

Alderman George B. FARRAR, J. P.

Mr Farrar was a wealthy, local resident of Birchington. He strongly objected to Margate taking over Birchington and dissolving their Parish Council in 1935. It had been formed in 1894 and was only dissolved because Margate Borough decided to enlarge its boundaries and include Westgate and Birchington in its Borough. Very few people in Birchington wanted this move and there were many vociferous complaints at the time. Oddly enough, Mr Farrar eventually became an Alderman of Margate and was also its Mayor later on.

He bought a large amount of farmland in the Garden Estate and beyond Mill Row and Mill Lane between the wars and had plans drawn up to develop it in 1933, a copy of which we have in the archives. He even included the strip of land just beyond Mill Row, which abuts the Canterbury Road. Since this was Church Land *and he certainly had not bought it*, one wonders what would have happened, had World War 2 not intervened and slowed down his progress considerably!

As it was, many of his original roads were laid out, but not actually developed until after the war. Kent Gardens was still just a track, and Devon Gardens had only the beginnings of the Council Houses on the north side of it. Many of his other roads were never built, eg. Oxford Gardens, Cambridge Gardens, Leicester Gardens etc, etc. He himself lived in a large attractive house in Queen's Avenue at Minnis Bay called 'Sugefa', and his widow was still living there in the 1960s.

In February 1939, he invited all the Auxiliary Firemen of Thanet to come and practice their fire-fighting skills on a four-hundred year old cottage called BEDLAM, that stood in

isolation in what were known as Bedlam Fields, on the west side of Essex Gardens. It was 'in the way' of his development plans, so he thought this a diplomatic way of getting rid of it! – which sadly, he did. (See 'Bedlam Cottage' notes and photos)