

Visit to Margate to view Galleries and The Walpole Hotel

Thursday 28 September



Members of The Arts Society Medway at The Walpole Hotel Kent

Our original visit to Margate was to have been to The Turner Gallery; this unfortunately didn't happen, so we explored the galleries in the old town of which there are many, some open, some closed and some with artists in residence.



Our very own map of Margate Old Town!

David B. at The Community Pharmacy Gallery made us very welcome with tea and biscuits and chatted about his time working in Set Design. We moved across the road to The Anthony Giles Gallery where Anthony was working on one of his seascapes – fabulous, vibrant images of the Margate water and sky. Some members visited The Liminal Gallery which must be the tiniest space for displaying local works of art, where the founder and curator, Louise Fitzjohn, was very happy to talk about the contemporary artists whose work she displays there.

We were fortunate that at The Anthony Wait Gallery he was painting too – this Anthony is also inspired by the sky and water of Margate and includes his Yorkshire terrier in many of his paintings.

The sculpture of The Shell Lady, Mrs Booth, stands at the end of The Harbour Arm, welcoming those arriving by sea.



Another Anthony in Margate is of course Anthony Gormley; his statue 'Another Time' stands offshore over the seawall next to The Turner Gallery – it can be seen emerging from the water about three hours before low tide.



Made from iron, the sculpture is cast from the artist's own body form

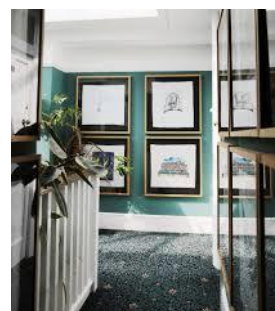
Our Roseway coach then took us along the coast to The Walpole Bay Hotel in Cliftonville where the first person we met when entering was Arnold Schwartzman OBE, film director and author who lived in Margate as a child before making a career in the film industry; he was to be invested with the Freedom of The Borough the next day.

The Walpole Bay Hotel is an Edwardian seaside hotel packed with original furniture, features and photographs of the many famous people who have visited in the last thirty years and an amazing collection of cards dating back to 1914 which document the visits of everyone who ever stayed in the hotel

The hotel owner, Jane Bishop, gave us an informative and amusing account of their life at The Walpole Bay Hotel, of the celebrities who have stayed there and of the collections of absolutely everything and anything that has been donated to their museum, everything from milk bottles to baby dolls, 1940's fashion to old radios – it is unbelievably quirky and fascinating.



A small part of the registration collection



The Walpole Nappery Gallery

The Nappery Gallery is a collection of the hotel's linen napkins that have been turned into works of art by people who have stayed or eaten at the Hotel – they are fabulous!

Tracey Emin has used 20 Walpole embroidered sheets in her work so far and Richard Savin has just published a novel 'The Man at The Walpole Bay Hotel'

A very tasty cream tea followed our talk and time to tour through the hotel viewing the collections.

Our day at the seaside in Margate was sunny and relaxing – a different kind of visit.