

"The love of our town leads us"

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

Chairman: Mr Steve Villette

On Monday, 18th June David Chipperfield Architects presented, at the Winter Gardens, their latest design work for the new Turner Contemporary Gallery. Many members of the public took advantage of the opportunity to attend this third public meeting and to hear David Chipperfield present his proposals for the new gallery as part of the design development process. David Chipperfield explained that the ground floor would need to be two metres above existing ground level and that the building could be regarded as a cultural community centre with a north-facing terrace/balcony and an art gallery on its top (3rd) floor. There would also be a basement at ground level. The audience was told that building was expected to start in autumn 2008 with completion in 2010. The design received general approval from the audience although many expressed the view that the design was too angular. We were, however, told that a landscape architect will be appointed to advise on the whole area around the gallery. In answer to a question from the floor, we were told by David Chipperfield that there is no height restriction on this gallery. With the regeneration of Margate being largely dependent on the success of this project, let us hope that the building, when completed, will stand proud yet fit well into this most prominent location.



David Chipperfield Architects' proposal

Still no news has been received about the Margate Charter Trustees' proposals to celebrate the granting of the Charter of Incorporation 150 years ago. Now that the May elections are out of the way, perhaps the Trustees will be turning their minds to a fitting celebration of this important anniversary later this year. It would be a missed opportunity if the occasion was not marked in a fitting manner. □

James Brazier, Newsletter Editor

Centenary congratulations to two local organisations

The Margate Lawn Tennis Club celebrated its 100th birthday in May with a weekend of special events at their clubhouse and tennis courts in Tivoli Park Avenue. Club Secretary, Chris Whittingham, produced a souvenir 20-page booklet recording the history of the Club and the tennis achievements of many of its members over the last 100 years. The celebrations proved very popular and even attracted TV coverage.

The following month, the Margate Operatic Society, which also celebrates its centenary this year, presented the new Gershwin musical *Crazy for You* at the Winter Gardens. The show was one of the most colourful and exciting shows ever performed by the Society. The souvenir-programme for *Crazy for You* included a potted history of the Society and listed all its productions since 1908. If you missed *Crazy for You*, do make a note in your diary for the Society's next production which will be *Cinderella*. Performances will be given at the Winter Gardens from 28th November to 2nd December 2007.

Like so many organisations, both the Margate Lawn Tennis Club and the Margate Operatic Society are dependent on volunteers for their success and it is a credit to our town that such talented volunteers come forward to take on a range of challenging tasks with unquestionable success. □

Margate Old Town Guided Walks

There are two further walks planned for this summer: one on Saturday, 7th July and the other on Saturday, 4th August. Both start at 2.30pm from outside the Visitor Information Centre in The Parade and each lasts about two hours. The first of the walks is around the Old Town and includes a visit to Margate Museum and to the Tudor House. A donation of £1 for this walk is welcome. The second walk will include a visit to the Tudor House and a break at the mysterious Shell Grotto for refreshment and a free tour. A charge of £2.50 per person is made for this second walk. Both walks are provided by volunteer guides from Margate Civic Society. □

Welcome to new members

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

Miss E. Collins
Mr F. R. Duce
Mrs M. E. McNiff
Mrs J. Bennet
Miss Laura Sandys

Pat Snow
Membership Secretary

Presentation of Town Pride Awards 2007

The results of the judging of the nominations for this year's Town Pride Awards were announced by our Secretary, Tony Snow, at the Society's meeting held at The Walpole Bay Hotel on 10th May.

This year, nominations had been received from Society members for twelve properties in Margate to be considered for Town Pride Awards. This is the highest-ever number of nominations received since the Society was formed in 1968 and indicates a growing awareness amongst the Society's members of the major contribution that both the renovation of often run-down properties and the erection of well-designed new properties make to the overall attractiveness of our town. The record number of nominations together with the high standard of the works had made the judging for the Society's prestigious annual awards particularly difficult. However, five properties were selected by the panel of judges to receive Town Pride Plaques and Certificates including the former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital building which attracted the highest-ever aggregate of marks from the judges since 1968.

adjoining new building in Fort Road incorporating the façade of the old Margate Ambulance Corps headquarters building; and the new cottages at Wheatley Place, off Victoria Road, Margate. Mrs Jane de Bliet (Royal Sea Bathing Hospital), Darren Ellis (99 Sea Road), Sally Brinson (Olby's and adjoining building), and Mick Moyse (Wheatley Place) were presented with their Town Pride Plaques and Certificates by our President, Ralph Handscomb.



