



THE RAMSGATE SOCIETY

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ABOUT RAMSGATE

Winter 2010

THE RAMSGATE SOCIETY'S QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF NEWS, VIEWS AND HERITAGE INFORMATION ABOUT OUR SEASIDE TOWN OF RAMSGATE

The Custom House. Winner of the Town Image Award 2010. See page 13 for more details.



The Ramsgate Society is a Founder Member of Civic Voice and is affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and to The Kent History Federation.
Patron Sir Terry Farrell CBE, RIBA, FRSA, FCSD, MRTPI.
The Ramsgate Society is a Registered Charity - number 1138809

Aims and Objectives of The Society

To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning, to stimulate public interest in, and to care for, the beauty, history and character of the town and its surroundings; and to encourage the preservation and improvement of features of public amenity or historic interest in Ramsgate.

We would like to receive contributions to this magazine About Ramsgate from anyone with an interest in the town.

Articles, typed handwritten or by email, may be sent to the Editor: -

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Alternatively it is possible for articles to be produced from a recorded interview.

Website of The Ramsgate Society: www.ramsgate-society.org.uk

NEW MEMBERS...

A very warm welcome to our new members. We hope that you will all enjoy membership and take a keen interest in the activities of The Society.

From Ramsgate

Mrs Felicity Blackley, L. Bryant, Ricky Omar, Mr & Mrs Layton, Janet Kelly, Tony Roche, Peter & Margaret Lampard and Mr Brian Whitehead

From Elsewhere in Thanet

Roger Waddell

From Further Afield

Jacky Millward - Chingford, Mr Roy Cromb & Ms Maggie Whisson - London

Colin J. Rogers - Crowborough

John Sanders - now Southampton - previously in Hong Kong

From Overseas

Christopher Barton (Germany)

Welcome Back

Tony Child, Justin Etkin & Adam Nichols

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 2011

At the E.G.M held on Wednesday 17th November 2010

The proposed increase was agreed (by a majority decision)

Single Membership	£8.00 per annum
Joint Membership	£12.00 per annum
Life Membership Residing in the U.K.	£80 Single / £120 Joint
Youth Membership shall remain	£3.00
Overseas Membership and Overseas Life Membership to remain	£10.00 / £100 respectively.

For anyone joining The Society on or after January 1st in any year, the subscription will cover the period until April of the following year

All monies to be made payable to *The Ramsgate Society*
Addressed to: Miss Jennifer Smith, Hon Treasurer, The Ramsgate Society,
Mayfold, Park Road, Ramsgate, Kent. CT11 7QH

Editorial

Throughout the country in recent years we have seen a relentless growth in Out of Town Shopping Centres. Rampant commercialism has inflicted this type of sterile shopping upon whole areas, with little regard for the consequences inflicted upon the traditional town centre shops and shoppers. Councils have permitted - even encouraged these developments - against local wishes and, at a stroke, condemned many town centres to dereliction.

One town, until very recently able to resist the creep of retail commercialism, is Sheringham on the North Norfolk coast. A comparatively recent visit revealed a thriving town still blessed with its own fully complete shopping streets. Now it seems after years of trying a large - very large - supermarket chain has finally persuaded the council to allow

it to build a large store on the outskirts of the town. From The Guardian 14th October 2010... "Tesco has won its 14-year battle to build a store in Sheringham. It has been an epic battle. The planning dispute over the site of a supermarket in the Norfolk town of Sheringham has lasted longer than the first and second world wars combined.

Yesterday, after 14 years, Tesco emerged victorious, defeating townspeople who had fought to shield businesses from commercial competition with the retail giant. By the narrowest of margins, the chain won permission for the 1,500 sq metre scheme to go ahead after the chairman of North Norfolk District Council's development committee cast the deciding vote at the end of a six-hour meeting." How short a time will it now be before we begin to see the collapse of that town centre?

It is not so much, we might observe, about providing so

called 'facilities' as it is of developers building a centre to let out to major retailers, at likely quite high rents in pursuit of rapacious commercial gain. Whilst there can be an appreciation of the need for enterprise and profit, for the benefit of society in general, there surely has to be a balance struck somewhere. As for the much vaunted 'jobs' created, so often trumpeted by councillors, how many real jobs are to be lost? Rather more than those created we might suppose - and never mentioned in those bland standard format press releases.

That all said, Ramsgate town centre still has much to offer today's shopper and, in the main, remains vibrant and welcoming. This despite - perhaps encouraged by - draughty 'Out of Town Shopping' hugely congested with traffic and inconveniently placed some distance from where we live. The picture feature beginning on page 9 shows just how fortunate we are in combating Out of Town shopping. Additionally, besides being able to get all your needs, in the comparatively small area of the town centre, it is quite often cheaper and of better quality.

We have, encouragingly, managed to retain a number of the big multiples. We have a comprehensive Boots, a good W H Smiths, Holland and Barrett, Iceland, Peacocks, Bon Marché, New Look, Pound Store and 99p Store; Waitrose in Queen Street which has its own car park and Iceland in King Street, which offers free home deliveries. We also have a Wilkinsons - virtually a small department store (which is by far the cheapest source of Epson printer inks in the area). Nearby we also have an Aldi and Netto Foodstores - Netto soon to be rebuilt on its present site - see Town Planning on page 17.

On page 9 we take a look at some of the small independents - the family businesses, most of whom have been around very many years and often over several generations. Sadly space precludes mention of all the many shops in Ramsgate.

At the time of this picture review - 23rd November 2010 - pineapples were to be had for just 95p whilst bananas were available straight in from Covent Garden, not having been subject to a few days of supermarket chilled storage and transport. Not all fruit likes this - bananas for example do not like temperatures below 15°C.

Because the sites for the out of town centres are usually privately owned, and likely as not as a sweetener to attract the big stores, they choose to make car parking free of any charges. Not so in Ramsgate where on and off street parking has to be paid for. It is not just the cost but also the hassle of finding the ticket machine, deciding how long you want to park and adding a bit, then going back to place the ticket. Not a big deal but still a part of the 'shopping experience'.

All of the shopkeepers spoken to on the subject of car parking, in the preparation of this review, were of the view that car parking charges are an issue here in Ramsgate. To make it more of a 'level playing field' we need therefore to do something about this imbalance. Perhaps though it might benefit shops to have the first 2 hours free. The council, to its shame, is resistant to doing something. By this means people will not be able to park for lengthy periods without charge, which in turn will encourage greater turnover of short stay shopping traffic. What will the council say to that idea we might wonder?

Robert Holden



THE CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

Dear Members home and abroad

I am delighted to announce that our Society is now a registered charity. There are many benefits to being a registered charity including certain VAT exemptions and being able to take advantage of the Gift Aid Scheme. I believe this is good for the future of our Society.

I trust you have all had a good summer. Now winter is with us let's hope the weather will be kind - we certainly don't want another like the one we had here in the UK last year.

Our Society has been going from strength to strength, and we've had a few successes this year. The Council has granted us a twenty-five and a half year lease for the 14 seaside shelters in Ramsgate. The Heritage Lottery Fund has offered us 90% funding for the restoration work on the shelters so the Society has to raise 10% - some £35k! It's a large sum but with your help, contributions from the community and lots of fund raising I hope we can achieve it. We have already started our fund raising venture and have contacted Ramsgate Town Council and our ward Councillors to seek their help. I know this is a bad time with all the cutbacks from central government but let's hope that there are still a few coppers in the coffers.

We intend to hold several events and your help will be needed there. The committee is at present approaching several groups and associations for help, especially those with shelters in their area.

Our Society together with a number of residents have established a Trust called Ramsgate Heritage Regeneration Trust (RHRT) to take on buildings that are at risk and restore them for the use of the community. These are well known to you: Albion House, Royal Pavilion, Clock House, Westcliff Lift and the Chine. The new Trust still needs support from members and non-members so please help if you can. It is for the good of our town, which you all love, and I'm sure we'd all like to see these buildings returned to their grand status. The trust has a small membership. It would like to recruit more members who will become guarantors. A one-off payment of £21 is required: £1 is for the share, and £20 for start-up administration.

The Trust has five Directors: Mr P Landi, Ms B. Morgan, Mr K Read, Mr G Attwell and Mr J McCarthy. They will hold monthly meetings and minutes will be passed to members of the Trust and to The Ramsgate Society, to keep everyone updated on its progress.

Our Society also needs new members. I am sure this can be achieved by each member signing up a friend or anyone who used to live in our town and has moved away. Why not send them an invitation? We would really like to interest our youth in our Society, as they will be the future keepers of our heritage. We have ex-teachers in our membership who would be just the right people to take on this task. I know our past Chairman Mr Peter Landi has done some work on the subject. We'd like another member to take this further. The Society has a planning and conservation remit and should be able to help schools on these matters. Please give this a thought and contact your committee if you can help.

