

Margate Civic Society

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 257884



Summer 2011
Newsletter
Issue No. 363



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

A lot has happened in the town since our last Newsletter. The Turner Contemporary gallery opened to the public on Saturday, 16th April and we have had our annual Town Pride Awards. Both events were unquestionable successes. Already, the Turner Contemporary has exceeded 100,000 visitors - over two-thirds of the annual visitor forecast of 150,000. The weather, which has been particularly kind since the gallery opened, has probably helped achieve this remarkably high number of visitors. Margate has received a huge amount of publicity - nearly all of it being extremely positive - since the gallery opened. It really does seem that investing in culture makes economic sense for the town. Of course, Turner Contemporary by itself will not regenerate the town but, by golly, it can be seen that it certainly has the potential to act as the catalyst to achieve that goal. What is particularly pleasing are the reports of the reactions of local residents after having visited the gallery. Many admit to having been sceptical about both the wisdom of spending such a large sum of money on the gallery and on the attraction of contemporary art, before making their first visit to the gallery. After visiting the gallery, those same people now admit to being 'converts' and looking forward to making return visits. This bodes extremely well for the future of the gallery.

I was privileged to be invited to attend one of the pre-view evenings held during the week in the run-up to the public opening of the gallery. On that occasion, what - to me - was particularly pleasing was that Victoria Pomery, in her speech, gave full credit to John Crofts (a former Chairman of Margate Civic Society) for the original concept of having a Turner gallery in Margate. Members of John Crofts's family were also present on that occasion which made Victoria's kind comments even more poignant.

And then, on 5th May, the Society held its meeting at which this year's Town Pride Awards were announced and presentations made. Amongst the three properties for which Town Pride plaques and certificates were awarded was Turner Contemporary. I feel sure that John Crofts - who sadly died two years ago - would have been immensely proud that the design of the new gallery by Sir David Chipperfield had been judged, by the panel of members of our Society, to attract a Town Pride Award for 2011.

It is also pleasing to mention that among the properties to be awarded a commendation certificate this year was The Arcadian in Fort Road. Indeed, the renovation of this particular property is testimony to the positive steps being taken towards the town's economic recovery. □

James Brazier
Newsletter Editor

Welcome to new members

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

James Morgan & Kim Chawin
Fiona Kempa
Theatre Royal, Margate (Corporate Membership)

Lynda Smith
Membership Secretary

Heritage Open Days 2011

This year's Heritage Open Days are
Friday, 9th September, Saturday, 10th September
and Sunday, 11th September

An events diary with full details of registered events
will be available from mid-July on
heritageopendays.org.uk

Details of the properties participating in our area will be
put on the Society's website
www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk
as soon as they become available to the Society

Copies of our Newsletter available electronically

Copies of our Newsletter are now available to be sent to members electronically. If you would like to help us keep down our printing costs and wish to receive your copy of the Newsletter by e-mail, please contact our Membership Secretary, Mrs Lynda Smith, by e-mail at **lyndylou_smith@talktalk.net** giving your name and address. Such action will not only reduce our costs but will also help enormously with the distribution of the Newsletter. This applies particularly to those members to whom Newsletters are sent by post with ever-increasing postage costs. Members wishing to take up this option will also receive their Newsletter some two/three weeks earlier than those who receive printed Newsletters. Please do help us by taking advantage of this facility if you can. □

Margate Local History Website

Have you visited Anthony Lee's magnificent website devoted to Margate's history? The website address is
www.margatelocalhistory.co.uk

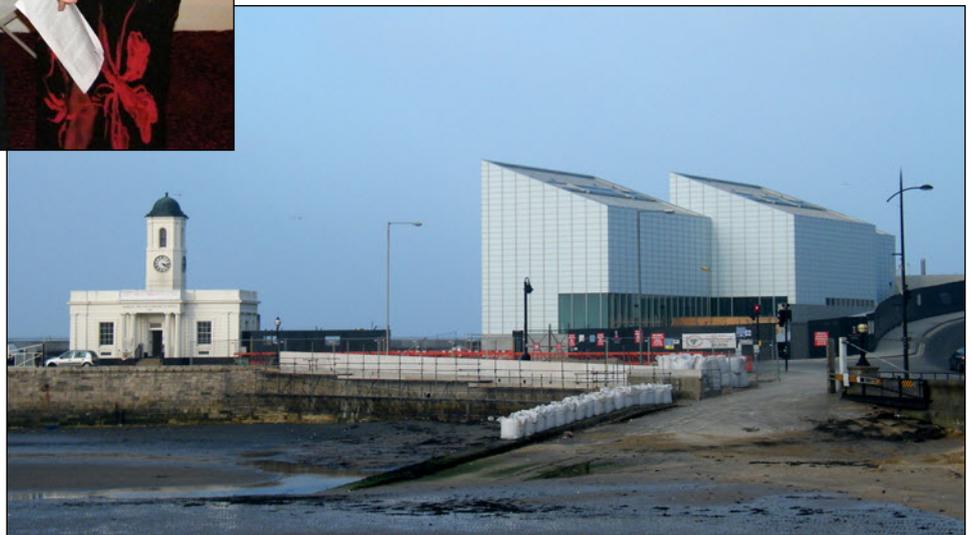
You will not be disappointed!