Former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Canterbury Road, Westbrook



99 Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea



Jane de Bliet holding her Town Pride Plaque and Certificate for the development of the former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital – with Ralph Handscomb (the Society's President) and Tony Snow (the Society's Secretary)



Darren Ellis holding his Town Pride Award Plaque and Certificate awarded for his new house at 99 Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea

The other four properties which received high marks and which were chosen to receive Town Pride Plaques and Certificates were the new house at 99 Sea Road, Westgate-on-Sea; the former Olby's shop in King Street; the



Former Olby's shop and new development incorporating the façade of the former Margate Ambulance Corps headquarters building



Sally Brinson receiving two Town Pride Plaques and Certificates – one set for the former Olby's building in King Street and the other set for the new development adjoining the former Olby's building and incorporating the façade of the former Margate Ambulance Corps headquarters



The former First & Last Public House, Vicarage Place, Margate



Wheatley Place, off Victoria Road, Margate



Temeraire Court, Fort Crescent, Cliftonville



Mick Moyse receiving his Town Pride Plaque and Certificate for Wheatley Place



Damien Cooke receiving his Town Pride Commendation Certificate for Temeraire Court, Fort Crescent

In addition to the five Town Pride Plaques and Certificates listed above, Town Pride Commendation Certificates were awarded to the owners of the former First & Last Public House, Vicarage Place, Temeraire Court (formerly Fort Lodge Hotel), Smiths Court Orangery and Highcliffe Hall, Eastern Esplanade. Again, presentations were made by our President to the owners of those properties with the exception of the owners of the former First & Last Public House and Highcliffe Hall who were unavailable to receive their awards in person.



Highcliffe Hall, Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville



The Orangery, Smiths Court Hotel, Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville



Ann Smith receiving the Society's Town Pride Commendation Certificate for The Orangery, Smiths Court Hotel

Not only did we receive the highest number of nominations for Town Pride awards but it was pleasing that very few properties had been put forward this year for Town Shaming. □

News from Westgate Heritage Centre

Good News! The Westgate Heritage Centre has been awarded a grant of £300 by the Thanet District Council Small Grants Working Party to help with the costs of setting up the Centre. The Steering Group is very grateful for that support and the money will be well spent. The Centre is developing well. Eighty-plus people came to the official opening by Roger Gale MP on 31st March and we were pleased to welcome among the guests Ralph Handscomb, President of the Margate Civic Society. Since then, nearly an additional 100 people have come in to see the displays, based on a time-line from 1865 (the date of the first house of the new Westgate-on-Sea) to the present day.

Currently, there is an exhibition on four of Westgate's "favourites of fortune" – The Mitfords, the Hawtreys, the Ingrams and the Foresters of Willey Park. These families

donated five of the seven Kempe windows in St Saviour's Church, for we are commemorating the centenary of the death of the Victorian stained-glass artist Charles Elmer Kempe this year.

From Friday, 20th July to Saturday, 28th July, there will be a "Celebration of Weddings" in St Saviour's Church to celebrate its 123rd birthday (the church was consecrated on 23rd July 1884). The Heritage Centre is putting on a display of photographs, dresses and memorabilia relating to Westgate weddings (any of the local churches). Some of St Saviour's Marriage Registers will be on view. If you would like anything to be included in the displays, please contact me (832617). The church will be open all that week from 10.00am to 3.00pm (except on Wednesday morning when St Saviour's School is having its end-of-term service) with Fairtrade tea and coffee served.

On Sunday, 22nd July at 3.00pm there will be a special service of thanksgiving in St Saviour's. Those who were married in St Saviour's are especially invited but all are welcome. The Friends of St Saviour's will provide tea afterwards.

On Wednesday 15th August, our final exhibition of the year will begin as we commemorate the 90th anniversaries of both the Battle of Arras and the Battle of Third Ypres (Passchendaele). We have much material on these battles and an exciting recent find will also be on display.