Regarding night flights from Manston. Do we need seven flights per night over Ramsgate or Thanet? At our last meeting the subject was raised and many of the members present did not agree that we need these flights. Yes, the improvement of the airport is vital but not at this cost. Thanet Council will have a series of consultations on the 106 agreement (*The agreement on night flights - Editor*) which has never been enforced. We have had consultations in the past and unfortunately this was not taken into account. We hope that this time it will be, and the residents of Thanet will have their voices heard. Will all members home and abroad please make their opinions known - whether in favour or not. Post your opinions on our forum on the website.

Some more information which you may have already heard of concerns the slipways in our Royal Harbour. An application has been submitted for removal of three of the four slipways, retaining only No 1. The Society's planning committee has objected to the development. This detailed objection can be found on our website. A 3D version of the plan is also available. Have your say on the forum.

Our Patron Sir Terry Farrell will be at our Christmas Lunch and will present this year's Town Image Awards. In the evening he will give a talk on the regeneration of seaside towns.

I hope you all have a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year!

Jocelyn McCarthy

Extracts from :

Pegwell - A Patchwork For The Millennium

By kind permission of the Pegwell and District Association.

Pegwell in the Past - Eileen Randall

There are various versions of how the hamlet came to acquire its name. Some say it was derived from Piggeswell, and that is a strong probability. There were always pigs at the farm and with contours of the land dropping down into the hollow on three sides, it was no doubt a good source of water. Other names show up on old maps. It has been called Shrimptown (from the abundance of shrimps in the Bay), Greystone Bay (from the grey boulders strewn along the shore) and Pepperness or Hopaness, a sand spit, as shown on map circa 1870.

Round about 1830 when the Princess Victoria and her mother the Duchess of Kent visited Pegwell, the village was a notable leisure resort. Regattas were held in the Bay under the patronage of the local gentry. *'... At that time the sea came right into the Cove where now there is a sunken garden protected by the sea wall.'* Pegwell enjoyed popularity throughout the 19th century and in an advertisement in 1890 it is described as 'Thanet's Premier Resort'.

It is impossible to mention Pegwell without referring to the tall imposing building in the heart of the village – the Pegwell Hotel. Formerly called the Clifton Hotel in the late 19th century, it has been depicted on early postcard views. The building was purchased in 1894 by Mr Passmore-Edwards for use as a working mans convalescent home. Two years later the building was enlarged to include the distinctive tower which is now a local landmark. The convalescent home was flooded in a severe rain storm in 1969 and was subsequently relocated to St Peter's.

A variety of entrepreneurs have endeavoured to develop the Bay commercially. At one time the Pegwell Bay Company was formed, with the intention of making Pegwell into a holiday resort.

A wooden pier was constructed out into the sea so that day trippers could arrive by boat. A sea wall was built across the Cove and a swimming pool excavated in the reclaimed land. This was doomed to failure and the pool became a sunken garden, which is now overgrown, and a haven for wildlife.

The main road through Pegwell was once a busy little "High Street" with a teasop, florists and potted shrimp factory. The local shrimps were known to be particularly tasty and Mr Banger who had a shop in the village devised a recipe for making potted paste. This became very popular with visitors and locals alike. The paste was sold in attractively painted pots which today are much sought after collectors' items.

Pegwell Memories - Tom Simon recalls

The people used to come [to Pegwell] in horse brakes from Ramsgate. Tom remembers clearly that he had no wish or desire to ride on these contraptions as, like his mother, he was passionately fond of animals, especially horses and did not agree with the treatment these overworked creatures received. Tom said if he had had his way he would have thrown all the passengers off and made them pull the load up the hill!

In the late 1920s the horse brake '4d each way' was the cry from Ramsgate to Pegwell Bay. The brake came down Chilton Lane to stop outside the 'Hotel' and then head into Ramsgate going up Pegwell Road. It was a struggle for two horses to pull a full load. Tom's mother – Mrs Simon and his aunt, Mrs Curd, were concerned about the horses so they sat in the road in front of the brake to prevent it from pulling away. Haskins had the monopoly of horse brakes. The harnesses rubbed the animals' shoulders and caused sores. The drivers would blacklead the sores. The two sisters would examine the horses and often get sworn at by the drivers. Ramsgate Council conceded and agreed to have a 'trace horse' a third horse to help the other two pull the load up the hill. The horses for the brakes came from Haskins' stables in Queen Street, on the site opposite side of the road to Courts the Furnishers [now a sports shop]



The horse-drawn bus drays from Ramsgate Harbour to the lavender fields at Cliffsend tied up here for their passengers to alight for teas and refreshment. The Old Barn - in the rear in this picture - was built in 1700.

It was said to be a home for bats before demolition. The late Joan Alder in conversation with the Editor.

Original postcard and notes courtesy of Joan Alder, former owner.

The Sir Stanley Gray – Update 2000 - supplied with local knowledge

The hotel and tavern were closed for a period of time in the late 1990s while the Royal Harbour Access tunnel was constructed under the village. Early in 2000 both properties were purchased by Thorley Taverns. Stanley Gray was an

early business partner and major influence on Frank Thorley and he chose to name the pub after his old friend.

Arthur Bolton

Arthur remembers the horse brakes that used to run from Ramsgate Harbour to Pegwell, with the fare of 4d (four old pence) each way. These brakes were owned by such well-known gents as Bronch Haskins, Bumpy Debling and owner-drivers Stump Wackett and Tubby Gore and their brakes would bring crowds of holiday-makers to the village. There they would have picnics and fun in the meadows, maybe have a drink at the Belle Vue, a good dinner at the Pear Tree Tea Rooms or in the Old Barn Tea Rooms in Pegwell Road. The Old Barn was run by a very pleasant couple, Mr and Mrs Mayhew, the cost for dinner, which included a cup of tea, was 1/- (one old shilling = 5p now).

There was a large tunnel in the meadow, this led to the beach and was a great play area for the children. This has long since been filled in. There was another tunnel at Little Cliffs End Farm, which was also farmed by the Ansteys. Arthur would drive a cart pulled by two heavy horses through this tunnel to the beach where he would collect seaweed from the bay to be used as fertiliser on the fields.

The route through Pegwell was the main road between Ramsgate and Sandwich and many horses and vans would call at the Chilton Tavern and until a short while ago [year 2000] tethering rings could still be seen in the wall.

The Convent grew a lot of their food in a field, which is now Minster Road and Goodwin Road; they had no heavy horses of their own so the work was done as required by the pair of horses from Chilton Farm.

The area of land at present occupied by Lauriston Close, Pegwell Close and Silverdale Road was as one time two large nurseries. One nursery was worked by Sam and Alf Banger and the other by Will Pettit. When the land was sold for building purposes, Sam Banger and Bill Anstey joined forces to grow a great area of flowers on the fields at the rear of Chilton (now Chilton County Primary School) with some of the local residents working to pick and box the flowers for the London markets. The flowers were taken to market by haulage contractor Harry Hubble.

During the 1930's a Mr Tomkins moved to Downs Road and opened a grocery shop and the original Post Office. This is on the site of nos. 1 and 2 Tavern Cottages; this gave a total of five shops in Chilton Lane. Nos. 40, 42 and 44 were a butcher's shop, owned by Miss Grace Anstey, a barber's where Frank Finch used to live and then a grocer's shop. Number 49 was owned by Will Packer where he sold sweets and tobacco. In 1939 Mr Tomkins was recalled for service, he was an ex marine. The Post Office was later moved to its present location.

HOVERLLOYD

A Memorial at Cliffsend

Many who were around in the 1970s will remember the hovercraft that operated to Calais out of Pegwell Bay. The company Hoverlloyd operated the large SRN4 hovercraft from 1969 until 1981 when they merged with Seaspeed to make Hoverspeed and moved all operations to Dover, Hoverspeed finally ending hovercraft operations in the year 2000.

There is now interest in erecting a memorial near the Viking Ship from those who worked in the various Hoverlloyd departments. They have had reunions and the impetus for this really started in

2008 when they formed an ad-hoc committee by email. They have of course dispersed all over the place, with members in Australia and New Zealand!

Then in May 2009 they had a bumper reunion attended by around 250. From that has been born the idea of a permanent memorial, hopefully on the green overlooking the defunct hover-

port. We are informed that the response from Thanet Council has been favourable, but stumbling blocks over on-going insurance and guarantees over maintenance have delayed things.

If any member, or reader of this magazine would like to know more, or be put in touch with the organiser please contact The Editor.



One of the SR.N4 hovercraft entering Pegwell Bay sometime between 1969 & 1981



An SR.N6, - from 1966 to 1968

Salvation Army in Ramsgate 1888 - 1985

By Hayden J. Beerling B.A. (Hons)

Continued from the Autumn 2010 issue

THE NEW CITADEL

The War Cry of April 14th 1888 report the opening of the New Citadel as follows ... "the new Barracks are situated in the High Street, the most desirable position in the town and is worthy of the town and Kent Division. The building is compact, convenient, well designed and substantially built and capable of holding one thousand two hundred people. It has a gallery round both sides and the end, and when filled, as it was both afternoon and evening on Good Friday, it presents as pretty a sight of human faces as one could wish to see. Every seat was occupied and even the aisles filled with standing listeners. In fact, at night, the place was literally jammed from floor to ceiling".