Presentation of the Society's 2011 Town Pride Awards

The results of the judging of this year's prestigious Town Pride awards were announced by our Chairman, Pamela Pople, at our meeting held on Thursday, 5th May at The Walpole Bay Hotel. Pamela reported on the high standard of the refurbishment works and of the attractive architecture of the new developments for all the properties nominated by members of the Society for this year's Town Pride awards and our President, Ralph Handscomb, presented the awards.



Ralph Handscomb awards a Town Pride plaque and certificate to Victoria Pomery, Director of Turner Contemporary, for the construction of the new gallery designed by the award-winning architect Sir David Chipperfield and built by R. Durtnall & Sons Ltd



Ralph Handscomb awards a Town Pride plaque and certificate to Pastor Eddie Rowlands (representing Pastor Philip Young who is currently in hospital) for the construction of a new hall at the New Life Family Church at the corner of Victoria Road and St Peter's Road built by Gordon Construction.





Ralph Handscomb awards a Town Pride plaque and certificate to Tony Leggatt of Coastal Developments Ltd for the construction of 5 & 6 Caroline Square, Cliftonville

In addition to the three properties each awarded a 2011 Town Pride plaque and certificate, both The Arcadian and The Seaview Hotel were each awarded a 2011 Town Pride commendation certificate::



Ralph Handscomb awards a Town Pride Commendation certificate to Geoffrey Berger (owner) for the renovation of The Arcadian, Fort Hill, Margate. The architect for the renovation work was Alistair Burgess



Ralph Handscomb awards a Town Pride Commendation certificate to Steve Morgan (landlord) for the renovation of The Seaview Hotel, Station Road, Birchington (owned by Shepherd Neame)

King George V's Silver Jubilee Celebrations in Margate on 6th May 1935



Your Editor managed to obtain this image from Nick Dermott, TDC's Heritage Advisor, after seeing it included in his 'Happy Days - Entertainment in Victorian Margate' evening held at the Theatre Royal on Saturday, 26th March. The photograph shows some of the 4,000 Borough of Margate schoolchildren who attended a special Jubilee Day Parade in Cecil Square on Monday, 6th May 1935. The Mayor, Alderman F. L. Pettman, addressed the parade from the balcony of the Hippodrome and led three cheers for the King. Note the Regal cinema to the right of the picture advertising TONIGHT FROM 8.00PM - A COLOSSAL JUBILEE PROGRAMME. None of the buildings shown now exists and it would not be possible to use Cecil Square for such an event due to the road barriers, bus shelters and the general configuration of the Square. Can anyone suggest an area of land in Margate that could be used today for a similar occasion to the above? The year 2012 will see Queen Elizabeth II's Diamond Jubilee. Will there be a Jubilee Day Parade of schoolchildren held in Margate to celebrate the occasion next year? Probably not. But isn't the above a super picture? It catches a moment in time that would have been remembered throughout their lifetime by each of those who took part in Margate's 1935 Jubilee Day Parade. Very many thanks indeed Nick for sharing this wonderful image of past times with our members. - Ed

K6 Telephone Kiosk - Update

Margate's only surviving K6 Jubilee telephone-box was adopted by Margate Charter Trustees a year or so ago and relocated from its Norfolk Road location to the Stone Pier (otherwise known as the Margate Harbour Arm). The K6 former telephone kiosk is now looking much smarter and serving the purpose of directing motorists' attention to the pay-and-display machine located behind it. The original K6 design by Giles Gilbert Scott marked the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935. The K6 on the Stone Pier bears the Queen's Crown so dates from some time from 1953 when Queen Elizabeth was crowned. It is good to see the K6 serving as a heritage feature on the Stone Pier. □



Civic Day - Saturday, 25th June 2011



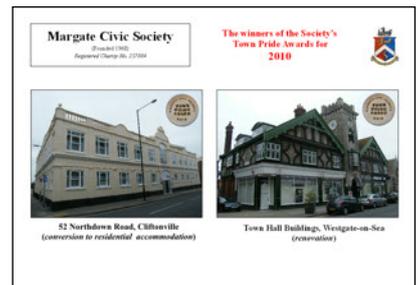
CIVIC VOICE is a national charity which works with civic societies and local communities to make places more attractive, enjoyable and distinctive. It can lobby on behalf of communities in Westminster and Whitehall and supports its members - local societies such as Margate Civic Society.

CIVIC DAY is an initiative of Civic Voice, and is a day when civic societies throughout the country will be carrying out activities which show what can be done to help improve the community. Over 150 civic societies across the country will be taking part on **CIVIC DAY** - Saturday, 25th June 2011.

MARGATE CIVIC SOCIETY has chosen to highlight its **Town Pride Awards**. Each year, members of the Society nominate new or refurbished properties which they consider to be worthy of an award because of the benefit to the area which the property brings. The nominated properties are judged by the Society and the winners are awarded a certificate and a plaque which can be proudly displayed on the property.

Our display today shows the winners of the Town Pride Award over the last six years and gives an idea of the enhancements which are being made to the area, which we are very happy to recognise and reward. □

The photographs to be on display in the Harbour Arm Gallery from 11.00am to 4.00pm:



Do come along to the Society's display on Saturday, 25th June at the Harbour Arm Gallery. A number of Committee members will be in attendance during the day and it promises to be quite a social occasion. With Turner Contemporary being only two hundred yards or so from the Harbour Arm Gallery, you should also take the opportunity to call into Turner Contemporary to see the many artworks on display, especially the oil painting *Margate 1869* by James Webb. Even if you have already visited Turner Contemporary, do call in there again and give it your support.