The Sunday-afternoon cemetery walk on 13th May was a great success thanks to James Brazier's leadership. Despite the awful weather, over twenty people plodded about Margate Cemetery for more than two hours looking at the graves of those who helped shape both Westgate and Westbrook. The sum of £30 was raised in donations for the Westgate Heritage Centre. That walk was followed by two walks around historic Westgate in June led by myself. Both walks were well attended and raised £108 for the Friends of St Saviour's of which I am Chairman: my thanks to all who supported me. There will be another walk in September – date and time to be announced.

We have also been given a laptop computer and are now able to have a continuous slide-show, which lasts about half an hour, of Westgate photographs – old and new – which James Brazier has put on a CD and which Ruth Neve, a 15-year-old pupil at Dane Court Grammar School, has edited to form the "show". As soon as we have time, Ruth will put captions to all of the pictures and we shall have a very valuable and useful resource. It is good to have some of our young people involved.

In the first two weeks of August, the Westgate Art Group will be holding its annual exhibition in St Saviour's Church from 10.00am, except Sundays. The Heritage Centre will be open at the same time – something of a challenge!

Westgate Heritage Centre – located in the back of St Saviour's Church – is normally open Wednesdays 10.00am to 12 noon, Fridays 12 noon to 2.00pm, and Saturdays 10.00am to 12 noon. Do call in if you haven't yet visited us. You will be made very welcome. □

Dawn Crouch
Curator, Westgate Heritage Centre

The redevelopment of the former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital wins Town Pride Award

Although not expected to be completed until 2009, the redevelopment of the former Royal Sea Bathing Hospital at Westbrook was, earlier this year, nominated for a Town Pride award for the work carried out to date. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the judges awarded the scheme the highest-ever number of points since the introduction of Town Pride awards by Margate Civic Society some 40 years ago. This is a major achievement and it was felt appropriate that an article should be included in this issue of the newsletter featuring the work to date and the work in progress. The developers, Paigle Properties very kindly arranged to take your editor around much of the completed works to take a number of photographs for that purpose.

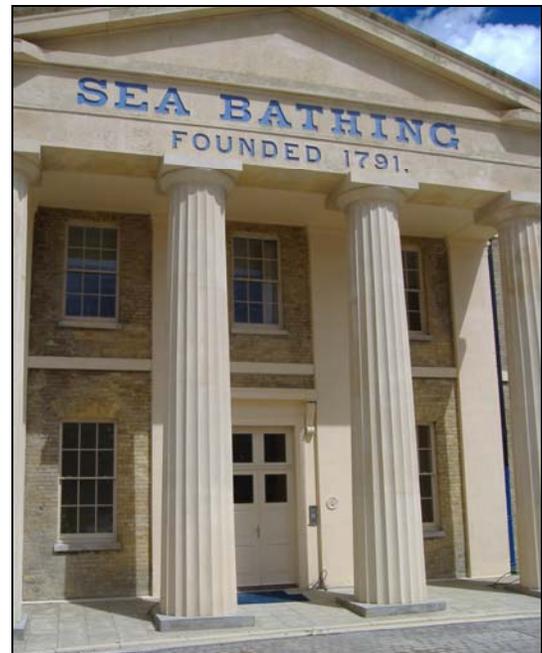
When the redevelopment of the site is completed, there will be some 350 apartments on the site – all, importantly, will be provided with underground parking. This huge scheme will undoubtedly make a major contribution to the successful regeneration of Margate. A massive investment has been made in the redevelopment of this important Grade II listed building and, as the accompanying photographs illustrate, many of the fine building's features have been tastefully restored ensuring that the building will, once again, be one of Margate's greatest assets. Congratulations go to all at Paigle Properties for their care and attention to detail in their work to date and to their funders, Kaupthing Singer & Friedlander Bank. Sincere thanks also to Jane de Blik for her imagination and determination to complete this wonderful scheme and to save the old building for future generations to appreciate.

With the exception of the first photograph which was taken in December 2005, all of the following photographs were taken in June 2007. It is hoped that members will find them interesting and that they will give a flavour of the attention to detail that has been taken in the redevelopment of the building so far.