The Corps Officers were Captain and Mrs Mobley. The Regent Hall Band had been secured for the week-end to provide music and head processions through the town.



BAND AND SONGSTERS

It was in November of that same year 1888 that the Ramsgate Citadel Band was formed. To the present day the Band has maintained its witness in the streets of Ramsgate and has been at the spearhead of the Army's evangelical campaign. Throughout those years the Band has also been engaged to support the civic functions of the Borough; has given summer festivals at the local bandstands and provided seasonal music in the streets of Ramsgate at Christmas. An entry in the Corps History Book, by a Commanding Officer of those early days, suggests that a deal of friction existed between the Salvation Army Band and the local Methodist Brass Band. " ... Last Xmas a little friction was experienced with the Methodist Brass Band, who opposed us in King Street, by taking their stand above us each time after we had finished the street. I dealt with the band, from a Christian point of view and hoped they would cease. They did not play any more that night. I hear indirectly that they are going to play the Army up this year."

During the course of its history, the Band had had eleven Bandmasters [*up to the centenary 1985*]. The longest serving Bandmasters were Harry Kelson (30 years) and Cyril Simpson (26 years). Records suggest that the Songster Brigade was formed in the early nineteen hundreds. From the mid fifties to the early eighties, the Corps' musical sections were under the efficient and dedicated leadership of Bandmaster Cyril Simpson and Songster Leader Frank Neale, who both gave unstintingly of their time, talent and service.

HARVEST CELEBRATIONS 1896

Throughout its 125 years, the Corps has marked and celebrated the various festivals of the year, but few can have been as spectacular as the harvest celebrations of 1896. The Thanet Advertiser September 19th 1896 reported it as follows:-

"A novel procession attracted considerable attention in the main streets of Ramsgate on Monday evening, when the celebration of the harvest festival of the local Salvation Army Corps was observed with a specimen of the strange ceremonial for which the Army has made itself famous. Instead of the usual walk to the headquarters of the Corps, the procession was headed by the officer in command riding a white charger. Immediately following him came a brother and sister, also on horseback, the former wearing a hat á la Jameson. A team drawing a wagon laden with corn on which girls in white aprons sat followed the equestrians. An escort of Salvationist torchbearers walked on either side of the Brass Band, and the usual following, mostly garbed in strange agriculture attires and carrying various products of the soil, brought to a close a spectacle to be remembered."

HAVEN CHILDREN'S HOME

It was in 1908 that the Army opened a children's home in Ramsgate. This was situated at 2 Albert Road, East Cliff, Ramsgate and was attached to 'The Nest' children's home in London. Originally, it was opened as a holiday and convalescent home away from the dirt and grime of London for 'The Nest' children. In November 1911 the children's home moved to The Haven, West Cliff Road, Ramsgate, and it became a separate children's home.

During 1916/17 the children moved to Weybridge, because of the bombing, returning to Ramsgate in 1919, where it continued as a home for little girls until the outbreak of the Second World War. A former Havenite, (as they were known) Eleanor Owen, recalls memories of the Senior Band visiting The Haven every Christmas Eve after they had visited the hospital. "We girls used to get up, wrapped in blankets, would sit down the stairs in twos and sing back carols to the Band".

Each Sunday morning the girls would attend the morning meeting at the Citadel. They would be seated down one side of the hall. The Corps Sergeant Major at this time was Mr Nichols who greeted the Haven girls each Sunday with, 'Good morning all you little girls.' Each year the girls gave P.E. demonstrations at the Citadel and West Cliff Hall and presented songs. At Christmas time they would visit the Army Eventide Home, which was situated in the cottages

adjacent to the Chilton Tavern in Downs Road.

A number of the girls from The Haven became the wives of local Salvationists and today are mothers and grandmothers in all three of the Thanet Corps.

THE FIRST WORLD WAR

The Ramsgate Citadel and its soldiery were not to escape the ravages of the First World War. The Corps History Book records – That on Wednesday, August 22nd 1917, the Germans visited Ramsgate and dropped an aerial torpedo near the Hall. A good many windows were smashed and the ceiling was damaged. The damage was to the amount of a few hundred pounds.

Six young men who answered the call of King and Country were to pay the supreme sacrifice. Their names are recorded on the brass memorial plaque mounted above the penitent form. A smaller plaque gives thanks for the forty who returned safely.

Entries in the Corps History Book suggest that the years between the two World Wars were stable and fruitful.

The industrial depression years of the twenties and thirties brought new faces to the towns of the South East from the North of England and Wales, as men and their families came south to find work in the Kent coal fields. Most South East Corps, Ramsgate included, benefitted from this move of population.

WORLD WAR TWO

With the outbreak of World War Two in September 1939, Ramsgate became a 'Front Line Corps' with much coming and going of Corps personnel. In April 1944 twenty five Bandsmen/Songsters were listed as serving in the Armed Forces or on war work. Many other Corps comrades were actively engaged in events which were to become landmarks in British history – i.e. helping meet the needs of the British Expeditionary Force as its remnants arrived at Ramsgate Harbour after their ordeal on the beaches at Dunkirk.

The town was heavily bombed during the Autumn of 1940 and again in 1941. The Commanding Officer Major Easy, recorded 24.8.1940 – Serious Air Raids over 1,500 houses and shops destroyed, gas works bombed, 600 bombs dropped on the town many people injured.

25.8.1940 Town in great distress, 200 homeless ... We have been busy serving tea in the tunnels and giving relief.

The Corps operated a mobile canteen and gave relief in the form of clothes, food and cash when needed.

The town again came under attack in August/ September 1944 with shelling from the French coast. It was on Sunday October 1st 1944 that the Corps congregation rose to sing with fervour and sincerity "Praise God from Whom all blessings flow". The shelling menace was over. German Big Guns at Cap Griz Nez had been captured.

On V.E., Day May 8th 1945 the Band played hymns after the Mayor's proclamation from the Town Hall balcony. The united Service of Thanksgiving was held in the Citadel. There was great rejoicing in the Town especially at the harbour when ships sounded their hooters following the Prime Minister's message.

On Sunday 13th May a great united Thanksgiving Service was held at the West Cliff Bandstand. An immense crowd gathered. The Ramsgate Salvation Army Band led the parade from Albion Gardens.

Throughout those war years, tea was provided for visiting S.A. Service men in the Citadel each Sunday. Bandmaster Sam Copley (member of the local fire service) kept a list of over one hundred service men who played in the Band during the course of the war years.

GARDEN PARTIES

Annual Garden Parties have been a feature of the Corps' social life and fund raising over the years. Prior to the war the venue was The Haven. During the forties Eagle Lodge became the Bank Holiday venue for these functions. The grounds of St Luke's Vicarage provided an idyllic setting for the Garden Parties of the late forties and fifties. The early years of the seventies saw a revival of the annual Garden Parties. The grounds of Ellington Park and the local Technical College were used for these occasions.

OPEN AIR STANDS

The Army's "All the World" publication of 1908 had this to say of Ramsgate " It is one of the sights of Ramsgate to see the Corps, with flag waving and headed by the Band, marching down to the sands or the quayside where, by permission of the Harbour Commissioners, our comrades conduct their public services and win souls for Christ. ..." The beach, Military Road and later the Pier Yard have been the main stands for the summer open-air witness from the earliest years to the present day.

The cinema going crowds of the fifties and sixties provided a captive congregation for the Hardres Street and Market Place Sunday evening stands, as did the 'Monkey Parade' of the thirties and forties. With the decline of the local holiday industry the late Sunday evening open-air meetings in the Pier Yard came to an end in the early seventies.

However our open-air witness is maintained throughout the year in the streets of Ramsgate and during the summer months on the sea-fronts of both Ramsgate and Broadstairs.

TIME PAST AND FUTURE

During the course of its 125 year history, the Corps has been a focal point of many changes. Its ministry has experienced years of persecution and misunderstanding, upheaval and fear, stability and approval and those of contraction and indifference. Yet through it all and in every age there have been those of our numbers whose faith in the Corps and its mission have been a constant encouragement for the future.

The Disappearing Garden

A Footnote on Guildford Lawn From Linda Drew

Regular readers might remember me telling you how I met our President Roy Adsett when he was leading the Central Ramsgate costumed walk. We had a chat about my great-great-great-grandfather, William Saxby and about the garden which had once been an attractive part of his Guildford Lawn. That was last year, and since then, with Roy's encouragement, I've written a couple of articles for "About Ramsgate".

I said I'd tell you who sold the garden, and it's only taken me a year of research to find something which provided the answer! It was in a large document in the East Kent Archives about Guildford Lawn. Too big to be photocopied I spread it out and had a good read. It turned out that the garden was sold by the executors of the late Isaac Fenwick. But who was Isaac Fenwick?

