



Margate
Civic
Society

AUTUMN 2022 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE NO. 408

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Members

How are you all?

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer, making the most of the exceptionally warm weather and the opportunity to catch up with family members and friends. Some of you may have managed to holiday abroad, overcoming the many obstacles that have occurred recently.

Six months on, the horrendous situation in the Ukraine continues and becomes even more alarming with more lives lost and intimidated parties on both sides of this war. One can only hope and pray that peace will eventually come, enabling people to resume their lives with their families at their side.

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 ill health issues at this time, caring for a loved one or has been recently bereaved.

In Memoriam: This year has been incredibly sad, both on a personal and nationally level and the passing of our late Queen resonated with me deeply, as I am still trying to come to terms with the sudden death of my mother six months ago. Both women, although from very different backgrounds, belonged to a strong, caring generation of women.

Queen Elizabeth (who reigned from 6 February 1952 - 8 September 2022) was a remarkable, inspirational woman who showed dedication, tact, resilience and understanding throughout her seventy-year reign and her sense of duty was evident right up to the very end of her life.

In 2011, Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited Margate and I was honoured to receive a formal invitation (along with many others from the community) to attend a reception at Turner Contemporary. Prior to the royal visitors arriving, we discussed whether we should curtsy, bow, applaud or simply smile. When they arrived, it was surreal, as all of us were dumbfounded and transfixed at the realisation that they were actually in the same room! The Queen, resplendent in pink, was very petite and both she and Prince Philip were charming and friendly. They were then introduced to a few selected individuals and local school children, before attending a lunch in the Gallery for senior KCC and Gallery personnel.

Many of us watched the coverage of our late Queen's funeral, which was a momentous occasion and incredibly moving. The aspects that I found most poignant were:-

- The choice of flowers, which were picked from the gardens of Highgrove, Buckingham Palace and Clarence House, each selected not only for their simple beauty but for what they symbolised. The personal, thoughtful touches shown throughout the day.
- The ceremonial procession and precision of the marching bands and the pallbearers.
- The Archbishop of Canterbury's sermon, which was very moving.
- The inclusion of the Royal staff and the response from the crowds.
- The Queen's corgis waiting to saying goodbye and her favourite pony, Emma, wearing one of the Royal headscarves on its saddle, who stood solemnly with the Head Groom.
- The first time 'God Save the King' was sung.
- The overwhelming sadness of the Royal family at the loss of a mother, grandmother and great grandmother, with which we could all empathise.
- The end of the second Elizabethan reign and the start of the second Carolean reign with the new King Charles III.

Membership: You will see that our Membership Secretary, Mike Wilton has written a report explaining the Membership situation which requires your ongoing support to ensure our longevity. In order to continue, we need renewed annual membership and financial contributions to ensure we do not run at a loss. Purchasing raffle tickets, refreshments and merchandise will also enable us to make a small profit. All help is most appreciated!

Lecture Evenings: As you are aware, I always endeavour to organise a diverse programme of lectures, with something hopefully appealing to all Members' tastes. Those who have attended this year, have enjoyed themselves immensely but I am saddened to note that attendance figures have been somewhat down since we resumed after lockdown, which is a shame. Several Members have had health issues which obviously impacts on their attendance but I am hopeful that individuals will now feel ready to attend small events such as ours.

Due to spiralling costs, we have had to make some changes and we are now relocating permanently to our 'new home' at the Holy Trinity Margate Hall, St Mary's Ave, Margate CT9 3TN. This hall is a popular choice, with excellent facilities, enabling us to sell refreshments at reasonable prices which adds to the enjoyment of the evening. There is also greater parking provision, user-friendly access and heating, which obviously will be welcome during the winter months.

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 and meet your fellow Members, whilst also showing your support. You will on page 6 that I have amended details for the remainder of this year and have included the 2023 Programme. Regrettably, one of our speakers, Hugh Raggett, who was booked to give a talk in June, on the second part of his Italian film, has informed me that he is no longer able to give talks (due to his health), so I shall be looking to find a replacement.

Blue Plaque Projects: These have continued over the summer months and the Sub-Group consisting of Mike Thompson and Mike Wilton, have been working tirelessly for many months, with support from Geoff Orton and myself. The first of the three plaques dedicated to artists with a connection to Margate, was for Louis Wain and the other two are for Walter Sickert and local artist Christopher Alexander. The 'unveiling' will be held towards the end of next month, so when you are next passing the Arts Education Centre in Hawley Square, spare a few minutes to take a look. Details of this will be include in the Winter newsletter.

This has been a fantastic project, working in partnership with The Margate School and Kent County Council and I should like to express my sincere thanks to both Mikes for their tenacity and professionalism. They have given many hours of volunteer time to make this happen. It is possible, subject to cost, that next year, we will explore others who may be eligible for this honour. We will keep you posted!