Free Passes available to members of Margate Civic Society to National Trust and English Heritage properties

The Society's membership of Civic Voice in 2011/12 brings a number of advantages to our members. Amongst those advantages are the following:

National Trust and **English Heritage** - free day passes. By having joined Civic Voice, members of Margate Civic Society are entitled to day-passes giving free access to any **National Trust** or **English Heritage** property. Such local properties include Dover Castle and Deal Castle.

The free **National Trust** pass is available to our members using the following link www.civicvoice.org.uk/nationaltrustcivicvoiceoffer. This pass is transferable and can be given to friends or family if you are already a member of the National Trust.

The free **English Heritage** pass can be used between 1st September 2011 and 31st January 2012 and is available to download by our members using the following link <http://www.civicvoice.org.uk/englishheritagepassoffer>. This pass is not transferable.

Where members do not have internet access, either pass (or both passes) can be obtained by request with a stamped-addressed envelope sent to Civic Voice, Unit 101, 82 Wood Street, The Tea Factory, Liverpool L1 4DQ. You will need to provide contact details and state that you are a member of Margate Civic Society.



WHEN MARGATE DROPPED THE BALL!

by Arnold Schwartzman

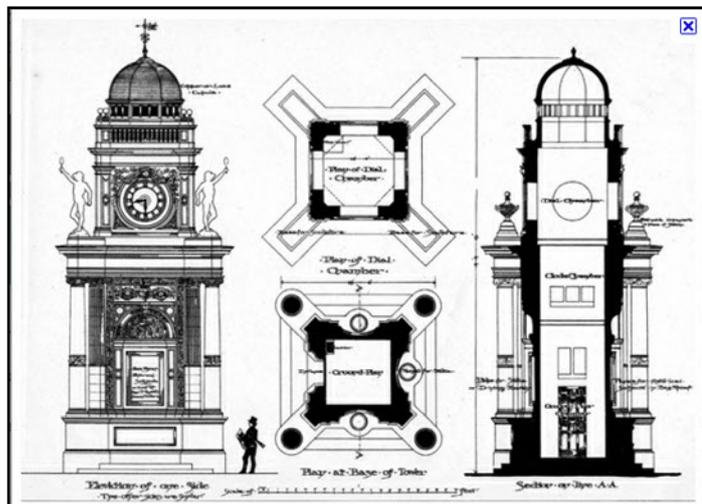
At the conclusion of my article on the Queen's Promenade (published in the Margate Civic Society Newsletter Issue No. 353 - Winter 2008), I made reference to Margate's Jubilee Clock Tower and its time-ball. I therefore thought the readers of the Newsletter might enjoy this discourse on the subject.

Margate's Clock Tower, like Big Ben, the Eiffel Tower, and the Hollywood sign are recognized as iconic symbols of their respective towns. Living in Hollywood for these past 33 years, I have among my cherished reminders of the many happy years spent growing up in Margate, a small collection of crested china Margate Clock Towers.

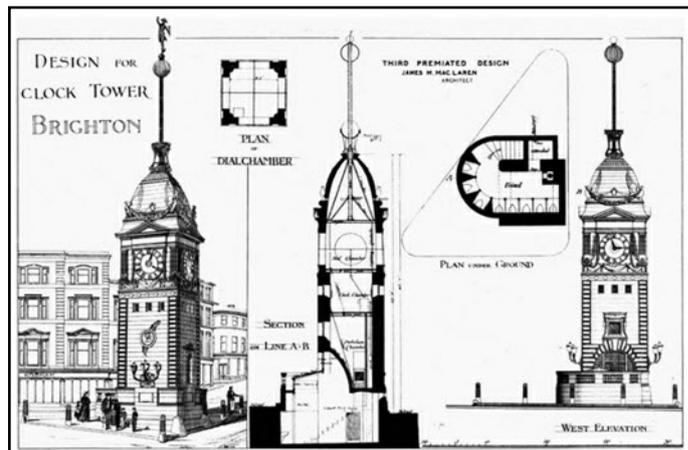


In commemoration of Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887, the Margate Clock Tower was erected at the junction of Marine Drive and Marine Terrace. Due to poor planning and a shortage of funds, the Clock Tower's inauguration did not take place until 1889, two years after Her Majesty's Jubilee.

Built by public subscription at the cost of £1,300, the 80ft. tower was designed in the French Renaissance style by Mr Henry Arthur Cheers of Twickenham and constructed in Portland stone.



Elevation, Section & Plans published in *The Architect*, 23rd March 1888. Architect: George W. Ward. This plan, which was similar in design to that of Brighton's Jubilee Clock Tower, was one of the designs that was not adopted for the Margate Clock Tower



The Brighton Clock Tower of 1888, donated to the town by Mr James Willing, was crowned with a 4ft. time-ball on a 16ft. mast, and triggered electrically from Greenwich. It still survives but has not been in operation since the mid-1890s when local residents complained about its noisy operation.

Out of a competition of 63 entries for the design of the Margate Clock Tower, the first place went to Mr Kaufman, second place to Mr Reeve, and the third place went to Mr Johnson. However, due to the shortage of funds, it was decided that the less expensive design submission by Mr Cheers should be adopted.

The tower's cast-iron work roof allowed the free emission of the sound of its peal of Cambridge or Westminster chimes.