He was a mariner who, in 1851, married Martha Austen, William Saxby's elder granddaughter. He became proprietor of The Shipwrights (*was it the Shipwrights Arms? Editor*) and he and Martha had 15 children. In 1883 Martha died, and two years later Isaac married her cousin Catharine Bear, who was William Saxby's younger granddaughter. The following year Elizabeth Saxby, Catharine's aunt died and she left most of her property portfolio to her niece and this included 18 & 19 Guildford Lawn and the garden. In January 1891 Catharine died leaving everything to Isaac. He died in July that year and in his will he requested his property be sold and converted into money.

Later I went to the Newspaper Library where I found the For Sale advert in the Thanet Advertiser of August 8th 1891 which I hope you will find interesting.

I will leave it there, but who knows what new snippets will pop up in the future!

Advert from The...

Thanet Advertiser

RAMSGATE AND MARGATE NEWSPAPER.
Broadstairs, St. Peter's, Minster, Birchington, Sandwich and the Isle of Thanet in General.
E OLDEST ESTABLISHED NEWSPAPER IN THE ISLE OF THANET.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8th, 1891.

Price—One Penny.

HINDS & SON

Have been favoured with instructions from the Executors of the late Mr I Fenwick
TO SELL BY AUCTION

At the Bull & George Hotel on Thursday at Four o'clock in the Afternoon, exact time,
the following very excellent and desirable
Freehold Properties

Lot 1 – All that convenient and most pleasantly situated
DWELLING HOUSE 18 GUILDFORD LAWN

containing front and back sitting room, breakfast rooms, four bedrooms, kitchen, larder, w.c.,
coal cellar etc- garden with entrance, and w.c. Gas laid on, also a good supply of rain and
spring water. Now in the occupation of Mr Thos. Stear at the annual rent of £26.

LOT 2 – The similar House adjoining, being 19 GUILDFORD LAWN. Now in the occupation of
Mr T. Hodgeman at the annual rent of £26.

Lot 3 - One undivided Moiety [*legal - half*] of the Piece of ORNAMENTAL GARDEN GROUND
in front of the houses in GUILDFORD LAWN and comprising an area of 0a. 1r. 9p., frontage
147 ft, depth 92 ft. 0 acres, 1 rod , 9 perches. *Editor*

A total of 18 Lots were advertised for Auction including property in Spencer Square,
and Farley Place

*These together with 8 separate plots of building land near to Christ Church, (now Vale
Square)*

together with Vale Villa and Mendlesham House (photo printed in Winter 2009 issue).

*Lots 17 & 18 were Ten and Thirty Shares respectively, in that most prosperous undertaking,
the*

RAMSGATE SMACKOWNERS' ICE COMPANY.

RAMSGATE, KENT.
VALUABLE BUILDING LAND, GOOD
RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY,
SHARES IN ICE COMPANY.
HINDS & SON
Have been favoured with instructions from the
Executors of the late Mr. I. Fenwick,
TO SELL BY AUCTION,
At the BULL & GEORGE HOTEL,
ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 20th, 1891,
at Four o'clock in the afternoon, exact time,
the following very excellent and desirable
Freehold Properties:

Lot 1.—All that convenient and most pleasantly situated DWELLING HOUSE, 18, GUILDFORD LAWN, containing front and back sitting room, breakfast room, four bedrooms, kitchen, larder, w.c., coal cellar, etc.; garden with entrance, and w.c. Gas laid on, also a good supply of rain and spring water. Now in the occupation of Mr. Thos. Stear at the annual rent of £26.

Lot 2.—The similar House adjoining, being 19, GUILDFORD LAWN. Now in the occupation of Mr. T. Hodgeman at the annual rent of £26.

Lot 3.—One undivided Moiety of the Piece of ORNAMENTAL GARDEN GROUND in front of the houses in GUILDFORD LAWN, and comprising an area of 0a. 1r. 9p., frontage 147ft., depth 92ft.

Lot 4.—That well-built and conveniently-situated DWELLING HOUSE known as ADA COTTAGE, situated in FARLEY PLACE, Ramsgate, and let to Mr. T. Edwards at the yearly rent of £20. The house contains front parlour with brick-bull bay, back parlour, kitchen with bay, back kitchen, scullery, three bedrooms (one of them with bay), two attics, two w.c., and a good supply of rain and spring water. Now in the occupation of Mr. Farley Place.

Lot 5.—A well-appointed RESIDENCE on the WEST CLIFF, by the sea, containing 24, SPENCER SQUARE, containing in basement—kitchen, breakfast room, and scullery; on ground floor—entrance hall, dining room with bay, and back rooms with folding doors into w.c.; drawing room with woodwork, also bedrooms on one part 5/6th, and five bedrooms on the other part 5/6th. There is a garden at rear and a greenhouse with heating apparatus. Gas and water laid on. Now in occupation of Mr. Danham at yearly rent of £40.

Lot 6.—The most convenient and delightful-situated VILLA RESIDENCE, MENDLESHAM VILLA, close to Christ Church, and in the occupation of Mr. G. Whitty at the annual rent of £60. It contains dining room, library, drawing room, gas bedrooms, kitchen, scullery, collarage, and three w.c.'s. There is a park in rear and a side a greenhouse with heating apparatus. Gas and water laid on.

Lot 7.—The charming VILLA RESIDENCE adjoining known as VALE VILLA, and in the occupation of Mrs. Stear at the annual rent of £50. The drawing comprises dining, drawing, breakfast room, kitchen, five bedrooms, three w.c.'s, large and commodious collarage, larder, &c. There is greenhouse at side, also garden in rear. Gas and water laid on.

The whole of the several Properties above described are situated with the Town Square.

Lot 8.—A valuable PIECE of BUILDING LAND, situated on the N.W. side of Christ Church, and enclosed by brick walls, having a frontage of about 50ft. by an average depth of about 75ft.

Lot 9.—A valuable PIECE of BUILDING LAND adjoining East Lot, having frontage to Christ Church Road of about 50ft. by an average depth of 50ft.

Lot 10.—A PIECE of BUILDING LAND adjoining East Lot, having frontage to Christ Church Road of about 50ft. by an average depth of 50ft.

Lot 11.—A CORNER PLOT of most desirable-situated BUILDING LAND, being close to and on the SE side of Christ Church, Ramsgate, and having a frontage of 75ft. to CHRIST CHURCH ROAD, by a frontage to the ocean road of 50ft.

Lot 12.—A PLOT of LAND adjoining, having a frontage of 50ft. to the road on SE side of Christ Church by an average depth of 75ft.

Lot 13.—A similar PLOT of LAND adjoining, with frontage of 50ft. and average depth of 75ft.

Lot 14.—A similar Plot adjoining East Lot.

Lot 15.—A similar Plot adjoining East Lot.

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Lot 100.—A similar Plot adjoining East Lot.

The various Properties may, by leave of the several Executors, be viewed three days before the Sale. The conditions and particulars of Sale may be obtained from Messrs. H. & A. HINDS, Auctioneers, Ramsgate, or at the office of the Auctioneers, 22, Market Street, Ramsgate.

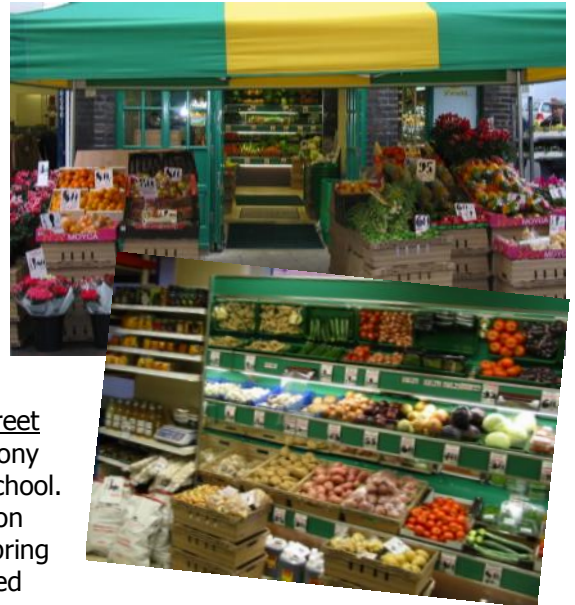
Who Needs Out of Town Shopping? Ramsgate has it all!

A small selection of what is available year round - and often without all that supermarket packaging!

Fruit Central – King Street

This recently opened fruit and vegetable shop is owned by John Prentis – who also owns a similar shop in Broadstairs High Street. Produce is sourced locally wherever possible (the cauliflowers were grown in fields near North Foreland lighthouse). This, together with daily visits to the London markets ensures that the fruit and vegetables are as fresh as possible. Arrangements can be made for large or heavy orders to be delivered.

John is a fourth generation greengrocer – with the first greengrocer's shop being established in 1887 by his great-great-grandfather. Happily though in this case, John's son who runs the Broadstairs shop, will ensure that the business will continue into the fifth generation.