Newsletter: It is hard to believe that this is actually the ninth quarterly newsletter edition for which Sally has been Editor with the Editorial Team: Mike Wilton, Mike Thompson and myself. Under this new regime: editions have included contributions from several of our Members, which have made very enjoyable reading. This has received a very positive response and we would, therefore, repeat our request that you please continue to give your support and remember that you are most welcome to contribute to forthcoming editions by forwarding articles, photographs, postcards, life stories, news of events, book reviews, poems, etc. I hope that you will enjoy reading your Autumn Issue which includes an article from Felicity Stafford, memories of the past Queen and another review by Aileen Christodoulou. Aileen is very supportive of the Historical Walks and is keen to get involved in organising her own new walk, using her expertise as a Canterbury Cathedral Guide. As always, we would welcome your feedback regarding this issue - it is always good to hear from you!

Historical Walks: Over the summer, Vice-President, Robin Colyer has continued his programme of walks and Mike and Heather and I participated in the Cliftonville Walk on 17 September which was appropriate, as was also Heritage Open Day. Details of Robin's ultimate walk are given below:-

Sat 22 October: Margate Walk: 'The Old Town - From Fishing Village to Resort'.

Future booking will be essential via text or call to Robin's Mobile: **7878 537 448**. He will collect donations for our Society. These talks will be promoted by social media and various online tourism sites in addition via our newsletter and website.

Why not consider joining Robin? His walks are very enjoyable and informative. In addition to this they are excellent value with a nominal donation requested of £3.00 minimum per person, which goes to our Society. Robin has confirmed that he will be continuing with future walks, for which we are very grateful.

The Margate School: I recently attended the launch party of their first 'Margate Festival of Design 2022' which comprised a series of events until 25 October. Iris Johnston and I were pleased to see Arnold Schwartzman again who was on a 'flying' visit (having only arrived from Los Angeles the previous day), before boarding a plane for an event in Italy the following day! He gave an address to attendees, some of the younger ones of whom had not met him before, so were suitably charmed. Arnold asked me to forward his best wishes to Members and hopefully in the future he will be able to join us at one of our meetings when he is able to have a longer stay in Kent.



From left to right: Pamela, Geoff Orton, Iris, Arnold Schwartzman and Uwe Derksen, Director of The Margate School

For details of the Margate School's latest news see www.themargateschool.com

Community News:

Margate Clock Tower:

Since the door was vandalised, this has been a matter of concern for several of our Members,

including Brian Smith-Stewart, Lynda and Harry Smith, Margate Town Team and the Mayor's Parlour.

Both Brian and Lynda have forwarded their photographs of the newly renovated, painted red door (*see photograph right*) after the works were undertaken by TDC contractors Miers on 21 September. Our thanks to everyone who lobbied tirelessly for a considerable time to make this happen.



Cliftonville Farmers' Market: Please note these popular markets (which take place on the last Sunday of each month from 1000-1300 hrs) are always held on the Walpole Green, Palm Bay Avenue, Cliftonville (which is located behind the Walpole Bay Hotel). They have just celebrated their 21st Anniversary on 25 September, so we send our sincere congratulations to the Manager, June Chadband, members of the Cliftonville Residents' Association and the stall holders, some of whom have been involved for several years.

GRASS Cliftonville CIC: Their summer concerts and film shows on the Oval Lawns have continued throughout the summer, together with a Cliftonville Night Market which was held on 16 September.

They are in the running for Tesco's 'Bags for Help Scheme' community grant, and are asking everyone in our community to help by dropping their blue tokens in their voting slot in store until the 30 September 2022. Should they win the vote, they are aiming to bring their Bandstand Summer Sunday's concerts back for the community in 2023. Should you wish to keep up-to-date with all the news see www.theovalbandstand.co.uk to find out what plans they have for later this year.

Acknowledgements: I should like to thank the following Committee Members who have agreed to continue for another year: namely Harry Scobie, Mike Wilton, Mike Thompson, Sally Whitworth and Kate Wilson, in addition to the Auxiliary Committee: Anny Squire, Heather Wilton, Diane Addison, Ray Pople, Glenys and Richard Clements and Aileen Christodoulou, for their ongoing support. Together we make a great team!

Should you wish to join us, and get involved, it would be lovely to hear from you.

Regrettably, Andrew Chard has tendered his resignation, due to health concerns, so I should like to thank Andrew for his interest in our Society since moving to Cliftonville and for his participation at our meetings. Andrew assures me that he will continue to be a Member and support our events whenever he is able.

Please note the next meeting (which includes our AGM) will be held at 1945 hrs on Thursday, 6 October when the very popular speaker, Steve Hookins will be entertaining us with the topic "Battle Royale 1066" this will be a jam-packed evening, commencing with the official business, followed by Members' notices, guest speaker, our annual collection for Cancer Research UK, refreshments, culminating with the raffle draw.

Remember we now have a new 'home' at the Holy Trinity Margate Hall.

Hope to see you there!

With my very best wishes

Pamela

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2022

Please note that all future meetings will now be held at the Holy Trinity Margate Hall, St Mary's Avenue, Margate CT9 3TN, starting at a slightly later time.

Refreshments and merchandise will be on sale at all meetings. Attendees are requested to be seated by 1935 hrs. The talks will start at 1945 hrs.