Special thanks are extended to both David Seaton and Leigh Palmer at Paigle Properties for their arrangements for taking the accompanying photographs. □



The Town Pride plaque awarded to Paigle Properties at the Society's meeting in May 2007 now proudly displayed at the main entrance to the old building



The Town Pride plaque can be seen mounted on the wall to the right of the front door



*Work underway on the first underground car-park – December 2005
(Note the removal of the bronze statue of Sir Erasmus Wilson which has now been replaced in its original position)*



*The forecourt and part of Alexandra Court facing the fine statue of Sir Erasmus Wilson now back in its original position – June 2007
(Note the restoration to some of the windows on the left-hand side)*



Victoria Court (looking northwards)



Alexandra Court looking east (inside quadrangle)



One of the original vaulted ceilings retained as a feature in a number of the apartments in Victoria Court



Alexandra Court seen from Westbrook Road showing the groundworks for Charlotte Court



One of the conservatories on the top of Victoria Court



The magnificent view looking west from the top of Victoria Court



Construction work on the underground car-park for Charlotte Court (Sea View Terrace and Westbrook Road at rear)



Decorative brickwork above some of the restored windows



The replacement brickwork above the left-hand window exactly matching the original brickwork above the right-hand window. This is an example of the fine restoration work by Paigle Properties



Construction work in progress on that part of Alexandra Court which faces the sea



The site for Erasmus Court (houses in Westbrook Gardens can be seen in the background)



The former hospital chapel which, it is hoped, will become available for community use



The former Dog & Duck Hotel currently being used by Paigle Properties as site offices. The future of this building seems undetermined

Heritage Features Quiz No. 3

Do you know which buildings in our town have these most attractive year-date features?
To assist readers, the twelve buildings concerned are listed at the bottom of the page in random order.
Can you match the numbered photographs? The answers are shown elsewhere in this newsletter



List of buildings (not in same order as shown above)

The Observatory, Sea Road, Westgate
Telephone Exchange, Saxon Road, Westgate
Fort Paragon, Margate
Mansion Street, Margate

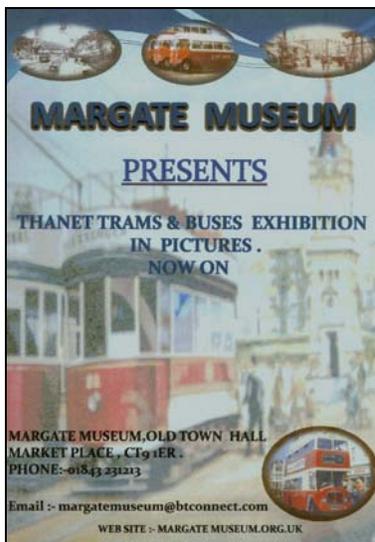
Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Canterbury Road
Highcliffe Hall, Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville
13 Canterbury Road, Westbrook
Viking Court, Cliftonville Avenue, Cliftonville

Hussar Hotel, Canterbury Road,
Royal Mail Sorting Office, Addington Road, Margate
15 Station Road, Margate
260 Northdown Road, Cliftonville

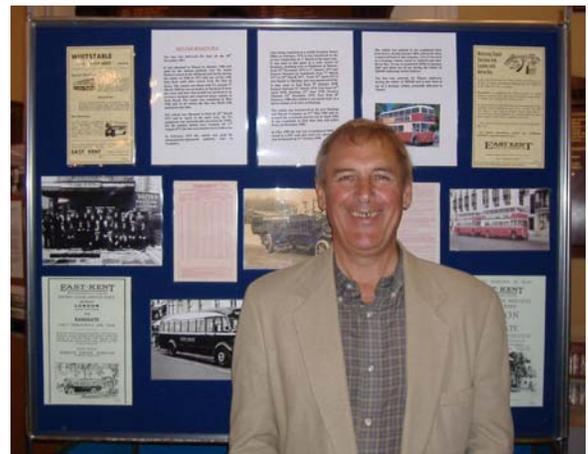
Trams & Buses Exhibition opens at Margate Museum

On the morning of Saturday, 23rd June a new exhibition at Margate Museum was opened by the town's Deputy Mayor and Mayoress, Cllr Mike Tomlinson and his wife Cllr Shirley Tomlinson. The exhibition of Thanet's trams and buses will remain on show until May 2008. The exhibition tells the stories of the Isle of Thanet's tramway service from 1901 to 1937 and of the bus service from 1916.