The Candy Cabin – Chatham Street

Opened a few months ago by Tony Price near to Chatham House School. Readers may remember that Bon Appe-Sweet (featured in the Spring issue of *About Ramsgate*) opened recently near Clarendon House

School. The Candy Cabin sells all the old fashioned sweets (weighed out from the jar). Along the front of the counter is a comprehensive display of modern sweets and chocolate bars. Also the ever popular 'penny sweets'. Christmas lights and other novelties are also on sale. Mr and Mrs Price previously ran the business as a market stall - travelling to local markets, Summer shows etc. After several years out in the cold they decided that a shop would be warmer!

The Haberdashery Shop – Cleaver Lane and The Fabric Shop - King Street

For 17 years The Haberdashery Shop occupied premises in Harbour Street. The ground floor was devoted to haberdashery and the basement to material. In the Summer of 2007 premises for The Fabric Shop were acquired in King Street. In 2008 the Harbour Street shop closed. The haberdashery side of the business moved to a three storey building in Cleaver Lane, with The Fabric Shop opening in King Street in the September.

In the past The Fabric Shop occupied premises above Winters in King Street and for 8 years fabric was sold from a stall at Dumpton Market. *(in the days when this market was the best in the South East with coach loads of shoppers coming regularly each Friday - Editor.)*

The Fabric Shop stocks unusual material and vintage haberdashery. Customers include dancing schools and theatres - with customers coming from far afield. Some regular customers make a special trip to Ramsgate for the day - just to visit both The Fabric Shop and The Haberdashery Shop. The Haberdashery Shop continues to thrive in Cleaver Lane. The ground floor is tightly packed with everything customers would hope to find -and more. Buttons, ribbons, trims, knitting needles, wool, sewing threads, embroidery silks, craft items, etc. etc. The friendly staff are pleased to offer help and advice on all manner of sewing or craft projects - such as matching buttons to material, replacement trouser pockets, which trim to use, or how best to start a new craft. Often an assistant will disappear 'upstairs' to find a certain colour or size of item not on the shelves, the two upper floors being used to house their considerable stock. There is a 'button room', and 'ribbon room' and so on. As the staff say "If you can't see the item you want on the shelves – please ask."



The Material Shop High Street

In 1985 Alison Bowden opened her first shop in Queen Street, moving to the High Street ten years later. Although selling mainly curtain material and nets, Alison also stocks furnishing and dressmaking material. Customers can have curtains made to measure – Alison can be seen working on them at the shop counter. Just after the war, Mrs Pearl Cooper (Alison's Grandmother) decided to open a Remnant Shop in George Street (up to recently occupied by Pound Stretcher). This was popular as clothing was still rationed and people could buy remnants without having to use up their valuable 'coupons'. Later on, also in George Street (now Dreams Kitchens) Norman's Textiles was run by Alison's parents Mr and Mrs Darby. Norman's Textiles later moved down to the corner of the High Street. They remained there for many years until the premises were taken over by Dixons. Sadly there is no-one in the next generation to carry on the tradition.



The Trophy Shop - King Street

Started in 1976 in Harbour Street, the Trophy Shop moved to King Street in 1992. The present owner, Mark Moore, took over 4 years ago. Mark says that often the same trophies come in for engraving year on year. All sorts of trophies are available - for sports clubs, schools and social clubs - together with a wide range of quality giftware. Virtually anything can be engraved and as items do not have to have been purchased from the shop, many customers bring their jewellery to the Trophy Shop for engraving (including a local jeweller's).



Martins - Turner Street

This was first started in West Cliff Road around 1982. It then moved to the High Street (now the Halifax) and finally into Turner Street 22 years ago. The thrust of the business has varied over the years. Perhaps the request of 'heel and sole please' may not be heard so often but any type of today's shoes can be repaired. Key cutting forms a good part of the business, together with engraving, house signs etc.



Ye Olde Iron & Lock Shoppe - Brunswick Street

A general ironmonger's specialising in architectural hardware. Rather than heading for the superstores, customers would likely find a better deal at this local shop. The current owner, Alan Holmes, comes from a long line of blacksmiths and ironmongers going back 200 years – sadly there is non-one in the family to carry on the business.



All Stitched Up - Church Hill

A fairly new business for those in need of garment repairs - even leather. They will also produce banners. If clothing can be repaired they can do it.



Balloons for all Occasions and Le Bouquet Florist - King Street

In 2005 Maria Blowfield opened the popular 'Balloon Shop' in King Street – next door to the thriving florists Le Bouquet. A year later she decided it would be a good idea to merge the two businesses. This proved to be a good move and customers are now able to enjoy all the benefits of a traditional florist shop together with celebration balloons.

The Wedding Cake Shop has taken over the premises next door that were previously occupied by the Balloon Shop.





Griffin's Furnishing - Queen Street

In 1968 Mr Griffin took over the business from his father who started it in 1950. The shop specialises in upholstery, re-covering and deep buttoning. In days gone by loose covers were popular but not so much these days. All types of home furnishing can be undertaken together with cushions, covers etc. for boats and caravans.

Ramsgate Model Shop - Queen Street

For over 25 years model makers have been able to find everything they need to make

virtually any type of model.

We were surprised to note that the demand for model kits was still strong - with a good deal of shelf space being devoted to packs to make trains, boats and planes. As the manager said "We meet all your modelling needs".



Space precludes inclusion of the many other different shops we have in Ramsgate. We have though just enough space left to mention:

Cathedral Baits and Tackle and MAGICK side by side.

Is there a connection one might ask between magic and the art of fishing? MAGICK has Jewellery, Gifts, Spiritual and Wicca products for sale whilst Cathedral Baits and Tackle 'does what it says on the tin' - provides all fishing requisites for fresh water as well as for sea fishing. They are to be found in Broad Street opposite 'Iceland' - which is on the corner of King Street and Broad Street.



Extracts from Councillor White's Striking Speech - The Victoria Pavilion

Printed in The East Kent Times 2nd November 1910 Research by Jan Holden

Speaking at a public meeting of the East Cliff Ward Association in support of his candidature in the Ramsgate Town Council Election, Councillor James White quoted some interesting figures in connection with the history of the Victoria Pavilion

Proceeding to outline the History of the Pavilion Mr White said that the original intention was that it should be a public building for the public benefit. "I voted for it" said the speaker "but when on the tenders being opened the lowest was nearly double the architect's estimate, I voted against it ... I voted against it in committee and in open Council, and was, as I often am, in a minority. Finding the Council determined I voted for it and did my best to make it a success. Then came The Dazzling Offer of Mr Jay - was it not £2,400 a year? - and with others I thought that even at this very high cost it would still pay, but he had put us on the wrong track, and ever since the Council has been striving to make it what it can never be, a successful theatre.

And so it has gone on year after year, greater expense, smaller income, until the year 1909 when a committee of the Council did their best but failed utterly.

Coming to the question of the figures Mr White said they were more startling than he had expected to find. We have, he said, had the Pavilion accounts before us for seven years. In the first six years there has been paid out of the rates £12,407... I believe you will find that the cost laid upon the rates is greater than it has ever been in the history of the Pavilion (shame). Am I as a business man going to sit down and keep my mouth shut? ("No" and applause). Let me illustrate. The public Library costs a penny rate and is well worth it. The Park costs 2d and you and your children get a good 2d worth. You have never got any benefit or profit from the Pavilion, or the prospect of any, and it has been a charge on the rate of 2d to 4d in the pound. ... I voted against it this Spring I do not hide my convictions - your natural question is what would you do? My natural answer is, I would use it for the purpose it was built.

After an allusion to the scheme to erect a Pavilion and winter gardens at Margate at a cost of £22,000 and the arguments in favour of it, Cllr White proceeded: The claim was with us, as in Margate today, we had no large building for public purposes, no Town Hall equal to modern requirements, and it is under those circumstances that the building of a large hall was granted. What have we done with it? I say the interests of the Town will be much better served if you keep it in your own hands and use it for the benefit of the burgesses who found the money.

The answer may be "You cannot do it, the licensing laws will prevent you". Then drop the license (*hear, hear*). The law very wisely does not allow us to part with the Pavilion for more than three years but it says nothing of shorter periods. Can we not let it out for three days, or three weeks? If the burgesses order it, surely a way can be found to use it for the purpose for which it was built. Roughly I would let the bars and restaurants as we do the shops. I would throw the upper promenade open to the public during the winter months or when the hall is not let for meetings, chairs would very soon find income. The large hall should have a schedule of prices attached varying of course with the season, and that without any responsibility ourselves, save a hall keeper and the necessary cleaners. Many companies of entertainers would be glad to give it a trial, finding their own staff or temporarily engaging men in the town. I do not believe that a hall seating from 1,000 to 2,000 people in the midst of a huge summer population would never be let. The man who wanted to give a concert in the winter would not be driven to the Parish, Granville or other Hall, but would know that for £5 more or less he could book the Pavilion Hall.