6 October

Guests: £4.50 nominal fee

Topic: **Annual General Meeting (Renewal of Subs due) followed by "Battle Royale 1066"**- to help commemorate the 954th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings and possibly the most famous date in English history. Meet the main characters involved and the series of events that brought them together, whilst Steve Hookins tries to make sense of a battle that everyone has heard of but one that so little is known about. Let Steve talk about what he thinks happened, why, where, when and who was involved. Featuring an all start cast, it's a story of Medieval power, politics and pushy parents.

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

Speaker: Steve Hookins (After-dinner speaker, historical presentations).

3 November

Guests: £3.00 Nominal fee

Topic: **"Margate, a Cornishman and a Bi-Plane"**

Speaker: Bob Varnham (MCS Member and local historian)

8 December

Christmas Soiree

Guests: £6.50 nominal fee

Topic: **"The Goose is Getting Fat! The History of Christmas Traditions"** followed by music, refreshments, Festive Hamper Draw and Christmas Raffle.

Speaker: Imogen Corrigan (Lecturer on Anglo-Saxon & Medieval History of Art)

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2023

January No Meeting

February No Meeting

2 March

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

Topic: **"Local News Media Today and the Growth of Independent Publishers"**

Speaker: **Kathy Bailes** (The Isle of Thanet News) Kent Press and Broadcast Awards - Kent Commitment to the community 2020, Kent news website of the year 2018 and Kent Digital Journalist of the year 2017.

6 April

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

Topic: **“Riding The Wall of Death”** - The Wall of Death was a major fairground attraction of the 1930's. What was it and where did it come from? How did a Margate lad get to travel in Europe? Explore a little known facet of life!

Speaker: **Felicity Stafford** (VP, MCS & Margate Museum Trustee).

18 May

Tbc

Guests: £4.50 nominal fee

Topic: **TOWN PRIDE AWARDS** (followed by refreshments and raffle)

8 June

Guests: £4.50 nominal fee

Topic: Please note that regrettably, due to Hugh Raggett's poor health, this has now been cancelled.

Speaker: **Tbc**

6 July

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

Topic: **“The Changing Fortunes of the Cinque Ports”**

Speaker: **James Dickinson** (Historian).

August

No meeting

7 September

Guests: £3.50 nominal fee

Topic: **“Suffragettes and Suffragists”**

Speaker: **Melanie Gibson-Barton.**

5 October **(Renewal of Subs Due)**

Guests: £4.50 nominal fee

Topic: **Annual General Meeting, followed by:-**

‘Waterloo, The Bits Abba Got Wrong - looking at the Battle of Waterloo’

Please note prior to refreshments and our raffle, there will be a collection for Cancer Research UK.

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

November **No meeting**

December **No meeting**

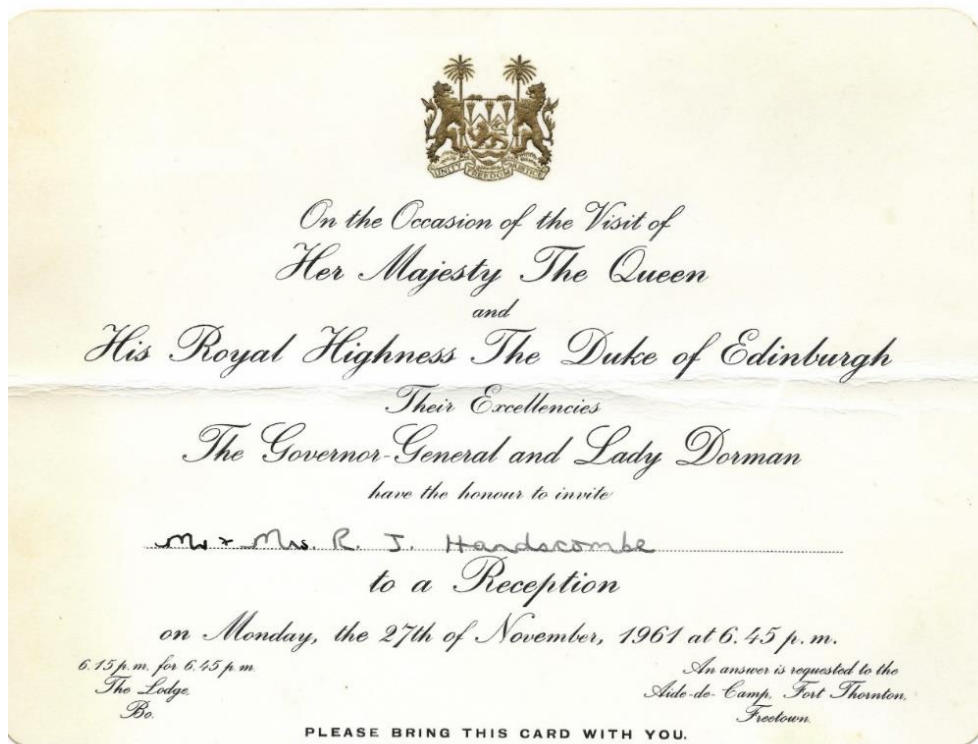
ROYAL MEMORIES FROM RALPH HANDSCOMB

In November 1961, the Queen and Prince Philip paid a State Visit to Sierra Leone. This extract from Ralph Handcomb's autobiography recounts his memories of the visit.