Many interesting artefacts covering the period from 1901 right up to the present have been assembled by Margate Museum staff and volunteers. Older visitors to the exhibition are assured an enjoyable nostalgic journey whilst younger visitors will have the opportunity to see many fascinating photographs and learn more about the history of tramway service and of the development of the local bus services throughout Thanet from 1916. Make sure that you do not miss this fascinating exhibition. □



The Deputy Mayor & Mayoress cut the ribbon to formally open the exhibition



Tony Snow, Secretary of Margate Civic Society, was amongst the many visitors on the opening day of the exhibition and clearly much enjoyed the occasion!



The 40-year-old bus – now used as a heritage vehicle – which was kindly loaned to Margate Museum to mark the opening of the exhibition. Standing in front of the bus left to right: Terry Meech, East Kent Maritime Trust Administrator; Bob Bradley, Museum Curator; Cllr Shirley Tomlinson, Deputy Mayoress; Cllr Mike Tomlinson, Deputy Mayor; and Dennis Payne who the Margate Charter Trustees appointed as an Honorary Burgess at the Mayor Making ceremony held at the Winter Gardens on 11th June 2007



Some of the visitors to the exhibition on opening day

Memories of Old Margate

A town's character is reflected not only in its buildings and structural features but also in its inhabitants. Today, many of the town's inhabitants are transient but there are still a number of local families who can proudly claim that past generations of their ancestors also lived in our town. Amongst such families are the Hatfields (formerly of Hartsdown House) and the Friends (formerly of Northdown House) but there are also a good number of families which have served the town in more modest ways over the years. One such family is the Langston family and these photographs below were amongst a batch recently shown to your editor by local builder Dave Langston who kindly gave his consent to including them in the Society's newsletter. Each of the photographs captures a moment of the past which is today largely forgotten. Most of the photographs were taken by Sunbeam many of whose photographers were masters in capturing a person's personality in black and white. Each of the photographs show aspects of Margate which – like the Jetty, the Marine Sands' Bathing Station and so much more – were taken for granted at the time but their absence still leaves a detectable void in the true character of our town for all those whose memories of the town go back more than fifty years. That emptiness will – for many – remain until the town is successfully regenerated. Your editor hopes that you will also enjoy seeing these pictures.



A Sunbeam photographer captures on camera a team of Council workers taking a break whilst clearing seaweed at either St Mildred's Bay or West Bay c. 1950. Two members of the Langston family are shown in this superb photograph. The two men on the left are unidentified. Third from the left is Steve Langston [1903-1988] (Dave Langston's uncle) and the last man is Sid Langston [1901-1969] (Dave Langston's father)



Bob Langston [1880-1961] (Dave Langston's grandfather) wearing waistcoat with his mobile fruit-stall in Marine Gardens c. 1925



c. 1920



c. 1935



c. 1960

Dave Langston's father, Sidney (known as "Chungy") Langston, worked as a road-sweeper for many years with the old Margate Corporation. In addition, Sid Langston delivered evening newspapers and, on Sundays, sold newspapers on the beach and promenade. Just like other members of the Langston family, he was very well known in the town. As can be seen from the three Sunbeam photographs above, he supplemented his pay as a newspaper vendor for a good 40 years. Sid Langston walked with a limp as his left foot had been trampled on by a team of horses when he had bravely attempted to stop them – believed to have been sometime during the inter-war years – leaving him partially crippled. The picture on the left was probably taken along the upper promenade at Cliftonville, the middle picture was probably taken on Marine Sands after a sand contest, and the picture on the right was taken at St Mildred's Bay. Oh happy days! □

What's on

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

4th October Annual General Meeting

Note: Meetings will resume in October 2007: details of meetings from October will be published in the next newsletter

Turner Contemporary (talks all start at 6.00pm at the Margate Media Centre, King Street). These talks, which are open to everyone and admission is free, are recommended. Places are limited, so please book early (Tel: 280261) to avoid disappointment.

24th July 'Interior Design: How Buildings Make us Feel' by Corinna Dean

It is hoped to include details of other local organisations' meetings in the next issue of the newsletter which should be despatched to members around the end of September. Like our own Society, many organisations do not meet during the summer months.