Three of the tower's side panels bear medallions of the Queen, and the Prince and Princess of Wales. The fourth tablet bears the Borough Arms and the inscription:

Erected by Public Subscription in commemoration of Her Majesty's Jubilee 1887. Henry F. Hermitage, Mayor. G. Foord-Kelcey, Town Clerk. Henry A Cheers, Architect.



The inauguration ceremony on 24th May 1889 - Queen Victoria's 70th birthday. The clock's time-ball can be seen aloft

The clock's four dials, each five feet in diameter with opal glass were illuminated by gas and automatically programmed for turning on and off between British Summer Time and Greenwich Mean Time. The first blow of the hour is struck exactly at the hour, the first blow of the quarters at 15, 30, and 45 minutes past the hour.



Victorian souvenir plate showing Margate Clock Tower

the world's standard time. In 1761, John Harrison the famous clockmaker, developed an accurate portable chronometer. With this in mind, Robert Wauchope - a Royal Navy captain - came up with the idea of a signal that would, at a specific moment, indicate the exact time that sailors could view through a telescope and set their chronometers precisely.

The Margate time-ball was raised by a separate mechanism, a small machine that was fixed at the bottom of the tube up which the ball glides; this tube is 20ft. long, 13ft. of which is above the cupola. The ball, made of copper, is 2ft. in diameter, and was arranged to fall 10ft. when discharged at one o'clock, the machine being set in motion to raise the ball a short time before the hour.

Time-balls were first introduced in 1829 when the Admiralty set up the world's first time-ball in Portsmouth Harbour. It worked so well that, in 1833, they set up another at the Royal Observatory in Flamsteed House, on a Greenwich hilltop. The ball, which was visible to ships at anchor, was dropped every day at 1 p.m. At 12:55 p.m., the red, wood-and-leather ball was raised halfway up a 15-foot mast atop the building; at 12:58 it went to the top; and on the hour the ball began to drop, the start of its downward motion signalling exactly 1 p.m. (In the USA, the time balls were dropped at noon.)

The apparatus, constructed in 1833, remains substantially unchanged today. Not only did the Greenwich time-ball – said to be the world's first public time signal – give Greenwich time to ships in London's river and docks but, for the first time, it made Greenwich time regularly available to those ashore who could see it. Of the 150 public time balls installed around the world, notably those in Mauritius, St Helena, Cape of Good Hope, Madras, Western Australia, New Zealand, Poland, Bombay and Washington DC, over



Edwardian postcard showing the Time Ball and Bandstand, Deal

sixty time-balls still survive, including the one at Deal, Kent.

Deal's four-storey semaphore tower was built in 1821 as part of a chain of 12 communication towers, which enabled the navy to send messages to the Admiralty in Greenwich. In 1855, it was converted into a time-ball and was the first to be operated by a direct signal via the South Eastern Railway. At 12:57 GMT, the ball was lifted to the top where it was held. Then at 13:00 GMT an electrical impulse, sent down the railway wires from Greenwich, released the catches so the ball dropped rapidly.

With the commencement of radio time-signals (in Britain from 1924), time-balls gradually became obsolete and many were demolished in the 1920s.



Close-up of the upper part of Margate Clock Tower showing the time-ball

Over the years, Margate's Clock Tower has not been immune to mechanical problems, and has, figuratively speaking, "dropped the ball" on several counts.

In order to allow the chimes to be heard, the tower's cupola was constructed with decorative open ironwork, which allowed the heavy salt sea-spray to invade the ironwork's openings. This, in turn, rusted the inner workings of the clock and, on occasion, caused the clock to fail. Sadly, due to mechanical failure, Margate's time-ball's working life was short lived.

Despite this, the clock has served Margate well where it has been the town's undisputed centrepiece for over a century.

Would it therefore not be fitting that, in celebration for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's upcoming Diamond Jubilee, an effort be made through voluntary contributions or from corporate sponsorship to resurrect Margate's time-ball, as in Deal,

where the now working time-ball has become a rallying point for the townsfolk on New Year's Eve? This would be a worthwhile endeavour, even if it takes place a couple of years late!

(Note: New York City's Times Square time ball heralds in the New Year by starting to drop the ball at 11:59:00pm on 31st December and completes a minute later at midnight on 1st January.)

**Arnold Schwartzman
Hollywood, California**



'Lord' George Sanger's Funeral 5th December 1911



This super photograph shows 'Lord' George Sanger's funeral procession as it passes the Clock Tower was recently loaned to Birchington Heritage Trust Museum, together with the beaker illustrated below, by a member of the Sanger family. An article on his funeral was published in our Autumn 2009 Newsletter (Number 356). It was reported at the time that there were more than 50 carriages in the procession



The one-pint silver-plated beaker presented to George Sanger in March 1876 by 'Members of his Company'. It is believed that this engraved beaker it was given to him in March 1876 by his employees to mark his 50th birthday. (Note: Sanger granted himself the unofficial title of 'Lord' some years after 1876)



It is believed that the above photograph shows the Mayor, Alderman and Councillors with the Town Clerk and other chief officers witnessing the departure of 'Lord' George Sanger's cortege as it left the forecourt of the former Margate West Railway Station on 5th December 1911. The Mayor, at the time, would have been Edward Coleman who can be seen wearing his chain of office. Certainly, whatever the occasion, it must have been a very solemn one judging by the deportment of each of those present

“MARGATE PARADISO” - A Present from Margate

Plans are underfoot for a feature documentary by the eminent film documentarian and graphic designer, Arnold Schwartzman.

