

## **Thanet's Baths and Bathing Machines 19th and early 20th Century**

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### **Scope**

Thanet's bathing establishments, their proprietors and bathing machine proprietors, mainly pre-20th century, gleaned from the following sources :

- 1792 Universal British Directory of Trade, Commerce and Manufacture
- 1823 Pigot and Co's Directory of Kent
- 1826 Pigot and Co's Directory of Kent
- 1839 Pigot and Co's Royal National and Commercial Directory and Topography
- 1847 History, Gazetteer and Directory of the County of Kent, by Samuel Bagshaw
- 1851 Post Office Directory of Kent
- 1867 Post Office Directory of Kent
- 1890 Kelly's Directory of Kent
- 1903 Kelly's Directory of Kent

### **Arrangement**

Entries are numbered and grouped under four main headings : Broadstairs, Margate, Ramsgate and Westgate. Some entries provide descriptive material, others list bath and bathing machine proprietors. There are indexes for Baths, Locations and Proprietors starting on page 6.

### **Abbreviations & Notations**

Key sources are noted in curly brackets - for example :

{1890} Kelly's Directory of Kent, 1890

Annotation is enclosed in square brackets.

Barry J White  
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**Broadstairs**

1. Broadstairs has of late years become a watering place of some note ... the baths and an assembly room, which are on the parade, are commodious and tasteful {1826/7}
2. The baths are most convenient and arranged with every requisite. Those under the superintendence of Mr. BARNES and Mr. CRAMPTON are the principal and most highly favoured of these sanitary establishments {1839}
3. Broadstairs has of late years become a fashionable resort for sea bathing, and is frequented by many families of distinction, particularly by those who prefer retirement to the noise and crowds of Margate and Ramsgate {1847}
4. 1826 Baths  
Daniel BARNES ~ warm baths, Albion Street, Broadstairs {1826/7}  
... COLLINS, Mrs ~ warm & cold baths, Albion Street, Broadstairs {1826/7}
5. 1839 Baths  
David BARNES ~ warm, shower & vapour baths, on the Terrace, Broadstairs {1839}  
John CRAMPTON ~ baths, Albion Street, Broadstairs {1839}
6. 1847 Baths & Bathing Machines
  - David BARNES ~ warm & sea bathing establishment, Albion Street, Broadstairs {1847}
  - John BROWN, bathing machine proprietor ~ Harbour Street, Broadstairs {1847}
  - Daniel COLLIN & Thomas COLLIN, bathing machine proprietors ~ Harbour Street, Broadstairs {1847}
  - John CRAMPTON ~ Albion Baths, Terrace, Broadstairs {1847}
7. 1851 Baths
  - Daniel COLLINS & Thomas COLLINS, bath proprietors ~ Harbour Street, Broadstairs {1851}
  - John CRAMPTON ~ Albion Baths, Broadstairs {1851}
8. 1867 Baths
  - Ann BROWN, Mrs, bath proprietor ~ Broadstairs {1867}
  - Thomas COLLINS & Daniel COLLINS, bath proprietors ~ High Street, Broadstairs {1867}
9. 1890 Baths & Bathing Machines
  - William Thomas BURVILL, lodging house & bath proprietor ~ The Parade, Broadstairs {1890}
  - James DEFREDUS, bathing machine proprietor ~ Harbour Street, Broadstairs {1890}
10. 1903 Baths & Bathing Machines
  - Marie DEFREDUS, Mrs, bathing machine proprietor ~ 13 Harbour Street, Broadstairs {1903}