In November 1961, HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh paid a State Visit to Sierra Leone. I was based with the Diamond Trading Company in Bo at the time. The Royal party arrived in Freetown on HMY Britannia and met many of the local dignitaries. They later visited Bo, where I was living at the time and managing the Bo Buying Office, and visited many places there. Daphne and I were fortunate enough to be invited to several of the events which took place in Bo during the visit.

We were also requested to accommodate several of the Royal party. Staying with us were Surgeon Rear Admiral D D Steele-Perkins, the royal party's Medical Officer, Squadron Leader H Carver, Equerry-in-Waiting to the Queen, and Lieutenant-Colonel The Honourable Martin Charteris, Assistant Private Secretary to the Queen. What wonderful guests they were. They enjoyed their time with us and I will never forget the Rear Admiral sitting in a rubber ring in our swimming pool with a large gin and tonic in his hand.

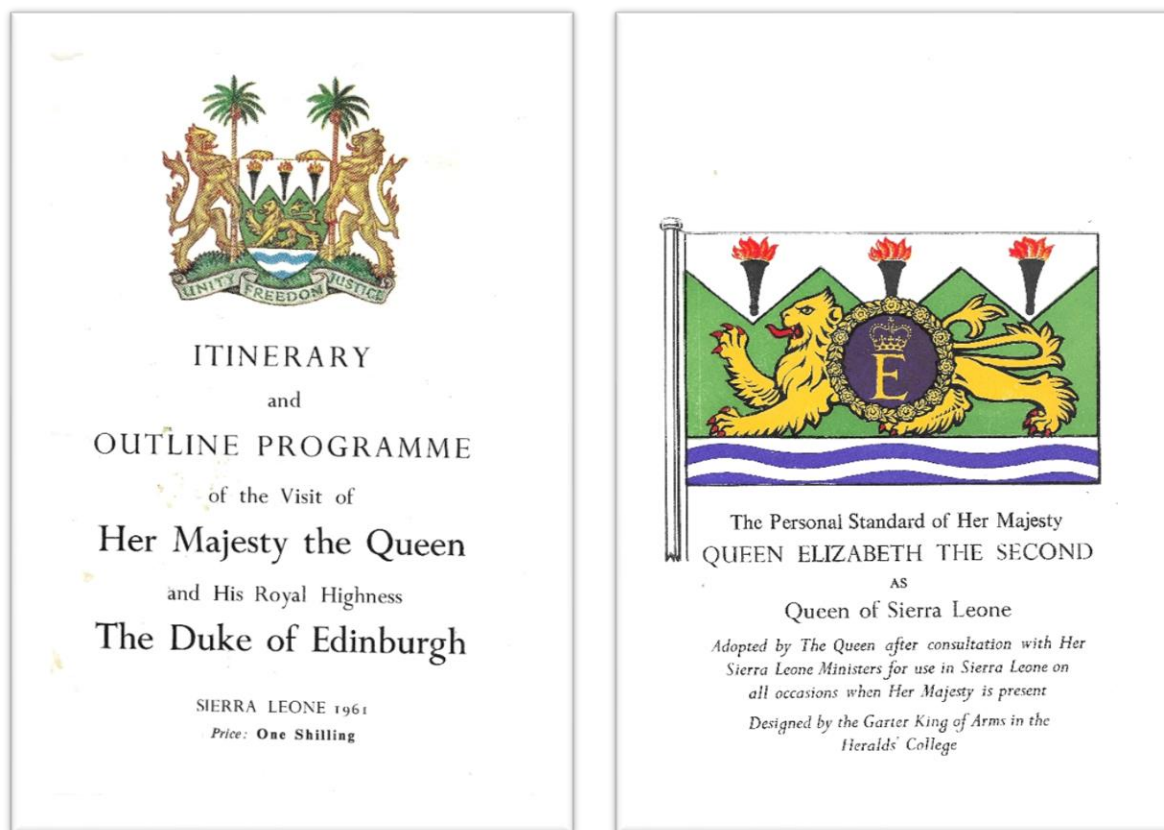
The Queen and Prince Philip visited Bo on Monday 27th November. Their busy day included a Civic Reception on their arrival, to which Daphne and I were invited, followed by visits to Bo Hospital and Bo Government School. In the afternoon, they attended a Durbar, which we also attended. From the programme for the day, this included "Procession of Chiefs with their principal men, horn-blowers, drummers, dancers and devils". In the evening, Daphne and I had the honour of being invited to a Reception in the grounds of The Lodge, the home of the Provincial Commissioner.



Above: The Royal Reception invitation

The Royal Party left for Kenema, a short 20 minute flight, early on 28th November, returning in the afternoon. Late in the evening, they attended a display of traditional Wunde dancing in Bo, to which Daphne and I were invited. and which was a wonderful experience.

I still have many souvenirs of the Royal visit, a few of which are shown here, and of course very happy memories of that visit sixty years ago.



Above: (right) the Itinerary and Outline Programme (left) The Sierra Leone Royal Standard and (below) the instructions for the Reception

RECEPTION AT THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S LODGE, BO

Monday the 27th November, 6.45 p.m.