Arnold explains that his production will present a loving bouquet to Margate, as from the age of 9 to 25, he spent some of the happiest days of his life in the Town.

Arnold is a Governor and past Chairman of the British Academy of Film & Television Arts Los Angeles, and a past Chair of the documentary executive committee of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences (the Oscars®). During his tenure as Chair he was instrumental in the creation of the Academy's documentary branch.

In 2002, he was awarded an OBE for services to the British film industry in the USA, and as a designer, in 2006 conferred the distinction of Royal Designer RDI, by The Royal Society of Arts.

The text of the press-release for the making of a documentary on Margate reads as follows:

London-born Oscar® winning documentary-film director Arnold Schwartzman OBE, spent his formative years growing up in the British seaside town of Margate, Kent.

At age 11 he witnessed a feature film being shot on the beach in front of his parents' hotel. The distinguished director noting young Arnold's enthusiasm in the proceedings invited him to be an extra in the film. Later, during his school holiday he got a job as an assistant projectionist at the local Cameo Cinema. These two film-related experiences became the genesis of his passion for film making and eventual move to Hollywood, which culminating in his Academy Award win as the producer and director of the documentary feature film *Genocide*.

Wishing to offer a salute to the Margate of his youth, a town which had been one of Britain's most popular holiday resorts for over 200 years, he plans to produce a 100-minute documentary that will explore the town's past and future.



Noting a parallel to his own career, Schwartzman was inspired by Giuseppe Tornatore's film *Cinema Paradiso*, the story of a young assistant projectionist, that finally returns to his hometown as a successful film maker.

Schwartzman's sentimental journey plans to use the premise of the cinema projection booth as the vehicle to tell his story through the use of the many film clips, and personal collection of images. This will be coupled with contemporary live action footage, plus interviews with a number of personalities sharing their reminiscences of the town's past and plans for its future revitalisation.

The documentary will cover its rich history as a health resort, and explore the possibilities for its regeneration for the future.

Schwartzman believes that his film will kindle the spark that will become a metaphor for the town's rise as phoenix out of the ashes. □

Another Memento of ‘Lord’ George Sanger



THE BEACONFIELD
WORKING MEN'S ASSOCIATION
INAUGURATED MAY 25th 1881
PRESENTED TO THE
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
BY G. SANGER ESQ.
PRESIDENT
4th MAY 1882

An e-mail was received earlier this year from Julie Hind who wrote enquiring about this medal which had belonged to her late great-grandfather. Julie believes that it is likely that her great-grandfather came across this find accidentally whilst on a 'dig'. The medal measures 4½ centimetres in diameter and would seem to be made from white metal. Although there is no mention of Margate on the medal, the Beaconsfield Working Men's Association (sometimes also referred to as the Beaconsfield Conservative Working Men's Institute) had premises in Hawley Square and, at one, time in Cecil Square. George Sanger lived at the Hall-by-the Sea and was actively involved in a number of local organisations in Margate around the 1880s. What a find! □



EMPIRE AND LIBERTY
(Bust of Lord Beaconsfield - formerly
Benjamin Disraeli)
BORN DEC 21st 1805
DIED APRIL 19th 1881

THE WEBB PAINTING OF MARGATE ON DISPLAY AT TURNER CONTEMPORARY

Visitors to Turner Contemporary will have seen, hanging in the ground-floor corridor, the magnificent oil-painting *Margate 1869* by James Webb. I have visited Turner Contemporary many times since it opened and on every visit a cluster of people was found admiring this Victorian painting showing Margate as seen from near the end of the Jetty. Coincidentally, the view is centred on the site of Mrs Booth's house on Bankside - now the site of Turner Contemporary. The painting typifies the Victorian narrative genre painting and is a world away from the interesting range of contemporary art exhibits to be found on display in the galleries of Turner Contemporary.

The painting is owned by Thanet District Council and sincere thanks are expressed to both TDC and Turner Contemporary for making all the necessary arrangements for putting this painting back on public display where it belongs. In particular, thanks are due to Lauren Wright (Curator) at Turner Contemporary and to Chris Tull (Senior Leisure Officer) at TDC. The loan of the oil painting and its restoration is an excellent example of co-operation between Turner Contemporary and TDC. Grateful thanks are also expressed to TDC for granting permission for these photographs of the painting to be published in our Newsletter.

In giving TDC's permission to reproduce images of the oil painting, Chris Tull very kindly supplied the following text for inclusion in the Newsletter:

Following closure of the old Margate Library (in Cecil Square) and creation of the Thanet Gateway, it was felt there was no longer sufficient or suitable space to display the painting safely and the picture was returned (by Kent County Council) to Thanet District Council.