**Margate**

11. On that part of the town near the water-side are several commodious rooms, to which the company resort every morning, and in their turns are driven into the sea in the machines, they being four-wheeled carriages, covered with canvas, and having at one end of them an umbrella of the same materials which is let down to the surface of the water, so that the bather descending from the machine by a few steps is concealed from the public view, whereby the most refined female is enabled to enjoy the advantages of the sea with the strictest delicacy {1792}
12. Some few years ago Margate was an insignificant fishing town, since when it has risen to its present height of fashionable celebrity as a sea bathing place. The waters are limpid, the shore level, and the air very salubrious; it is visited by a great number of nobility, gentry and citizens {1823}
13. Margate in the middle of the last century was nothing more than a fishing village of small importance. Since that period it has been gradually ascending to its present rank, which is that of a populous town and a bathing place of the first celebrity {1839}
14. Benjamin BEALE, a Quaker and inhabitant of Margate, was the inventor of the sea bathing machine, in which the bathers are driven any depth along the sands into the sea. At the back of the machine is a door, through which the bathers descend a few steps into the water, and an umbrella of canvas dropping over conceals them from public view. Their structure is at once simple and convenient, and the pleasure of bathing may be enjoyed in so private a manner as to be consistent with the strictest delicacy {1847}
15. Margate rose to wealth and consequence, owing principally to the universal recommendation of sea air and sea bathing, and the rage of the Londoners to visit during the summer months watering places situated on the sea coast. About the middle of the 18th century, Margate became much frequented as a bathing place, for which the shore was so well adapted, being covered with a fine sand which extends on both sides of the harbour for a considerable distance. Also, the easy distance from the metropolis, with the frequent passage by water, gave Margate a preference before all others, to which the beauty and healthiness of its situation and of the adjoining country, contributed still more. Another advantage peculiar to Margate, is being a weather shore during the greater part of the summer - or, in other words, the southerly winds, which generally prevail, blow from the land, by which means the sea is rendered perfectly smooth and the water clear to a considerable depth. This induced numbers of genteel people, among whom were many of the nobility and people of fashion, to resort to Margate for sea bathing and pleasure {1847}
16. The Clifton Baths on the Fort present a novel suite of bathing rooms, excavated from the solid chalk rock. They rise in a circular form, and are surmounted by a dome 33 feet in height. A spacious room fronts the sea, and communicates with a terrace 100 feet in length, provided with benches for those who prefer the sea breezes. The dome is supplied with the London and provincial papers, and an excellent organ for the use of subscribers. All the advantages of sea bathing may be enjoyed at these baths in the greatest perfection and the utmost privacy, with marble baths; warm, shower and vapour baths; and machine bathing in the sea. The north wing of the building is appropriated to gentlemen, and the south wing to ladies. From the top of the cliff to the sands is about 66 feet, and the quantity of chalk excavated and removed from the works since 1840 is