1. You are asked to arrive between 6.15 p.m. and 6.45 p.m.
2. You should enter through the parking area, the lower drive and lower lawn. You are asked to bring your invitation card with you and to show it to Aides-de-Camp on the far side of the parking place. They will direct you into the Garden. Their Excellencies regret that it will not be possible to receive all the guests personally.
3. The Band of the Sierra Leone Police will render a programme of light music from 6.45 p.m. when drinks and light refreshment will be served.
4. As Her Majesty and His Royal Highness accompanied by the Governor-General and Lady Dorman, Ladies-in-Waiting and the Gentlemen of the Household appear on the verandah leading to the upper lawn, a fanfare will be sounded by Buglers of the Sierra Leone Police.
5. It is hoped that Her Majesty, followed by the Standard Bearer, and His Royal Highness' each attended by members of the Royal Household, will move round the lawns, and that informal presentations can be made either to Her Majesty or to His Royal Highness during the course of the evening.
6. Her Majesty and His Royal Highness then withdraw.
7. At a-quarter to eight the Band will play God Save The Queen and the Sierra Leone National Anthem. When you leave, please go by the same way as you came in, by way of the lower lawn and the lower drive.
8. *Dress*
 Gentlemen: Traditional dress or lounge suit.
 Ladies: Traditional dress, or afternoon dress, or cocktail dress (hats and gloves optional).

[P.T.O.]

UPDATE FROM THE MARGATE MUSEUMS TRUST BY FELICITY STAFFORD

IN 2022 THE TOWN CELEBRATED THE 165TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARGATE'S INCORPORATION AS A BOROUGH

THE GRANTING OF THE CHARTER

On 29th July 1857, Margate gained its "charter" and its freedom from Dover. A report noted a twenty-one-gun salute was fired to celebrate the occasion and there were great manifestations of rejoicing.

Monday 2nd November 1857 was the date set for local elections. Four wards were established – Cecil, Marine, Fort and Pier and their boundaries set. The first meeting of the Town Council took place on 9 November 1857. The first task was to elect the Mayor and Aldermen.

IN 1957 MARGATE CELEBRATED ONE HUNDRED YEARS AS A BOROUGH - THE BOROUGH TAPESTRY



To celebrate the centenary of Margate's independence from Dover, in 1957, a local man David Gore designed a centenary tapestry.

The tapestry, made with colour inks, was produced by Reg Foscett, a long serving councillor, who was, at the time, the Secretary of the Borough Centenary Committee.

It was signed by many local councillors and other dignitaries as well. These included the then Lord Warden of the Ports, Sir Winston Churchill. His signature is in the box above the town crest.

The tapestry was generously donated to the Museum by Mrs Ivy Foscett, the widow of Reg Foscett.

Exhibitions for 2022 to 2023

Pop-up Summer Exhibition: A small pop-up exhibition celebrates the Incorporation of the Borough of Margate (29 July 1857). This will be in place until the Christmas Holidays.

A Major Exhibition for 2023 entitled "Floods and Storms": This will look at the major storms and floods in Margate's history including the Great Storm of 1953. Any reminiscences would be greatly appreciated.

Artefacts of the Month:

October	The Margate Ambulance Corps - Hand Litter and Carriage
November	The Surfboat Disaster of 29 November 1897

Artefacts for 2023 – to be confirmed

CHRISTMAS EVENT:

DECK THE HALLS by Felicity Stafford

A talk celebrating CHRISTMAS! Christmas Customs. Christmas Songs. Christmas Carols.

Dates: Saturday 10 December 2022 and Sunday 11 December 2022 (repeat)

Time: 2 pm

Cost: Free with entry. Donation for talk alone.

Usual Opening Times and Prices:

The Museum will be shut from 12 December 2022. It will re-open at the beginning of February 2023.

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

Margate Museum is open 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 Tudor House is currently closed for maintenance.

FUTURE EVENTS IN THE AREA

WESTGATE-ON-SEA HERITAGE CENTRE

The next Heritage Centre talk will be on Saturday 8th October at Christ Church URC, Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea.

"All the way to Westgate" is an illustrated talk by James Brazier which tells the fascinating story of how the promenade was extended westwards from Westbrook Bay (formerly known as Infirmary Bay) to join up with the promenade at St Mildred's Bay and, later, to reach Epple Bay. James' talk includes a number of early postcards which show how the promenade extended westwards between 1900 and 1931. He will also show photographs of how the cliffs looked at Westbrook before the promenade was built.

Doors open at 10 am and the talk starts at 10.30 am. All are welcome and non-members pay just £2 on the door. Light refreshments (teas/coffees, scones and cakes) will be on sale from 10 am.

Talks are usually held on the first Saturday of the month, currently at Christ Church URC, Westgate Bay Avenue, Westgate-on-Sea. Please see the website www.westgateheritagecentre.org.uk for more details.

BIRCHINGTON HERITAGE TRUST

The next Birchington Heritage Trust meeting will be on the 27th October at Birchington Library, Alpha Road, Birchington, starting at 7.30 pm

'Bird Wise' is a talk by Greg Bessant, followed by three short films entitled The Destruction of St Mary's Church at Reculver, the Ornithology of the coastline between Minnis Bay and Reculver and the story of the Dambuster's top secret testing at Reculver.