More about The Pavilion in future issues of *About Ramsgate*.

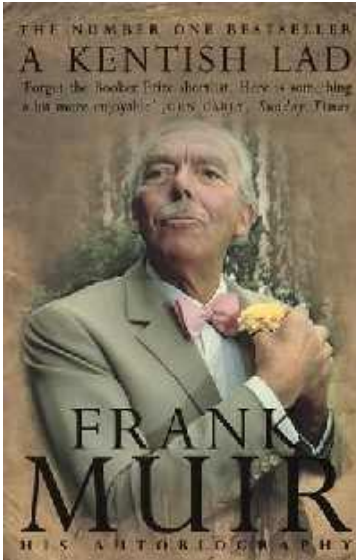
Gwen Hunt (nee Gwyneth Edwards) writes to tell us about a small area of Ramsgate known as

The Blues.

Re Gladys Garney and 'The Blues' you may well have answered Gladys' letter but maybe I can add a bit of interest to her queries.

My family moved to Station Approach Road about 1935, when the new houses were built. I was 8 years old. We knew the 'Blues' as the Blue Mountains and, although I was not forbidden to go to that road, (we had no reason to go that way), we somehow knew that the people who lived there were 'foreign' and therefore 'strange' and we never saw them.

I recently found Frank Muir's book 'A Kentish Lad' which presents memorable descriptions of Ramsgate around 1926. For those who are not familiar with him, he was a popular and intelligent comic/actor who became a regular participant in a variety of BBC TV programmes. He and his brother went to Chatham House school with Edward Heath and, amongst other things, Frank became Lord Rector of St. Andrew's University. He says that his tour of duty there were three of the most rewarding and happiest years of his life.



However, at an early age, Frank Muir spent his holiday time in Ramsgate with his Granny who kept the Derby Arms hotel where he had been born - and his parents moved from London to live nearby.

To quote from his book. "At the side of the Derby Arms was a road leading uphill to where the new railway station was being built with the help of my father, who had a little wooden hut all to himself and was putting up a mile stretch of iron railings. The hilly road up which my father walked to work every morning went past what was, in the last century, a rough and quite dangerous conglomeration of lowly boarding houses, slop shops and grocers, called Blue Mountains. A nickname almost certainly bestowed by Australian seamen from Sydney, which has a range of hills behind the city known as The Blue Mountains".

Before I read this book, my daughter went to Australia on holiday and came home to tell me of these Blue Mountains around Sydney which she much appreciated (she knew nothing of the link with Ramsgate) and I then remembered my father telling me that the men there had come to England from Australia (which was light years away to me in 1935!) to look for work at the nearby coal mines. They worked with the miners from Chislet Colliery and became a community of their own. They were no trouble to any one, but for their part in the rowdy evenings spent at the Derby Arms with the Chislet miners and Irish navvies working on the new railway line. In due course living conditions improved in keeping with the times and I doubt if it is now known as Blue Mountains; but it all clicked together in my mind. Perhaps another reader has a more reliable up-date.

I now live in Oxfordshire but visit Thanet regularly, stay in Broadstairs and enjoy the contents of your magazine. Come what may, 'A Kentish Lad' is a very easy read and a good record of the Margate, Broadstairs, Ramsgate area, of which the Blue Mountains are an historic part.



The Derby Arms pub on the corner of Margate Road and Princes Road - the railway viaduct close behind the camera.

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Ramsgate Annual Town Image Awards

The judging for our Town Image Awards 2010 took place at our monthly meeting held on Wednesday 17th November. A Powerpoint slide presentation displayed the qualifying nominations - our Magazine Editor and his Editorial Assistant - and long suffering wife - guiding the proceedings.

1st Place: The Custom House

2nd Place: Steam Tug CERVIA

The Awards will be presented at our Christmas Luncheon which this year is to be held in the Thanet College Restaurant on Thursday 9th December.

The winning entry, being the **Custom House**, is not just a refurbished building housing the Mayor and The Ramsgate Town Council. It is much more than that.

It now provides a home for an **Information Desk** - necessary since Thanet District Council closed the Ramsgate Tourist Information Office, sending tourists scurrying elsewhere to find such a facility.



A snowy Custom House on 28th November 2010



The Custom House Carvery Crew

The Custom Coffee House provides light meals, All Day Breakfasts, Fair Trade Coffee and home-made cakes which are on offer daily, together with a Carvery on Saturdays and Sundays.

There is an extended inside seating area, a rear courtyard and outside seating with a view of the Royal Harbour.



'**Nice Things**', run by Suzy Humphries and Bella Goyarts, is also to be found inside the Custom House. Setting out to showcase



some of the many creative talents here in East Kent, 'Nice Things' stocks a wide range of paintings, ceramics, prints, jewellery, gifts, cards and wrapping papers made by local people. With

Christmas just a few weeks away, this really could be the place for that something a little different - as the picture shows.

Besides these facilities The Custom House now also houses the **Royal National Lifeboat Institutions local shop**, lost many years ago when the council, in revamping Pier Yard, swept away the little cluster of stalls there at the time. Welcome back.



Right: Suzy Humphries shows off the quality of work on offer.

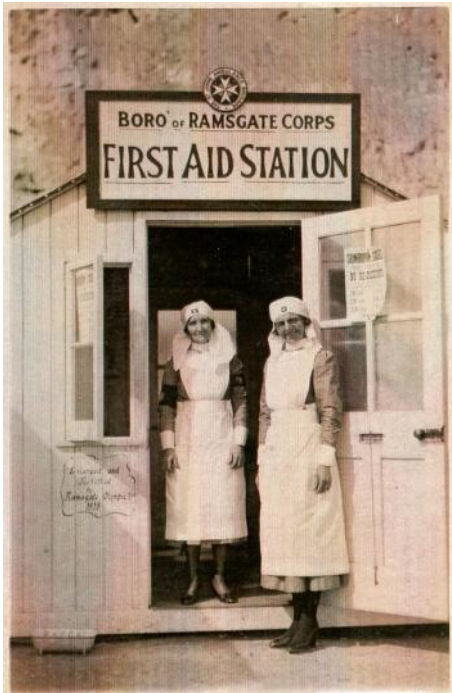


Cervia, voted second place, has had a lot of work done to bring the vessel up to a presentable condition. Whilst a lot can be seen to have been done outside, as much again has been done inside. Much more still needs to be done including putting the vessel on the slipway for a long overdue bottom overhaul. Before that can happen the Steam Trust awaits TDC progressing their side of things, being the legal aspects, which are still going on!

St John Ambulance Brigade - Society Members' memories.

Gladys Williams

I have many memories of St John Ambulance Brigade. I joined the Cadet Section in about 1944/45. The H.Q. was then in Cavendish Street. We met in the room above the Ambulance Station. I think it must have been knocked down when the Court Offices were built – next door to our old Police Station.



Edith Small on duty at the First Aid Station by Ramsgate Sands.

My Mother, Edith Small, was a St John Nurse for many years. She joined the Service around 1927 – 28. She wanted to learn more about First Aid and Home Nursing to care for her family. I still have her First Aid and Home Nursing certificates. She did voluntary nursing in Ramsgate Hospital and had to report to the Hospital on the day war broke out. She helped to nurse injured men from Dunkirk at the hospital. During the war she did duty on the First Aid posts positioned around the town and had many memories of the air raids.

Some of the local doctors would recommend her to patients who needed extra nursing in their homes. In the Summer she would also help man the First Aid post that was located near the main sands for people who had minor accidents. When I was a Cadet myself I too obtained my Certificates. We also did duty at the Beach Hut, also occasionally in the Cinemas. We also took part in Church Parades.

Jan Holden / nee Doy

Many people in Ramsgate will know that I have been involved in Guiding for many years. However not so many will know that on leaving Brownies at the age of eleven in 1958, instead of flying up to Guides, I joined St John Ambulance Brigade. My friend Mai was already a member and I decided to give it a try.

Meetings were held on Monday evenings in what seemed to me at the time a very scary building which stood in the little road on the left at the top of Cliff Street. From the end of this road you could look down on Leopold Street car park (now the multi storey car park). We used one of the many upstairs rooms and a mysterious organisation called Toc H, had their H.Q. downstairs. (I never found out just what went on in Toc H but I used to imagine all sorts!) As Cadets

we studied both First Aid and Home Nursing. Our uniform was a grey dress (which I think was provided and had to be handed back when we left). We had a white detachable collar and ruffed cuffs which had to be starched. I have several photos of myself, sometimes wearing the large nurses style hat and sometimes a black beret.

The Brigade had a thriving marching band and I joined as a drummer I was a bit disappointed that we were only allowed to take the drum sticks home to practice – the drums usually had to be left at the H.Q. I do remember having to use shoe whitener on the cords of my drum, so I suppose we must have had to take the drums home sometimes before an event. We practiced regularly both in Leopold Street car park and King George VI Park. Being rather more out of the way from on lookers the park was used to practice our complicated figure marching. We used to take part in town parades, local carnivals and put on displays.