- computed at about 200,000 cubic yards. The baths are conducted by Mr. READ, and form an object worthy of inspection by the curious {1847}
17. Other bathing establishments are situated at the foot of the High Street, forming a range of handsome apartments on the ground floor, with back communications to the sea, and delightful views of the pier and harbour. They are provided with reading rooms and have every accommodation for warm, cold, shower, and vapour bathing; and machines for sea bathing {1847}
  18. Clifton Baths are excavated out of the solid chalk rock, and contains, besides the usual accommodation, a billiard table and an organ {1851}
  19. The Bathing Rooms are in the High Street; they have reading rooms attached. There is also another bathing house on the Lower Marine Terrace {1851}
  20. The Marine Palace and Baths are situated under the Fort Cliffs, on some land reclaimed from the sea, near the Jetty and Fort, and have a fine promenade, and concerts and balls are given in the large hall. The baths are supplied with fresh sea water by every tide, warmed in winter to the normal summer temperature {1890}
  21. 1792 Bathers
    - ... HUBBARD, bather ~ Margate {1792}
    - ... HUGHES, Messrs, bathers ~ Margate {1792}
    - ... JARRATT, bather ~ Margate {1792}
    - George PHILPOT, bather ~ Margate {1792}
    - John SAYER, bather ~ Margate {1792}
    - Amadis SURFLEN, bather ~ Margate {1792}
    - Thomas WOOD, bather ~ Margate {1792}
  22. 1826 Baths
    - J BEALE ~ warm, cold & shower baths, 151 High Street, Margate {1826/7}
    - ... HUBBARD, Mrs ~ warm, cold & shower baths, & shampooing etc, 152 High Street, Margate {1826/7}
    - Samuel HUGHES ~ warm, cold & shower baths, 59 High Street, Margate {1826/7}
    - George PHILLPOTT ~ warm, cold & shower baths & en douche, 150 High Street, Margate {1826/7}
  23. 1839 Baths
    - John BEALE ~ baths, 156 High Street, Margate {1839}
    - Robert FOAT ~ baths, 37 Upper Marine Terrace, Margate {1839}
    - Richard John HILL ~ baths, 151 High Street, Margate {1839}
    - Stephen HUGHES ~ baths, 159 High Street, Margate {1839}
    - ... JARRETT, Mrs ~ baths, 157 High Street, Margate {1839}
    - George PHILLPOTT ~ baths, 150 High Street, Margate {1839}
    - Edward READ ~ vapour, shower & general bathing establishment, Clifton Baths, Margate {1839}
    - Richard WOOD ~ shampooing, medicated & vapour baths, 152 High Street, Margate {1839}
  24. 1847 Baths
    - Francis COOK ~ baths, 156 High Street, Margate {1847}
    - Robert FOAT ~ baths, Lower Marine Terrace, Margate {1847}
    - William HARNETT ~ baths, 151 High Street, Margate {1847}
    - George PHILPOTT ~ baths, 150 High Street, Margate {1847}
    - James PREBBLE ~ baths, 159 High Street, Margate {1847}
    - Edward READ ~ Clifton Baths, Margate {1847}
    - Richard WOOD ~ baths, 152 High Street {1847}
  25. 1851 Baths
    - John CRICKETT, bather ~ 13 Lower Marine Terrace, Margate {1851}
    - John Rowe CRICKETT, bath proprietor ~ 155 High Street, Margate {1851}
    - Robert FOAT, bather ~ 36 Lower Marine Terrace, Margate {1851}
    - George PHILLPOTTS, proprietor ~ Wellington Baths, 150 High Street, Margate {1851}
    - James PREBBLE, bath proprietor, etc ~ 150 High Street, Margate {1851}
    - Harriott READ, Mrs, proprietor ~ Clifton Baths, Fort Crescent, Margate {1851}
    - Alfred WHITE, bath proprietor ~ 151 High Street, Margate {1851}
    - Richard WOOD, bath proprietor ~ 152&153 High Street, Margate {1851}
  26. 1867 Baths & Bathing Machines
    - Edward AUSTEN ~ bathing establishment, 152&153 High Street, Margate {1867}
    - John CRICKETT, bathing machine owner ~ 4 Brook Terrace, Margate {1867}
    - Robert FOAT, bath proprietor ~ 36 Lower Marine Terrace, Margate {1867}
    - Edward Charles HAYWARD ~ warm & cold sea baths etc, Clifton Baths, Fort Crescent, Margate {1867}
    - Robert PERRY ~ sea bathing establishment, Chateau Bellevue, Margate {1867}
    - George Hegner PHILLPOTT ~ Wellington Baths, 150&151 High Street, Margate {1867}
    - James PREBBLE ~ baths, 159 High Street, Margate {1867}
  27. 1890 Baths & Bathing Machines
    - James BRIGGS ~ Clifton Baths, Fort Crescent, Margate {1890}
    - Joseph H EASTON, bath proprietor ~ 34&36 High Street & Marine Drive, Margate {1890}
    - E R CORKE, proprietor ~ Marine Palace Swimming Baths, Marine Promenade, Margate {1890}
    - Edward HANCOCK & John JORDAN, bathing m/c props ~ Vicarage Cross, Ramsgate Rd, Margate {1890}
    - Edward Austin PERKINS, bathing machine proprietor ~ Frog Farm, Tivoli Road, Margate {1890}
    - C PETTMAN, Mrs, bathing machine proprietor ~ 20 Clifton Gardens, Margate {1890}
    - E PETTMAN, Miss ~ Cliftonville Baths, Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate {1890}
    - Thomas Lewis PETTMAN, bath proprietor ~ 4 Sandown Villas, Northdown Road, Margate {1890}

## 28. 1903 Baths &amp; Bathing Machines

- J HANCOCK, Mrs, bathing machine proprietor ~ 1 Helena Avenue, Margate {1903}
- Edward HOWARD, manager ~ Clifton Baths Establishment, Cliftonville, Margate {1903}
- Edward Austen PERKINS, furniture remover & bathing machine prop ~ College Road, Margate {1903}
- ... PETTMAN & Co, bathing machine proprietors ~ New Town Baths, Newgate Gap, Margate {1903}
- ... PETTMAN & Co, bathing machine props ~ Cliftonville Baths, Eastern Esplanade, Margate {1903}

