

For a better Broadstairs



FEBRUARY 2024

BROADSTAIRS SOCIETY WAS FORMED IN 1964 to do everything possible to keep the look and feel of the Broadstairs we know and love. Join us and help keep that heritage intact for generations to come.

DID YOU KNOW?

The POSILLIPO restaurant on Albion Street is a GRADE II listed building. It was previously HALES LENDING LIBRARY and as shown in the black and white photo in the 1930s it was OMAR CAFÉ – famous for bespoke Omar Khayyam wallpaper! The building dates from the 19th century. It became POSILLIPO in 1994.



CHAIRMAN'S REQUEST

Here we are 2024 fully underway! We hope it's started well for all.

We are looking forward to formalising the nominees for The Broadstairs Society Annual Civic Award at the May AGM. This year for the first time we will announce nominees on Facebook and our new website so the public can vote. **WE NEED YOUR NOMINEES By 30 MARCH**

The scope is intended to cover new buildings, restoration and conversions, but not re-decoration alone. And community projects that reflect a broader understanding of the heritage elements of our town.

Our first two nominees are THE BOTTLENECK and THE BAY CLINIC.

There are many exciting restorations and projects happening in BROADSTAIRS that are keeping our heritage alive, let's include them in the vote. Send your nominees to info@thebroadstairsociety.org.uk

HOT POTATO PLANNING

Article by Peter Lorenzo

We have survived Christmas and New Year! It is also a time when there are not that many planning applications being processed either by the District Council or the Society.

Nonetheless, each week applications are scrutinised and, if comments are needed, whether against or for a project, the Society submits a response. Sometimes the Society's comments are heeded sometimes not: that is the way the planning regime works. Never take it personally even if developments are put forward that will clearly adversely affect not only Broadstairs and St. Peter's but Thanet as a whole, our role is to take every opportunity to try and represent the heritage of our town.

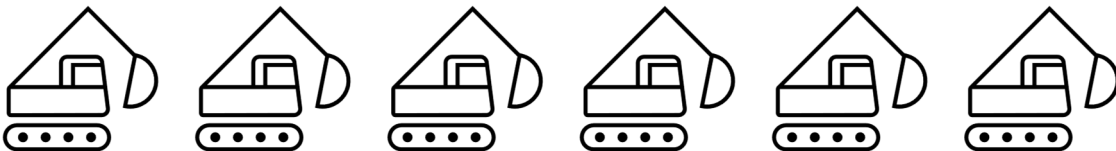
Three current hot potatoes come to mind: -

Manston Airport (we still have not heard the results)

The concomitant deferral of the review the Local Plan

National Grid's potential application for a Development Consent Order to concrete over a large part of Minster Marshes (see our previous Newsletter- Nov 23, available on our website)

Planning legislation is not the easiest of subjects – ask any Planner – and it has become more and more complicated over the years. Thankfully, the Society is a member of the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England – the Countryside Charity and they have been an invaluable source of expertise, help and guidance to the Society. If you ever want to join them as members, please feel free to do so. Visit their website.



HOW CAN WE INFLUENCE PLANNING AND CHANGES TO OUR TOWN?

The Broadstairs Society is a dedicated group of volunteers who monitor planning applications, town council proposals and updates from UK wide organisations like CPRE, HISTORIC ENGLAND etc.,

We need help examining planning applications submitted in Broadstairs and St. Peter's every week.

This is your chance to be a Broadstairs Influencer and help us preserve the heritage, look and feel of the Broadstairs we all love.

For further details contact Peter Lorenzo at etcpapers@gmail.com

BEST OF BROADSTAIRS

SAT 23 MARCH 10AM-12NOON CRAMPTON TOWER
TASTY PLANTERS - SEED AND PLANT SHARE AND GIVEAWAY

FRI 29 - SUN 31 MARCH VICTORIA GARDENS
BROADSTAIRS EASTER FOOD FESTIVAL

SUN 31 MARCH 8AM -12 NOON PIERREMONT HALL
CAR BOOT FAIR

FRI 5 APRIL 7.30PM CRAMPTON TOWER
DICKENS FESTIVAL QUIZ

TOWN TEAM LITTER PICKS

SAT 13 APRIL 10AM VIKING BAY

SAT 11 MAY 10AM ST. PETER'S VILLAGE GREEN

SAT 25 MAY 10AM PIERREMONT PARK

THURS 9 MAY 9.45AM ST PETER'S CHURCH
A THEATRICAL PRODUCTION OF THE VILLAGE TOUR

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The Everly Brothers - Hank Marvin - Buddy Holly - Jerry Lee Lewis