Useful telephone numbers:

Organisation	Phone No.	Contact name/Notes
Margate Museum, The Old Town Hall, Market Place	231213	Bob Bradley, Curator
Margate Public Library – Local Studies Collection	223626	Cecil Square building closed during building works – expected to re-open in December
Westgate Heritage Centre	832617	Dr Dawn Crouch, Curator
Birchington Heritage Trust Museum, Birchington Library	846502	Monday mornings only, 9.30 to 12.00
Birchington Parish Archivist	842988	Jennie Burgess
Margate Historical Society	227574	Mick Twyman, Secretary
Isle of Thanet Historical Society	835587	Barry Hopper, Chairman
Isle of Thanet Archaeological Society	07906 360725	Val Robbins, Secretary
Isle of Thanet Geographical Association	863110	-
Kent Family History Society (Thanet Branch)	842933	Cliff Cole
Draper's Windmill Trust	226227	David Keep, Chairman
Margate Lifeboat Fund-Raising Committee	832846	Laurie Walton, Treasurer
Friends of Margate Cemetery Trust	230274	Vera Jenkins
Friends of Quex	842040	Edna Elven, Membership Secretary
Friends of Westgate Pavilion	226542	Mike Emery, Secretary
Turner Contemporary	280261	Victoria Pomery, Director
The Powell-Cotton Museum, Quex House, Birchington	842168	-
The Shell Grotto, Grotto Hill, Margate	220008	Sarah Vickery
Manston Spitfire & Hurricane Museum	821940	-
RAF Manston History Museum	825224	-
Cliftonville Residents' Association	226033	Keith Chadband, Chairman
Westgate & Westbrook Residents' Association	831474	Norman Smith, Treasurer
Birchington Residents' Association	843594	Roger D. Walford

Heritage Features Quiz No. 3

Answers:

1. *Royal Sea Bathing Hospital, Canterbury Road (as seen from the promenade looking south)*
2. *13 Canterbury Road, Westbrook*
3. *15 Station Road, Margate*
4. *Fort Paragon, Margate (as seen from the cliff-top promenade looking west)*
5. *Mansion Street, Margate*
6. *The Observatory, Sea Road, Westgate*
7. *Viking Court, Cliftonville Avenue, Cliftonville*
8. *Highcliffe Hall, Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville*
9. *260 Northdown Road, Cliftonville*
10. *Hussar Hotel, Canterbury Road,*
11. *Telephone Exchange, Saxon Road, Westgate*
12. *Royal Mail Sorting Office, Addington Road, Margate*



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

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

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

Committee for 2006/07:

- President:** Mr Ralph Handscomb
14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 293169)
- Chairman:** Mr Steve Villette
29 The Ridgeway, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2TL (Tel: 221250)
- Vice-Chairman:** Mr Harry Scobie
45 Cornwall Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JG (Tel:291298)
- Secretary:** Mr Tony Snow
34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG (Tel: 221838)
- Treasurer:** Mrs Phil Johnson MBE
14 Sherwood Court, Dent-de-Lion Road, Westgate-on-Sea CT8 8NU (Tel: 831469)
- Membership Secretary:** Mrs Pat Snow
34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG (Tel: 221838)
- Newsletter Editor:** Mr James Brazier
"The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ (Tel: 298038)
- Other Committee Members:**
Mr Jack Pilcher, 7 Queen Bertha's Avenue, Birchington CT7 9BH (Tel: 833767)
Mr Garry Cowans, Flat 3, 21 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate (Tel: 221938)
Mrs Margaret Main, 32 Gordon Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2DN
Mrs Daphne Rowley, "Spring Cottage", 11 Pembroke Avenue, Westbrook, Margate
Mr Peter Blore, 29 Yoakley Square, Margate CT9 4BA (Tel: 291778)

If you are interested in joining our Society, please fill in the enrolment form below.

Enrolment Form

I enclose the sum of £

Name:

Address:

Tel:

Subscription rates for 2006/07:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual	£5.00	£8.00	50p	£10.00
Life Membership	£40.00	£60.00	-	-

and send it to the Membership Secretary (Mrs Pat Snow), 34 Royal Esplanade, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EG