**Ramsgate**

29. Ramsgate is a sea port of note, and within the last few years has arrived at considerable celebrity as a sea bathing place. In consequence of its sands being so very superior, its waters so fine and limpid, and its views so enchanting, it has become a powerful rival to Margate. Here are upwards of twenty five bathing machines, and good rooms for the convenience of bathers. Here are also two excellent baths : PERRY's and DYASON's {1823}
30. The Royal Kent Baths, situated on the west cliff, are built and furnished in the completest manner, and may vie in comfort and elegance with any in the kingdom. They are under the patronage of Her R. H. the Duchess of Kent, and for the accommodation of visitors a handsome saloon is attached, furnished with newspapers of the day, commanding fine views of the harbour and opposite coast of France. The royal baths are also on a superior construction, the proprietor having spared no expense, and the cost has been rendered the more efficient by its being accompanied with excellent taste and judgement. There are also numerous machines on the beach for those who prefer more open bathing {1826/7}
31. The baths are upon the most approved principles, and the internal arrangements, with reference both to convenience and elegance, cannot be surpassed. Those superintended by Messrs. BARLING, FOAT and WELLS, opposite the pier gates, and the Royal Clarence Baths in Bath Place, have long borne the stamp of public estimation {1839}
32. The facilities for sea bathing at Ramsgate are superior to most other watering places on this coast, the beautiful sands and their gradual inclination to the sea ensures safety at all times of the tide, and since the South Eastern Railway has been opened, in addition to the steam vessels which sail from hence to London every day, the number of visitors during the bathing season have been considerably augmented {1847}
33. The Royal Victoria Baths are situated at the front of Kent Terrace : immediately before them lie the sands which, at low water, stretch for more than a mile to the east, and form an agreeable and healthy promenade for visitors. From an early period in the morning until one o'clock in the day an immense number of machines are employed in conveying their inmates to the briny ocean, from these beautiful sands, forming altogether a delightful and animating scene. The Royal Kent Baths are at the Paragon, on the West Cliff; and the Royal Clarence Baths are situated near the Harbour. These are all commodious establishments where persons can be accommodated with warm, shower, sulphur, medicated & douche baths, at a few minutes notice {1847}
34. The bathing rooms lie at the back of the east pier. The Royal Baths are on the Paragon; warm baths also facing the Harbour {1851} ... .. There is also a bathing establishment on the West Cliff {1867}
35. 1823 Baths
- Roger DYASON ~ Royal Clarence Baths, Bath Place, Ramsgate {1823}
  - William PERRY ~ Royal Kent Baths, Paragon, West Cliff, Ramsgate {1823}
36. 1826 Baths
- Roger DYASON ~ Royal Clarence Baths, Bath Place, Ramsgate {1826/7}
  - William PERRY ~ Royal Kent Baths, Paragon, West Cliff, Ramsgate {1826/7}
37. 1839 Baths
- ... BARLING, FOAT & WELLS ~ Royal Victoria Baths, Victoria Place, Ramsgate {1839}
  - Roger DYASON ~ Royal Clarence Baths, Bath Place, Ramsgate {1839}
  - John LEWIS ~ Royal Kent Baths, West Cliff, Ramsgate {1839}
38. 1847 Baths
- William BAYLEY ~ Royal Kent Baths, Paragon, Ramsgate {1847}
  - ... BARLING, FOAT & WELLS ~ Royal Victoria Baths, Victoria Place, Ramsgate {1847}
  - Isaac DYASON ~ Royal Clarence Baths, Bath Place, Ramsgate {1847}
39. 1851 Baths
- William BAILEY, bather ~ Royal Kent Baths, Ramsgate {1851}
  - ... BARLING, FOAT & WELLS ~ sea bathing estab, Royal Victoria Baths, Sands, Ramsgate {1851}
  - Isaac DYASON ~ Royal Clarence Baths, Bath Place, Ramsgate {1851}
  - Daniel FOAT senior, bather & carrier ~ 1 Kent Terrace, Ramsgate {1851}
  - Daniel FOAT junior, bather & carrier ~ Sacketts Hill, Ramsgate [sic] {1851}
  - Paulin Huggett PEARCE, bather ~ 5 Harbour Street, Ramsgate {1851}
  - Thomas RATCLIFF, bather & carrier ~ King Street, Ramsgate {1851}
40. 1867 Baths
- Isaac DYASON ~ Royal Clarence Baths, Ramsgate {1867}
  - Daniel FOAT, carrier, sea bather & farmer ~ 1 Royal Kent Terrace, near the Pier, Ramsgate {1867}
  - ... GORE ~ Gore's Royal Paragon Warm & Swimming Baths, West Cliffe, Ramsgate {1867}
  - ... GORE ~ and sea bathing establishment, Sands, Ramsgate {1867}
41. 1890 Baths
- John RICKETTS, proprietor ~ Paragon Baths, Paragon, Ramsgate {1890}
42. 1903 Baths & Bathing Machines
- George LAWRENCE, apartments & bathing machine proprietor ~ 7 Vale Road, Ramsgate {1903}
  - William PREWETT, apartments & bath ~ Paragon Baths, Paragon, Ramsgate {1903}

- ... PRICE, Mrs, bathing machine proprietor ~ Trinity Place, Ramsgate {1903}
- Charles TAYLOR, bathing machine proprietor ~ Freeland Lodge, Cemetery Road, Ramsgate {1903}