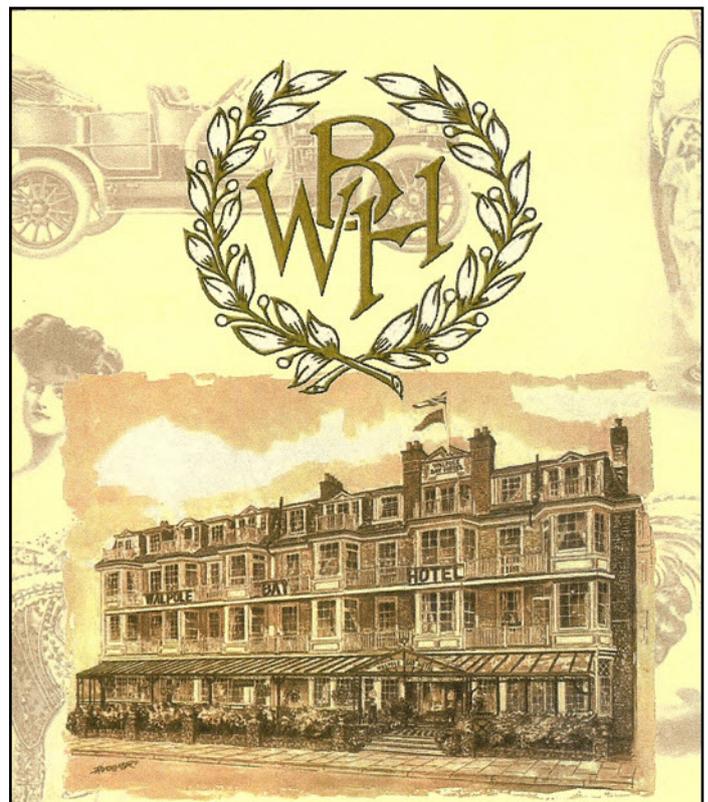
The picture was initially put into temporary fine-art storage for safe keeping until a suitable secure location, taking the size and weight of the picture into consideration, was found to display the painting in the East Room of the Winter Gardens, Margate. With the Turner Contemporary opening, the opportunity to display a piece of historic artwork arose particularly as it depicted the gallery location. The opportunity to enable display to a much wider public audience was an opportunity not to be missed. Discussions followed to facilitate a loan and to undertake restoration work at the same time.

Under expert guidance and supervision from Turner Contemporary, the picture was dismantled from the frame. At some point in its life, the frame had received a coat of gold paint but this was cleaned off and returned to its original gilded finish. The picture itself was also cleaned and some areas of lifting-paint were restored by specialists engaged to undertake the work. Costs of the restoration work were jointly match-funded by Turner Contemporary and Thanet District Council. The initial loan period for display at Turner Contemporary is for one year.

It is hoped that other fine artwork featuring local historic views reflecting the heritage of Margate may

follow through collaborative work with Turner Contemporary in the future.

If you have not yet visited Turner Contemporary, you should do so to admire the Webb painting so excellently displayed and to visit the various galleries where fine examples of contemporary art are also well displayed. The contemporary art exhibits are currently on display until September and the Webb painting is currently on display until next April. It is hoped, however, that TDC will extend their one-year loan period of the Webb painting and that Turner Contemporary will want to continue to display the painting indefinitely. □



**Living Museum
at Walpole Bay Hotel**

Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville
Kent CT9 2JJ
Telephone: 01843 221703

Jane, Peter, Justin and Domini Bishop
welcome you to the ambience of a Bygone Era
Open Everyday, All Year Round
10am - 5pm
Come and Browse

A D M I S S I O N F R E E



James Webb

A View of Margate from the Pier

This painting depicts Margate seen from towards the end of the pier, which formerly stood close to where Turner Contemporary is now situated. The pier opened to the public in 1855 and was finally destroyed in a storm in 1978. Many of the buildings visible in the background no longer exist; some, including the prominent Holy Trinity Church with the tall tower to the left, were destroyed during the Second World War.

The artist James Webb (1825–1895) was a prominent British painter who exhibited frequently at the Royal Academy and the British Institute in London. An admirer of JMW Turner, he was known for his landscapes and especially his marine scenes like this one, which he painted in light colours. This painting was known as one of Webb's finest works.

A View of Margate from the Pier was brought to Margate in 1925 having been discovered in Harrogate by a town councillor. It was purchased by the local council with the help of donations from members of the community. It was the first artwork acquired for a proposed new art gallery in Margate though the plans were not realised at the time. The painting hung in Margate Library in Victoria Road until its closure in 1974 when it was moved to the new library in Cecil Square, and then more recently to the Winter Gardens.

The painting is owned by Thanet District Council who have generously loaned it to Turner Contemporary for the opening of the gallery.

This selection from the Webb painting shows the Seamen's Mission Tower that stood near Neptune Square. The whole of this area was cleared by Margate Corporation in the 1930s when the former dual-carriageway on Fort Hill was built. The dual-carriageway was changed to single-carriageway around two years ago in order to create additional land for the construction of Turner Contemporary. The building on the left of the scene is Cobb's Brewery.



This selection from the painting shows the tower of the former Holy Trinity Church, and Cobb's Brewery (with the high chimney). Note the bathing-machines on the sands and the absence of the promenade. The building on the extreme left is believed to be the end house in Fort Crescent next to the Britannia Public House.

The selection from the painting shows the original 'Droit House and Clock Tower' - as it was originally known. This building was destroyed by enemy bombing in the Second World War and was rebuilt in 1947 to its original design - it is said that the original plans were also lost and that old photographs of the building were used to draw-up the plans for the rebuilding. To the right of the Droit House - as it is now known - can be seen two rectangular structures which, from the painting, appear to support gas-lamps. One of these structures still remains today near the base of the steps leading to the upper walkway of the Stone Pier. To the left of this image can be seen the Pier Hotel





Here, one can imagine the negotiations taking place between the two porters and the lady with her daughter. The lady has probably just arrived at Margate - probably from London by paddle-steamer - and needs to transport her many items of baggage from the end of the Jetty to a hotel or lodging house for her vacation. The couple sitting behind the men are clearly pre-occupied and are oblivious to those negotiations.

