETS, RECEPTIONS  
PRIVATE ROOM WITH BAR

**Bullin's**  
ST. GEORGE'S HOTEL,  
CLIFTONVILLE,  
MARGATE  
Dinner and Dance  
**NEW YEAR'S EVE**  
7.30 p.m. to 1 a.m.  
**LATE NIGHT CABARET**  
\* Licensed Bars \*  
\* Spot Prizes \* \* Novelties \*  
Tickets £2 each  
(Dinner 7.30 p.m. to 10 p.m.)  
Also: Private Room, Ladies' Gents' Toilets  
Jail and Kitchen, Telephone THANET 21846



12. An old photo of a hotel (above) that still stands. Can you name it?

13. A long-lost hotel (below) – what was it called?



10. What is the name of the road in Margate sometimes still called 'Elephant Hill'?

11. Who was the film star born in Cliftonville, who just had brief encounter with the area before his parents moved away?

14. He worked on the beach at Westgate-on-Sea and found fame with a rock group – but not the Beach Boys. What was the band called?

15. A man with another seaside connection married a Miss Margate in the 1950s. Who was he?

## SUBSCRIPTION FEES FOR 2023/24 ARE NOW DUE

Thank you very much for your membership of the Society last year (ending 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2023). If you have renewed your membership for 2023/24, thank you very much. If you haven't renewed, then this will be the last Newsletter you will receive. We hope, though, that you will renew and I show below the subscription fees and methods of payment. If you don't wish to continue your membership, that's fine, of course, although we will miss you.

During 2024, you will see from this Newsletter that we have a wide and varied selection of guest speakers planned for our monthly meetings (March-October, except August), including talks on the history of Westgate; toys that you may have played with as a child; Margate millers; the D-Day landings; rural unrest in East Kent (in the 1830s); and Gordon Clarkson telling us about his life in the world of entertainment. We will also be presenting the 2024 Town Pride Awards and, behind the scenes, will continue to peruse planning applications and generally do our best to play a part in helping to improve the character of the area. Not least, members receive the quarterly Newsletter, with news and historical articles.

We hope you will continue to support us. Membership fees for 2023/24 are £15 for individual membership with emailed Newsletter; £21 for joint membership with emailed Newsletter; £20 for individual membership with a paper copy of the Newsletter posted or hand-delivered; and £25 for joint membership with a paper copy of the Newsletter.

To renew, please send a cheque, made out to 'Margate Civic Society', to Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF. Alternatively, pay by BACS bank transfer, to Sort Code 60-02-32 Account Number 99666928. If you pay by bank transfer, please use your surname as the reference and it would be helpful if you could email me at [treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk) to advise me of your payment. You can also pay by PayPal, crediting the email address [treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk).

Thank you very much, and may I wish you best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**Mike Wilton** - Hon Treasurer & Membership Secretary

### Quiz Answers

1. The Margate Caves
2. Cranbourne Alley, Margate
3. 1790
4. Cuthbert Road, Westgate-on-Sea
5. High Street, Garlinge
6. Sir William Ingram, Westgate-on-Sea
7. Buenos Ayres (which means good air)
8. Dent-de-Lion Gate House, Garlinge
9. 1971
10. Marine Gardens
11. Trevor Howard
12. The Nayland Rock
13. The White Hart
14. Hawkwind
15. Eric Morecombe



# Margate Civic Society

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



A corporate member of MSC



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.

## Committee for 2023/2024:

### President:

**Chair:** Mrs Pamela Pople, Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX

Tel: 01843 221689 e-mail: [chair@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:chair@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

**Vice-Chair:** Mr Harry Scobie

**Secretary:** Vacancy e-mail: [secretary@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:secretary@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

**Treasurer & Membership Secretary:** Mr Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF

Tel: 07799 835819 e-mail: [treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

**Newsletter Editor:** Mrs Sally Whitworth

Tel: 07949 835777 e-mail: [newsletter@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

**Planning and Conservation issues:** Mr Mike Thompson, 7 Seymour Avenue, Margate CT9 5HT

Tel: 01843 832834 e-mail: [planning@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:planning@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)

**Minutes Secretary:** Ms Kate Wilson

All committee members are Trustees of the Society.

Please contact the Society by email at [enquiries@margatecivicsociety.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@margatecivicsociety.org.uk)



## Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £..... (Cheques should be made payable to Margate Civic Society)

Name.....

Address.....

.....

Tel:..... Email.....

### Subscription rates for 2023/24

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Paper Newsletter*	£20	£25	£6	
Email Newsletter#	£15	£21	£3	£30

Please send this form with your payment to the Treasurer, Mike Wilton, 30 Barrington Crescent, Birchington CT7 9DF. Please see our website for alternative methods of payment.

\* A paper Newsletter means that a black-and-white printed copy will be delivered to you.

# An Email Newsletter means that a full-colour copy will be emailed to you.