The girl drummers always envied the boys when marching, as they were able to keep their drums in place with special straps around their trouser legs. Trousers, as uniform for girls, were unheard of at that time so to stop the bruises we had to tape protective pads of lint to our legs, under our uniform dresses. We also had to try to prevent the drums from swinging round by walking stiff legged. This was not so bad in the Carnivals, but rather more difficult if we were doing a figure marching display.

I remember one of my duties was helping at blood-donor sessions – this may have been at the Cavendish Church Hall. The duty nurses would use what seemed to me to be water colour paint palettes - all the blood donors lined up and had a small amount of blood siphoned from their finger. This would then be 'dropped' onto the palette ready to be tested. When all the compartments had been used I had to take the palette to a sink, wash it, dry it and return it to be re-used. Not a rubber glove in sight!

Another sign of the times – even on dark winter nights my friend and I would wait for our bus at the bus garage in Queen Street (now Kwik Fit)- we used to walk along the back streets and call in for our 3d bag of chips on the way. Our parents felt we were quite safe. However sometimes, when I got home, I had to wait in the kitchen. My parents were watching Quatermass and the Pit which I was considered too young to watch!



Jan proudly poses for dad's photo at home in Bush Ave.

AN ARTICLE FEATURING THE ST JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE'S 120 YEARS IN RAMSGATE WILL BE PRINTED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *ABOUT RAMSGATE*.

Letters and Emails

A section devoted to your correspondence. A chance to share your thoughts, knowledge and enquiries with fellow Society members and Website visitors.

Bobbie Ricks - by email

Dear Robert

My copy of the magazine does the rounds and a friend, who used to live in the area, has given me notes for Len Gray regarding Queen Street mentioned in his letter printed in the Summer issue.

Miss Foster tells me that the Blacksmith was Mr Atkins who lived in Albert Street. The Newsagent next door was run by the Job family. The men's urinals also mentioned by Mr Gray at the bottom of Grundys Hill were built mainly of corrugated iron (not cast iron as he remembers). She passed them every day from Liverpool Lawn and Adelaide Gardens. Does anyone remember the ultimate epitaph chalked onto a plank of wood "Gone but not forgotten!"?

ALSO

Have you had any replies to Mr Hooker's enquiry regarding the old glass works? I now believe I mislead your readers - the allotments he referred to were most likely to be in South Eastern Road near the traffic lights at the junction with the High Street.

As always About Ramsgate is a great read -

Thank you Bobbie Ricks

Sadly there have been no replies regarding Mr Hooker's enquiry about the old glass works - most unusual for About Ramsgate Readers as so far we have received replies to almost all of the queries - hopefully this new information might jog a memory or two - Editor.

Len Gray writes

Dear Robert and Jan

Could you find room for a small request in the Winter Magazine?

In June 1941, I wrote to the East Kent Times and Mail, asking if someone would start an Army Cadet Force in Ramsgate. Two days later I heard from Major A. Andrews at the War Office who said that a Unit would be started within a few days.

Six young lads turned up at Mr Rose's jewellers shop in Harbour Street to start training in his back room, as we were to be the first N.C.O.s. The A.C.F. was later started in Broadstairs and then Margate, but we were the first. Our main training ground from the word 'go' was Dumpton Woods, now just history. Our indoor Range was in Cannon Road, and we challenged the Home Guard, Police and local Army Units. They were, to 14 year olds, great and exciting times. Alas, I grew older and was the first cadet to join the Army.

I often wonder if any of the other five lads are still around today?

If any of the original members of the Army Cadet Force would like to get in touch with Len - please address any letters c/o the Editor and we will be pleased to pass them on.

Salvation Army - again Len Gray writes. It was great to read about the Salvation Army. We were brought up in the S.A. with Sunday School in the morning and the

afternoon and then the Service in the evening. The Grays family of five, always sat upstairs behind the clock. No one ever sat in 'our' seats. My sister sang with the Songsters and my brother and I both played in the boys' band. They were great days, when the Citadel would be almost packed. Sometimes, if a gale was forecast, the French fishermen would come into the harbour and walk up to the Citadel and sit upstairs. They were a rough looking lot but were always welcome.

Tony Quaif emailed: Contacting us via the Society Website. Hi. I have just become aware of your organisation. Last year Hoverlloyd staff had a reunion and from that came a determination to erect a hovercraft memorial, hopefully on the Viking Ship green.

I am sending you this brief note in case you are already up to date with all this. If not please let me know your email address so that I can send documents and contact details of those on the organising committee who live local to you - I am now in Macclesfield. Regards.

We have responded to Tony's email and hopefully we can play a part in their efforts to get a memorial. The article on page 5 refers.

All replies to correspondence to the Editor please for the interest of Members in a later issue - contact details inside the front cover.

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Photos taken at Quex House, Quex Park, Birchington.

BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

Reviewing local books...

THE STAINED GLASS OF ST AUGUSTINE'S CHURCH RAMSGATE BY ROBIN FLEET AND CATRIONA BLAKER

Soft back A4 size with heavy weight gloss papers throughout and excellent photographic reproduction.

45 pages with 45 full colour illustrations - including on both the covers.

Price £5.00 + £1.00 p&p.

From Catriona Blaker, Prospect Lodge, 122 Grange Road, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9PT.

The Introduction begins... "*Augustus Pugin (1812-1852), leader of the Gothic Revival during the first half of the nineteenth century, famous architect, designer and writer, settled permanently in Ramsgate in 1844. Having completed his house, The Grange, he turned his attention to the design and construction of the church of St Augustine, which he wished, as a devout Catholic convert, to pay for himself and to present officially, as a gift, to the appropriate authorities for public Catholic use. He said of the church 'This is my own child', and was determined that all the work in it,*

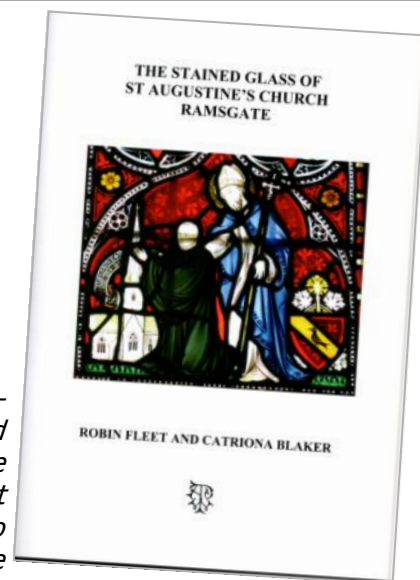
in every aspect, should be of the highest standard, not least the windows."

Pugin, as most of us know, worked with Sir Charles Barry on the building of the Palace of Westminster. Rather less well known is his work in stained glass revival, which he carried out to an exceptional degree of detail and quality with his friend and colleague John Hardman. The resulting stained glass of this - his church, Saint Augustine's, is truly exceptional.

This book lists all the windows in the church with exceptionally good quality photographs of varying size by way of illustration. Each individual window has its own detailed description with an appropriate comment.

For admirers of stained glass this publication is a must-have. For those with a more academic interest it will greatly inform on the content and background to each of the many windows.

Picture left. Detail of the head of St Gertrude the Great - part of one of the 3 main lights in the Nave North window.



THE FRIENDS OF ST GEORGE

It hardly seems possible that the time has come round once again for the Christmas Tree Festival in St George's Church. This will run from 3 to 12 December and opening times are from 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. on weekdays; 11.30 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Saturdays and 12 noon to 4.00 p.m. on Sundays so come and enjoy the trees, choose your favourite and perhaps have a cup of tea as well. To round off the Festival there will be a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30 p.m. on Sunday, 12 December. Carols by Candlelight will be on Tuesday, 21 December at 7.30 p.m. followed by refreshments in the Church Hall. If anyone would like to have a loved one remembered on the Tree of Loving Thoughts please let me know.

We have been told that the wrought iron gates should be back in place by Christmas having also been restored and we still live in hope that the clock may soon receive attention. The Friends of St George wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and thank everyone who has supported us at our events throughout the year.

Jennifer Smith

THE KING'S ELECTRIC THEATRE,

Market Place and Abbot's Hill, Ramsgate.
Proprietors ... The Ramsgate & District Popular Amusements Co., Ltd.
Managing Director ... REGINALD V. CROW

SPECIAL MATINEES THURSDAY & FRIDAY.

Specially Selected Animated Pictures, and the ANIMATOPHONE SINGING PICTURES. Including their famous production of the popular Opera, "IL TROVATORE."

Tea provided free on these afternoons to Patrons in the 1s., 6d. and 4d. seats.

SATURDAY, full Programme as Evenings. Children half-price to ALL Seats at Matinees.

TWO-NIGHT (WEDNESDAY), and during the week, Twice Nightly, 7 and 9, doors open 6.40 and 8.40. "As steady as a lantern slide."