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'Mrs. Churchill – My Life with Winston'



starring **Liz Grand** as **Clementine Churchill**
written by **Kit Hunter**

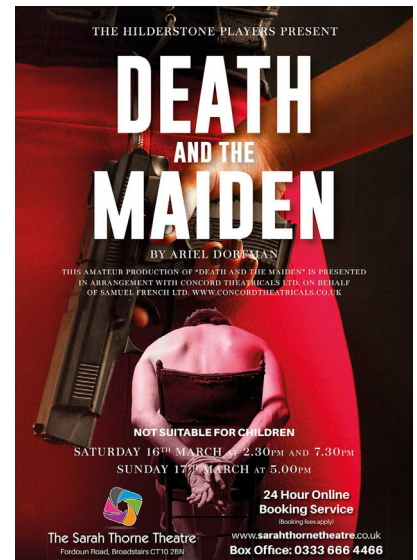
Winston Churchill is one of the most famous Englishmen that has ever lived. The epitome of strength, stubbornness and the British bulldog, his inspirational leadership helped win the Second World War, and his parliamentary career ensure that he was responsible for many of the momentous decisions which helped shape this 'sculpted isle'. He was an MP for 62 years.

They say that behind every great man, there is a great woman. Was this true in Churchill's case? What of Clementine, his wife for 56 years? Did he bully her like he did so many other people? Was he as grumpy and irascible at home as he often was in the House of Commons? Given his strength and conviction, did Clem have any influence on him at all? Or was she 'the little lady at home'?

All these questions will be answered, and many more, in Liz Grand's superb, moving, sensitive and informative portrayal of Clementine Churchill. This was one of the great love affairs of all time, no better illustrated than Winston saying, "my most brilliant achievement was my ability to be able to persuade my wife to marry me."

Liz Grand has toured previous one-woman shows 'The Second Best Bed' and 'Where Is Mrs Christie?' which have both delighted audiences. Book the new show with confidence!

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NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN
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SUNDAY 17TH MARCH AT 5.00PM

24 Hour Online Booking Service
(booking fees apply)

The Sarah Thorne Theatre
Fordoun Road, Broadstairs CT10 2BN
www.sarahthornetheatre.co.uk
Box Office: 0333 666 4466

BROADSTAIRS, A Trip Down Memory Lane

(Article by Caitlin Davies)

In the spring of 1890, Broadstairs received international press coverage when road builders discovered a number of Roman burial sites, while cutting through the chalk on the 'Sea View Estate'.

Contractors found several graves, just 2 feet below the surface, containing human skeletons and pottery – and the archaeological discovery made the *New York Times*.

Twenty burials were found in Castle Avenue, just west of Stone Road, and it was assumed the dead had been buried hastily after a battle in the neighbourhood. Three vases, just a few inches high and found near the North Foreland Lighthouse, were still intact.

Broadstairs' population was around 5000 at the time, and it had become increasingly popular among 'artist, literary, and dramatic celebrities' as well as 'the better class gentry'.

In the next 20 years, the population of the town would double. The arrival of the railways made it easier and quicker to get to, while accommodation had become fancier too.

In 1890, the Grand Hotel above Louisa Bay, standing in 2 acres of grounds, had been redecorated and refurnished, with 100 bedrooms as well as dining, smoking and reading rooms. The hotel enticed visitors with Broadstairs' exceptionally pure air, 'open to the full breath of the German Ocean.'

For those with smaller budgets, the Seafield boarding house on Granville Road described itself as a select watering place highly recommended by London physicians. It was run by Mr and Mrs Pain.

According to the press, Broadstairs shunned the gaieties and frivolities of its more 'volatile' neighbours - Margate and Ramsgate – instead it was favoured by weary politicians and City gentlemen as a veritable haven of rest. And of course, it was loved by Charles Dickens who holidayed here between 1837 and 1859 and while here penned parts of many a famous novel. Indeed, such was his love of Broadstairs he wrote a pamphlet all about it entitled 'Our English Watering Place'.

There was plenty of entertainment on offer too, including the annual regatta. It had been held in Broadstairs since the mid 19th century, and in 1867 a circus manager pitched his tent in the midst of the festivities, then drove three camels and an elephant through the town.

Within a few years, the annual water sports day included races and fireworks. The weather could be temperamental, with events interrupted by rain and thunder. In 1886, just as the first race was about to begin, rain started falling in torrents and the organising committee decided to postpone the event. But no sooner had the announcement been made, the clouds rolled away, out came the sun, and the day continued.

In 1890, the regatta was held in September, a little later than usual, and the highlight was the Coastguards' race, in which Westgate came first and Broadstairs last!

The annual regatta was much loved and continued to develop over the years to become what we now call 'The Water Gala'.

GET INVOLVED

Our next meeting is 12 March Pierremont Hall, Broadstairs @ 7.30pm, all are welcome, for details on speakers etc see our website.



The Broadstairs Society

www.thebroadstairsociety.org.uk