For more information please see www.birchingtonheritage.org.uk

ALIGHT HERE FOR CLIFTONVILLE
by A J P Christodoulou

Joining MCS walking tour with Robin Colyer, outside the Droit House



Above – Sweyn Road, Cliftonville

We inhaled the fragrant sea-weed banked alongside the Harbour Arm and scanned Margate Sands Golden Mile. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip had stood here on the 11th November 2011 when they visited the Turner Contemporary.

Ascending Fort Hill, our group exchanged stories of ‘down to Margate’ annual holidays from the 1950s to today. One person had sampled our ‘local seaweed as a body wrap’ spa treatment that Londoners and New Yorkers are raving about.

Panoramic views of Margate bays as far as Reculver to the west and Belgium opposite crystallised the purpose of “Fort Hill” and its past as a defence post. Cliftonville, we were informed by Robin Colyer evolved in order to facilitate “wealthy landowners” from the cities who wanted to enjoy the medicinal properties of sea-bathing without mixing with tradesmen, transporting fish, cargo and even seaweed to nearby farms.

The gentry would have alighted at Margate train station, journeyed by hackney carriage up to Cliftonville to board at exclusive hotels like the Hydro (similar to The Grand at Eastbourne), the Cliftonville Hotel or the salubrious Queen’s Highcliffe Hotel, similar to the Metropole Hotel at Folkestone. Alternatively, some wealthy landowners might simply rent a whole house on Fort Crescent or Paragon Court for ‘the season’ and bring their own servants with them.

The Winter Gardens, dating back to 1911, we discovered, evolved from a bandstand with sunken gardens, like those at Westbrook, into a venue large enough to host the Beatles in 1963, Lulu in 2016 and Jim Davidson in 2022.

Minutes later we were standing in front of the Lido complex with its underground baths, utilising seawater in the 1820s, depicted recently as the ruin it is as the set in the cult thriller ‘Killing Eve’ in 2021. Only the tall orange chimney landmark hints at the industrious laundry that was housed beneath.

Block by block our guide helped us to search out, identify and appreciate features of a bygone age, passing Ethelbert Road, Athelstan Road with its high-quality guest houses and iconic auction house at the far end where it meets Northdown Road, pausing at Dalby Square so named for the Mayor of Margate in the 1870s, whose enterprising legacy remains intact and resonates with those regency buildings in Brighton and Hove with central garden to 'rest in'.

Leaving Eastern Esplanade we lamented the demolition of the Queens Highcliffe, replaced with highly sought-after retirement flats with enclosed balconies, sea views and off-street parking. Coastal properties and shelters behind us, in our "rear view mirrors" we slipped up Sweyn Road into what was once the Knightsbridge of our resort, complete with Bobby's, the Harrods of the street. Bobby's, a white tiled building commands a corner plot and is three storeys high, with mogul style towers reminiscent of the Red Fort in Jaipur India.

At the crossroads we turned right to examine a row of properties with 'pineapple tops' which all indicate wealth from import and export industries. Today the shopfronts below these architectural features included the 101 Club and CAMP 1998.

St Paul's Church and Vicarage on the next block are significant as they were designed by R K Blessey of Eastbourne who is better known for having designed the Grand Hotel opposite the square with the statue of the Duke of Devonshire in his home-town. We briefly left Northdown Road to view the exterior of 12 Arthur Road and marvelled at a highly acclaimed renovation with a wide front door, like a castle. This imposing double fronted property has stained glass panels on the second floor and maybe rented out in its entirety, like Pugin's house in Ramsgate. On the next block, again commanding the corner into Dalby Square, we stood to appraise a church in the French Gothic style which now houses Byzantine-style religious icons of saints as worshipped by the Egyptian Coptic faith.

Behind a fenced car park stands a tall, elegant brick building, known locally as Pettmans. It was a depository, once an auction house, more recently a multi discipline artists' studio with artisans from potters to print-makers to silversmiths, working alongside one another shoulder to shoulder. Today it stands derelict, awaiting its next reincarnation, perhaps luxury apartments.

Releasing us from a time capsule style walking tour at Zion Place where boy scouts, girl guides, St John's Ambulance and others traditionally assemble to begin the downhill march to Holy Trinity Square war memorial on Remembrance Sunday (11th November), Robin had brought us full circle to why Margate Civic Society exists and offer these guided walking tours throughout the season.

Robin is planning a further series of walks in 2023 and there are currently five different tours being offered. Each walk takes approximately 90 minutes



Above - Northdown Road in the last century

MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer, albeit rather too hot for most of us. Still, we'll soon be complaining that it's too cold and wet. Just a reminder that we'll be holding our meetings in the spring and summer next year, so it should be more pleasant to turn out on a nice light evening rather than a cold February one.

Not long after receiving this Newsletter, it'll be time for subscription payments again as they're due on 1st October each year. Enclosed in this edition is a loose-leaf sheet giving all the ways of paying your subscription, including by standing order or cash or cheque at our forthcoming meeting in October. We're pleased to say that there's no increase in subscription fees this year. We all know how our own finances are being squeezed, especially by the horrendous increase in energy costs, but we do hope you'll be able to renew your membership of the Society.