JURY'S IMPERIAL PICTURES,

Changed Twice Weekly - Entirely New Programme every Monday and Thursday.

By Special Request the LOCAL PICTURES, A DAY WITH THE RAMSGATE FISHERMEN, Will be shown again this week.

From the East Kent Times
Wednesday 14th December 1910



Town Planning

By Robert Holden MICWCI (ret'd.)



Readers will be pleased to know we are up to speed on relevant planning responses, slightly in conflict at this time with magazine production it has to be said.

You will all know of the failure of the application to build over the harbour slipways, on which we commented to Planning at some length. No further explanation needed here save to proffer the thought that I feel we have not heard the last of it.

Support has been given to the rebuilding of the Netto Store, which will go some way to tidying up this somewhat unkempt site, and keep people shopping in Ramsgate - a feature in this issue. We likewise support the conversion of the Boundary Road toilets into a cafe, retaining its iconic design.

Objection has been made for 19 to 27 High Street St Lawrence - next to the church - where part of the work is the conversion of a dwelling into a Take Away. The Take Away part is the end house of a terrace of three houses of quite presentable period design.

We have started a regime of monitoring of council performance of the planning process and outcomes. That has commenced with a letter to the Planning Applications Manager of TDC listing a selection of applications reviewed with our comments, in the main supportive, but some of them ask for a response from him. We wait and see if we do in fact get a response - when we have not in the past.

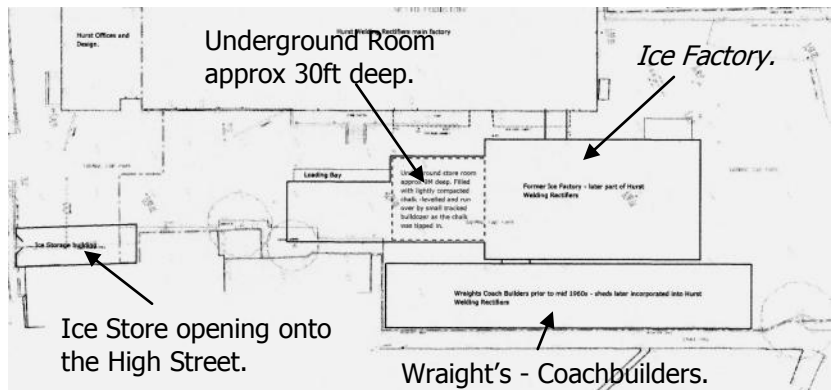
44 Vale Square. This application has been responded to by way of advising Planning that this one is selected for the next round of Performance Monitoring saying:

We make no comment on this proposal. We are however using this proposal to monitor TDC

Planning performance, of its planning management of applications in a Conservation Area. We would however note that there does not appear to be a Location Plan of this proposal provided in the UK Planning Portal documentation.

Further to the Netto Store rebuilding I have been able to advise Netto's of the existence of an underground room of some size. This room was filled in when the former Hurst Welding Rectifiers factory was converted into the Texas Homecare store back in around 1980. I know about this as I was the Site Agent (Site Manager) for that work.

Readers might be interested to know that, in an earlier life, a large part of the middle car park area of the site was an Ice Factory going back many years. This is shown on the drawing I sent back to Netto's overlaid on one of their drawings. With a bit of research this could make an interesting article in a future magazine. Does anyone have any memories of the Ice Factory?



HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW RAMSGATE?

An answer to the Autumn issue's teaser and another one to get you guessing.

The Autumn issue 'advert' challenge below was not too much of a problem for a number of readers. The advert is to be found on the gable end of what was once a shop in Manston Road - on the corner in fact of Clifton Road.

Rita Tobin writes:- *"The Gold Flake advert is painted on the side of an old shop which is now a house. The shop was called "Cromptons" a little general shop on the corner of Clifton and Manston Road, Ramsgate. We lived opposite for a number of years. As to the fading, it was faded, but when it became a house someone painted it over brown. The shop closed in the late 70s."*



Photos by Robert Holden

Thank you to the many other Readers who answered this Autumn puzzle.

So to this issue's challenge. No clues - too easy? Let's just see.





A Message from Civic Voice - Localism!

Localism Bill and Planning

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Mr Eric Pickles):

On 6 July 2010, the Coalition Government revoked all regional strategies under section 79(6) of the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009. This action was challenged in the High Court by developer Cala Homes, and the decision today concluded that Section 79 powers could not be used to revoke all Regional Strategies in their entirety.

Whilst respecting the court's decision this ruling changes very little. Later this month, the Coalition Government will be introducing the Localism Bill to Parliament, which will sweep away the last Government's controversial regional strategies. It is clear that top-down targets do not build homes – they have just led to the lowest peacetime house building rates since 1924 and have fuelled resentment in the planning process that has slowed everything down.

On 27 May 2010, the Government wrote to local planning authorities and to the Planning Inspectorate informing them of the Coalition Government's intention to rapidly abolish regional strategies and setting out its expectation that the letter should be taken into account as a material planning consideration in any decisions they

were currently taking. That advice still stands.

The Government's Chief Planner has written to all local planning authorities and the Planning Inspectorate confirming that they should have regard to this material consideration in any decisions they are currently taking. Moreover, to illustrate the clear policy direction of the Coalition Government, the proposed clause of the Localism Bill that will enact our commitment to abolish regional strategies is being placed in the Library. The Bill is expected to begin its passage through Parliament before Christmas.

We are determined to return decision-making powers in housing and planning to local authorities and the communities they serve, alongside powerful incentives so that people see the benefits of building. We will very shortly provide more details about one of the most important such incentives - the New Homes Bonus Scheme, which will come into effect from April. This means that new homes delivered now will be rewarded under the scheme.

The Coalition Government remains firmly resolved to scrap the last Government's imposition of confusing and bureaucratic red tape. This was a clear commitment made in the Coalition Agreement and in the general election manifestoes of both Coalition parties. We intend to deliver on it.

Tony Burton Director Civic Voice

Mayor of Ramsgate's Charity Committee - Future Events

For further details contact the Mayor's Office - 01843 598751

Ramsgate Town Christmas Fair.
Saturday 11th December 10.00 am until 6.00 pm
At Charlotte Square
between Harbour Street and York Street
Games and stalls raising money for charity
Carol singing at 5.00 pm.

Charity Fun Quiz
Saturday 29th January 2011 7.00 for 7.30 pm
To be held at the Foresters' Hall, Meeting Street,
Ramsgate
Price of £5 includes a sausage and chip supper,
Vegetarian option available
Please bring own drinks and glasses.
To book contact the Mayor's Office
Or 01843 601233 (evenings)

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SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

Saturday 4 th	Hardres Street United Church	The Choir Christmas Concert 7.30pm Come along to listen, join in and enjoy Festive Refreshments. Collection will be taken for Multiple Sclerosis and Hardres Street Church Funds	01843 586320
Friday 3 rd to Sunday 12 th	St George's Church	Christmas Tree Festival 2 – 5pm weekdays 11.30- 5pm Saturdays noon to 4pm Sundays	01843 580832 07989 403383
Thursday 9 th	Thanet College Restaurant	Ramsgate Society Lunch – Presentation of Town Image Awards by Sir Terry Farrell	07989 569935 01843 582997
	Chatham House School Chatham Street	Public Lecture by Sir Terry Farrell 7.30pm Regeneration & Seaside Towns - Entrance free. Donations to Promenade Shelters appeal welcome.	
Saturday 11 th	Charlotte Square between Harbour Street York Street	The Mayor's Charity Committee Ramsgate Town Christmas Fair 10am - 6pm Games and stalls raising money for Charity Carol Singing at 5.00 pm	Mayor's Office 01843 598751
Sunday 12 th	St George's Church	Carols by Candlelight 7.30 pm Followed by refreshments in the Church Hall	01843 580832 07989 403383

JANUARY

Wednesday 19 th	St George's Church Hall	The Ramsgate Society Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Ramsgate in the Regency Era by Mr Peter Borrough	01843 582997 07989 569935
Saturday 29 th	Foresters' Hall Meeting St Ramsgate	Mayor's Charity Fun Quiz 7pm for 7.30pm £5.00 to include Fish and Chip Supper Bring your own drinks and glasses	Mayor's Office 01843 598751

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 16 th	St George's Church Hall	The Ramsgate Society Monthly Meeting 7.30pm Master Planning, Ramsgate By Mr Doug Brown	01843 582997 07989 569935
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MARCH

Wednesday 16 th	St George's Church Hall	The Ramsgate Society Monthly Meeting 7.30pm The Politeness of Princes By Mrs Imogen Corrigan	01843 582997 07989 569935
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Who does what:

Patron: Sir Terry Farrell

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President: Roy Adsett
Vice President: John Barman
Chairman: Jocelyn McCarthy
Vice Chairman: Margaret Knight
Secretary: Rosemary Cryle
Treasurer: Jennifer Smith

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Deputy Planning:	Ken Read:
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