In this charming scene, two little girls are having a disagreement regarding the doll's pram. One doll can be seen lying on the deck of the Jetty whilst another doll looks somewhat uncomfortable sitting in a rather basic pram. The girls, of course, are dressed in their Sunday best and clearly wearing voluminous petticoats.



There is a lot going on in this scene. Many discussions are taking place but perhaps the main group is that of the two ladies with the young girl shown in the foreground. The girl has discarded her wooden spade and her hat and appears to be in some distress whilst the three men behind that group are in earnest discussion.

This is my favourite vignette which shows a coloured shoe-shine boy offering his services to the two ladies but neither of them seem to want to engage his service despite his pleading to polish their shoes.

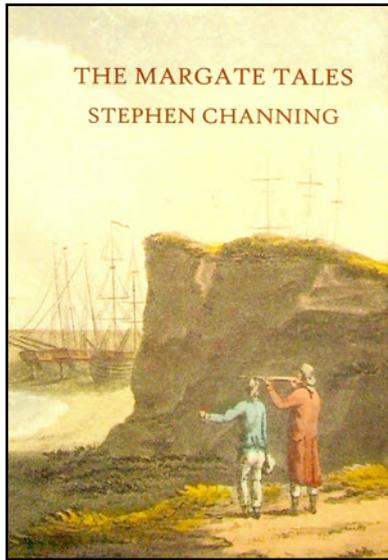


The photographs on both these pages are vignettes of the detail to be found on this wonderful painting now on display at Turner Contemporary. Do go along and see how many more stories you can find on it. You will not be disappointed.

Book Reviews

The Margate Tales by Stephen Channing hb 294pp pub Ozaru Books 2011 at £20.00 from bookshops ISBN 7980955921957

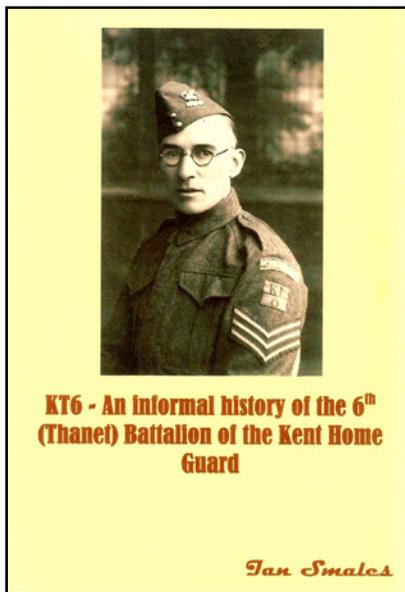
This substantial and fascinating volume comprises reports and writings by Margate visitors between 1586 and 1853. Some are well known but most have been meticulously researched by the author who also compiled *Turner's Margate - Through Contemporary Eyes*. The rush to print *The Margate Tales* in time for the 'Turner' opening was unfortunate. In the manner of some 'vanity-publishing', this book has suffered from an absence of a firm editor but, hopefully, all errors will be corrected in the next edition. An index and listing of sources of illustrations would add research value to what is, nevertheless, an absorbing 'read'.



Steve Vilette

KT6 - An informal history of the 6th (Thanet) Battalion of the Kent Home Guard by Ian Smales

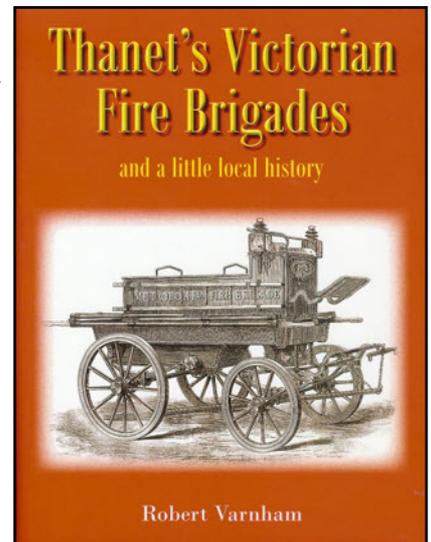
This 40-page A5 softback booklet has been recently published by Michaels Bookshop, 72 King Street, Ramsgate at £3.99. With interest in the Second World War growing as more and more information is released and the memory of the TV series *Dad's Army* still kept alive by repeat broadcasts, this booklet makes a welcome addition to the relatively few books published on the Home Guard. The booklet contains many group photographs of local men who served with the battalion. What was particularly pleasing, for me, was the number of men in these photographs whose names were familiar to me in the 1950s and 60s. This booklet is a 'must' for those who have an interest in both the local Home Guard and the Auxiliary Units in WWII and is good value at £3.99.



James Brazier

Thanet's Victorian Fire Brigades and a little local history by Robert Varnham hb 256pp published by Polly's Publishing 2010 at £20.00 ISBN 978-0-9565139-0-8 (The author is willing to sell copies to members of Margate Civic Society at the special price of £10.00. He can be contacted on e-mail at ravarnham@hotmail.com or by phone on 07929 451822)

The author is a member of our Society and has kindly agreed to give us a talk, on the same subject as his book, at our December meeting. The author was employed by the fire service for 30 years - which gave him the inspiration to write this book. This is a fascinating book with some most interesting illustrations. The depth of the author's research into all matters affecting the Victorian fire service from 1860 really is most impressive. The number of conflagrations during those years resulting in the destruction of so many 'unloved' buildings makes familiar reading today! This book is well recommended.