If you have not yet signed up to Gift Aid and are able to do so, we would much appreciate you doing it. It means that we can claim 25% of what you pay from the Government, at no extra cost to yourself. Gift Aid forms are available to download from our website or I will be happy to send you one; my contact details are shown on the back page of the Newsletter.

Last year, we asked Life members who receive a paper Newsletter if they would donate a minimum of £5 as a contribution towards the cost of production and postage. Many did, thank you. If you did not, we would appreciate your kindness in supporting the Society by donating at least £5. When you paid as a life member, it was with the expectation that it was a one-off payment but I'm afraid times change. If you prefer not to donate, you could arrange for an email copy of the Newsletter instead.

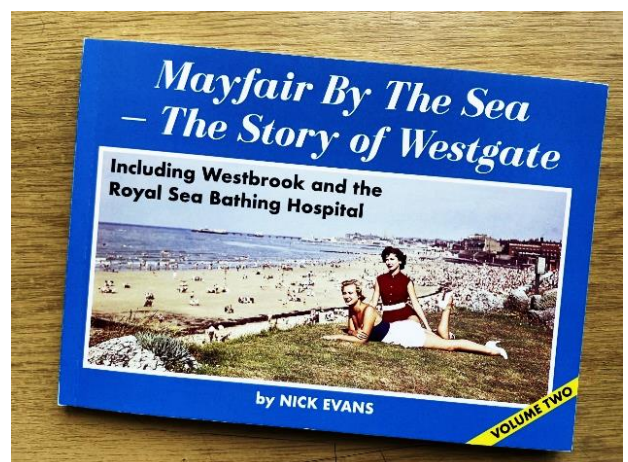
I mentioned in the last Newsletter that we were thinking about re-starting our day coach trips. Committee member Kate Wilson has kindly agreed to arrange future trips, and she had one in mind for this September. Unfortunately, when she emailed members to assess the level of support, only one person replied and so she decided that we could not go ahead. Coach hire for a UK trip is approaching £1,000 and we cannot risk losing a large sum of money if we're not able to sell most of the seats. I think Kate is considering arranging a Continental trip in Spring – these have always been popular and hopefully will be again. We regard coach trips as being good both for members, giving them and their family and friends a good-value day out, and for the Society, in raising funds.

We often send items of interest to members on email. If you receive a paper copy of the Newsletter but also have an email address, please let us have it so that we can include you. You can continue to receive a paper Newsletter but we will be able to contact you by email.

Mike Wilton – Membership Secretary

NEW PUBLICATION ABOUT WESTGATE-ON-SEA AND WESTBROOK

Westgate-on-sea and its immediate neighbour Westbrook are the focus of a second volume of nostalgic photographs and stories written by local author Nick Evans, which was published in mid-September. *Mayfair By The Sea – The Story Of Westgate Volume Two* follows on from the successful first book published nearly two years ago. Copies of any of Nick's books can be purchased at West Galleria in Station Road, Westgate or online from the books section of Westgate Galleria via:-
<https://shorelinepartners.co.uk/product/mayfair-by-the-sea-the-story-of-westgate-volume-two/>

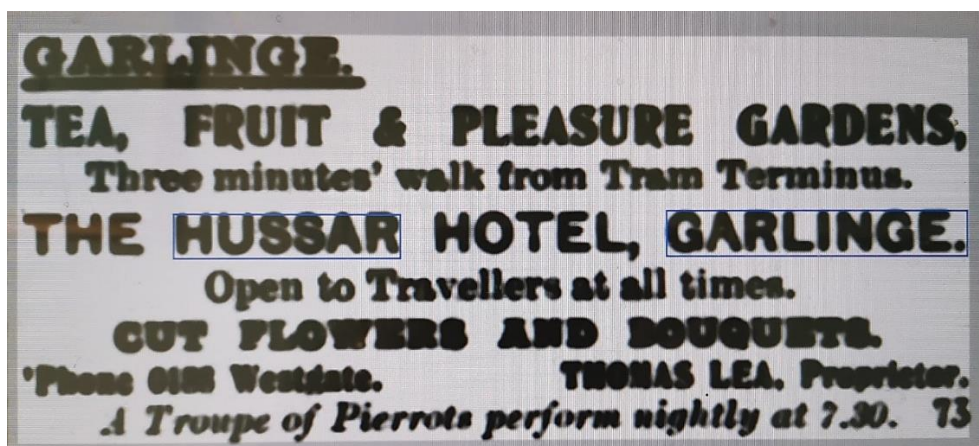


A TRIP TO THE HUSSAR – AT LOOK AT ONE OF GARLINGE’S POPULAR HOSTELRIES

by Sally Whitworth

Garlinge has been a popular destination for tourists (and locals) for many years. The ‘pleasure gardens’ at Dent-de-Lion brought people to the area in the late 1700s and the 14th century Gate House has always attracted visitors. The Hussar Hotel was especially popular in Edwardian times through to the 1920s, not just for ale, but as a place where visitors enjoyed teas, fruit and another ‘pleasure garden’.