**Westgate**

43. 1890 Baths

- W J RASON, manager ~ Westgate-on-Sea Bathing Establishment, Sea Road, Westgate {1890}

**Proprietors**

AUSTEN Edward	26
BAILEY William	39
BARLING	31, 37, 38, 39
BARNES	2
BARNES Daniel	4
BARNES David	5, 6
BAYLEY William	38
BEALE Benjamin	14
BEALE J	22
BEALE John	23
BRIGGS James	27
BROWN Ann	8
BROWN John	6
BURVILL William Thomas	9
COLLIN Daniel	6
COLLIN Thomas	6
COLLINS	4
COLLINS Daniel	7, 8
COLLINS Thomas	7, 8
COOK Francis	24
CORKE E R	27
CRAMPTON	2
CRAMPTON John	5, 6, 7
CRICKETT John	25, 26
CRICKETT John Rowe	25
DEFREDUS James	9
DEFREDUS Marie	10
DYASON	29
DYASON Isaac	38, 39, 40
DYASON Roger	35, 36, 37
EASTON Joseph H	27
FOAT	31, 37, 38, 39
FOAT Daniel	39, 40
FOAT Robert	23, 24, 25, 26
GORE	40
HANCOCK Edward	27
HANCOCK J	28
HARNETT William	24
HAYWARD Edward Charles	26
HILL Richard John	23
HOWARD Edward	28
HUBBARD	21, 22
HUGHES	21
HUGHES Samuel	22
HUGHES Stephen	23
JARRATT	21
JARRETT	23
JORDAN John	27
LAWRENCE George	42
LEWIS John	37
PEARCE Paulin Huggett	39
PERKINS Edward Austen	28
PERKINS Edward Austin	27
PERRY	29
PERRY Robert	26
PERRY William	35, 36
PETTMAN	28
PETTMAN C	27
PETTMAN E	27
PETTMAN Thomas Lewis	27
PHILLPOTT George	22, 23
PHILLPOTT George Hegner	26
PHILLPOTTS George	25
PHILPOT George	21
PHILPOTT George	24
PREBBLE James	24, 25, 26
PREWETT William	42
PRICE	42
RASON W J	43
RATCLIFF Thomas	39
READ	16
READ Edward	23, 24

READ Harriott	25
RICKETTS John	41
SAYER John	21
SURFLEN Amadis	21
TAYLOR Charles	42
WELLS	31, 37, 38, 39
WHITE Alfred	25
WOOD Richard	23, 24, 25
WOOD Thomas	21

**Baths**

Albion Baths	6, 7
Chateau Bellevue	26
Clifton Baths	16, 18, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28
Cliftonville Baths	27, 28
Marine Palace	20, 27
New Town Baths	28
Paragon Baths	41, 42
Royal Baths	34
Royal Clarence Baths	31, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40
Royal Kent Baths	30, 33, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39
Royal Paragon	40
Royal Victoria Baths	33, 37, 38, 39
Wellington Baths	25, 26

**Locations - Baths & Proprietors**

Albion Street, Broadstairs	4, 5, 6
Bath Place, Ramsgate	31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39
Brook Terrace, Margate	26
Cemetery Road, Ramsgate	42
Clifton Gardens, Margate	27
College Road, Margate	28
Eastern Esplanade, Margate	27, 28
Fort Crescent, Margate	25, 26, 27
Freeland Lodge, Cemetery Road, Ramsgate	42
Frog Farm, Tivoli Road, Margate	27
Harbour Street, Broadstairs	6, 7, 9, 10
Harbour Street, Ramsgate	39
Helena Avenue, Margate	28
High Street, Broadstairs	8
High Street, Margate	17, 19, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27
Kent Terrace, Ramsgate	33, 39
King Street, Ramsgate	39
Lower Marine Terrace, Margate	19, 24, 25, 26
Marine Drive, Margate	27
Marine Promenade, Margate	27
Newgate Gap, Margate	28
Northdown Road, Margate	27
Paragon, Ramsgate	33, 34, 35, 36, 38, 41, 42
Ramsgate Road, Margate	27
Royal Kent Terrace, Ramsgate	40
Sacketts Hill, Ramsgate	39
Sandown Villas, Northdown Road, Margate	27
Sea Road, Westgate	43
Terrace, Broadstairs	5, 6
The Parade, Broadstairs	9
Tivoli Road, Margate	27
Trinity Place, Ramsgate	42
Upper Marine Terrace, Margate	23
Vale Road, Ramsgate	42
Vicarage Cross, Ramsgate Road, Margate	27
Victoria Place, Ramsgate	37, 38