James Brazier

Margate Harbour Arm Gallery

Margate Civic Society give a special thanks to Pat Wilson-Smith at The Harbour Arm Gallery for kindly allowing the Society to exhibit their display of photographs of the Town Pride Award winners since 2006 on Civic Day (25th June 2011). The Harbour Arm house the studios of a number of local artists and we are most grateful to Pat Wilson-Smith for making space available to us for the purposes of our display. Do come along to our exhibitions on Saturday, 25th June and, afterwards, pay visits to the studios of the various artists along the length of the Harbour Arm. □

STOP PRESS

Kent Success: Dalby Square

The Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded a first-round pass of £1.8m, including £35,100 development funding to the Dalby Square project in Margate.

The project aims to reinstate many lost historical features such as chimneys, parapets and roof coverings. It will also focus on energy conservation issues and, by bringing empty floor space back into use, strive to re-instate some of the high quality hotels that once lined the square. Local people will have the chance to get actively involved and engage with the project through a range of events and activities relating to the town's history. □

Source: KCC's *Inside Track* Issue No 182 dated 31st May 2011

What's On

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

Date	Subject	Speaker
2011		
6th October	Annual General Meeting followed by 'Turner Contemporary'	To be announced
3rd November	'Harlequin to Soap-Opera - 300 years of Pantomime'	Alan Stockwell
2nd December	'Thanet's Victorian Fire Brigades 1860-1900 - and a little local history'	Robert Varnham
2012		
January	No meeting	—
2nd February	'Archaeological Society'	To be announced
1st March	'Thanet Links (1)'	John Robinson
5th April	'The Kent Air Ambulance'	To be announced
3rd May	2012 Town Pride awards followed by a talk yet to be determined	To be announced



Westgate Heritage Centre (in the back of St Saviour's Church) - **Summer Programme 2011**

Open on the first Saturday of each month from 10.00am to 12.30pm with a short talk given at 11.00am by Dr Dawn Crouch (Curator)

Date	Subject
2011	
2nd July	'Holidaying in Westgate (Part I) - In Victorian Times
August	No meeting due to the Westgate Art & Craft Group holding their Annual Exhibition in the Church

Westgate Heritage Centre News

The year 2011 marks the fifth anniversary of the opening of the Westgate Heritage Centre as an experiment. It has been a great success.

Thanks to the generosity and interest of local people, we now have a large and interesting collection of material on the history of Westgate. Our collection of material about Westbrook and Garlinge is steadily growing. All that material is now easily accessible to the public for consultation or serious study. Much of it has been put into files for easy reading and there will soon be a list of files available on the Centre's website www.westgateheritagecentre.co.uk.

I should like to thank Paul Carter for setting up and 'managing' the website for us at no cost to the Centre. Since it was set up, there have been many enquiries from across the country - and indeed the world - about aspects of Westgate's history. Some people are doing family-history research; some are interested in the history of their house and neighbourhood. We are nearly always able to help them or point them in the right direction. We have had serious students come to research at all levels and school-children making visits. There is now a complete set of Information Packs on the fallen of Westgate in the First World War and we have seven books of 'Wartime Memories' collected and put together.

I should also like to thank Cllr Tom King for his sustained support which has enabled the Centre to open monthly in the winter months.

If the Centre is to continue, help is needed. If you are interested in local history and/or meeting people, you might well find it very enjoyable. If so, contact me either by phone (01843 832617) or through the website. I look forward to hearing from you.

Dawn Crouch, Curator

Margate Cemetery - Walks in 2011

Once again, The Friends of Margate Cemetery Trust have organised a number of guided tours of Margate Cemetery. All their tours start at 7.00pm from the Chapel about 100 yards inside the main gate. From the beginning of July, their General Tours will be held on 3rd August and 17th August and their Maritime Tours will be held on 13th July, 27th July and 10th August.

Anyone can attend but the Friends do ask that those wanting to go on their tours do book in advance as numbers are limited. If you want to go on any of these tours, please telephone Norman Smith (the Secretary of the Friends) on either 07982 829664 or 01843 831474, leaving their particulars if there is no reply.

Further information on these tours can be found on the Friends' website: www.margatecemetery.co.uk.

These tours are highly recommended to our members. □

Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk



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

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

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

Committee for 2010/11:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 293169) (e-mail: handscomb@talktalk.net)

Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople

Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 221689) (e-mail: pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk)

Vice-Chairman: Mr Harry Scobie

45 Cornwall Gardens, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2JG (Tel: 291298) (e-mail: harryscobie@hotmail.com)

Secretary: *VACANT*

Treasurer: Mr Mike Wilton

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

Membership Secretary: Mrs Lynda Smith

5 Addington Square, Margate CT9 1NN (Tel: 228174) (e-mail: lyndylou_smith@talktalk.net)

Newsletter Editor: Mr James Brazier

"The Moorings", 25 Barnes Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5EQ (Tel: 298038) (e-mail: jasbrazier@talktalk.net)

Other Committee Members:

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

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

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

✂.....

Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £

Name:

Address:

Tel: **e-mail:**

Subscription rates for 2010/11:

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Annual	£6.00	£10.00	50p	£10.00
Life Membership	£50.00	£70.00	-	-

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