In 1903 the *Dover Times* reported – ‘The Hussar at Garlinge. In this case the alteration of an entrance to the Hussar Inn, Garlinge, was approved, the alterations giving an entrance to a tea room without passing through the bar. Mr Downes, who made the application, said that many women objected to going in at the bar door’. The turn of the century postcard below shows how the tea rooms were very much a separate entity to the public house itself.



The August 1905 advert in the East Kent Times – note that a Troupe of Pierrots perform nightly at 7.30 pm.

There were also vineries at the pub where grapes could be picked straight from the vine. The gardens appear to have successfully operated between the turn of the last century and the demolishing of the original Thompson & Sons public house. A road widen scheme meant that the old pub was pulled down in 1926 and at the same time, the new Hussar was built.



Above – (right) A postcard photograph of the public house (circa 1908) showing the separate tea garden entrance and (right) a later shot of the entrance



(Left): The original building being demolished while the new public house was being built. Interestingly one of the first landlords of the original Hussar – John Greavson – went on to build some of the earliest houses in Westgate-on-Sea

FROM THE LOWER DECK

by Geoff Orton

We live in 'interesting times' – perhaps too interesting! You'll recall the furore over the Local Plan all those years ago when some algorithm wished upon us 12,000 houses without much thought to physical infrastructure and social consequences? Margate Civic Society submitted its comprehensive reservations and the result was an 'upgrade' to 20,000 (with even less thought of the consequences). It now seems that, thanks to the Amersham & Chesham electorate, the Ministry has bethought itself and agreed how much more sensible it would be to work from the 'ground up' and let communities decide what they actually need. We were never going to get '30% affordables' and we were going to find our prime agricultural land vanishing under even more concrete. Further submissions updating the original concerns were recently submitted but what with the U-turns and effect of inflation on the construction industry, the Local Plan really now needs a complete rewrite. MCS expects to be involved along with its fellows in Broadstairs and Ramsgate in a 'Best Practice' Forum.

It was always impossible for our Strategic Planner to come up with a plausible answer without a decision on Manston, which was always the prospective tractor for the wider East Kent economy. We now have that decision and this can only be encouraging for the forthcoming East Kent College/Margate School Partnership at Margate Digital. The future of Town Deals etc is presently looking a bit grim as retrenchment is in the air. But not all the emphasis should be going 'Up North' and a proposal has been made for reviving at least some of the South and East Coastal Community Teams, especially those who have proved their 'Value for Money' as The Margate School has surely done with its initial modest £500,000.

The proposal centres on the 'back to basics' renewal of the High Street about which there is increasing interest: the think tank LOCALIS has recently run a webinar with Kent County Council. Now is indeed an excellent buyer's market for taking over one of the redundant High Street properties for community use – popup creative stalls, extra gallery and studio space, an Urban Room? No shortage of ideas as those who attended the The Margate School Reinvention Symposium which highlighted the Arts Council/SE Local Enterprise Partnership Report on the 'creative High Street' will recall.

In addition, this is a prime opportunity to save the Old Town Hall from 'emburgeration' and thus restore a pivotal civic heritage asset to the community. Even fish and chip shops are very hard pressed these days (thanks to rising oil prices!) so it's either a case of leaving the Old Town Hall to another 10 years' shameful decay or turning it over to The Margate School/East Kent Community with the Museum as a 'tech project' exploiting someone called J M W Turner, for example, and developing skills which will benefit the 'Manston catalyst'. It's probably just as well Margate only got Dickens' mistress as we would surely have failed on that 'visitor offer' and Sam Causer's exciting proposed reimagination of Cecil Square as a social place would greatly enhance overall High Street attractions and act as a further link in the 'corridor' to the fresh-looking Centre and its independent enterprises.

The Margate School has just successfully completed its first Festival of Design, masterminded by Becky Thomas and proudly inaugurated by Arnold Schwartzman RD!. Given all the wealth of cultural talent throughout our fair Isle it would not be too soon to start planning Isle of Culture 2025 – we shouldn't let Bradford steal all the limelight. In the meantime MCS has been applying its mind as to how to strengthen our immediate local heritage and the Coronation will soon be upon us. Upwards & onwards!

Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk



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 2021/22:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb

Chair: Mrs Pamela Pople, Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX
Tel: 01843 221689 e-mail: chair@margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Vice-Chair: Mr Harry Scobie

Secretary: Vacancy e-mail: 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

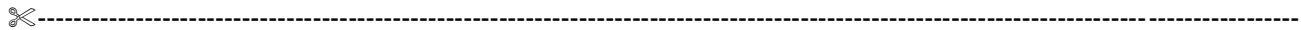
Newsletter Editor: Mrs Sally Whitworth
Tel: 07949 835777 e-mail: newsletter@margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Planning and Conservation issues: Mr Mike Thompson, 7 Seymour Avenue, Margate CT9 5HT
Tel: 01843 832834 e-mail: planning@margatecivicsociety.org.uk

Minutes Secretary: Ms Kate Wilson

All committee members are Trustees of the Society.

Please contact the Society by email at 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 2022/23

	Individual	Joint	Junior (under 18)	Corporate
Paper Newsletter*	£13	£17	£5	
Email Newsletter#	£10	£14	£2	£20

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.