

Stella Maris

Stella Maris in Semaphore Road was built by 1915. Its first owners were two Italian sisters, whose surname was Curonico. The only other property in the road at that date was Semaphore House, owned by George L. Butterworth C.E. who was the Margate Surveyor for many years. He was also a Fire Brigade Volunteer for the Birchington Brigade.

The next owner of Stella Maris was a Doctor, who remained there until WW 2. The house was used by the army as an officers' mess during the war.

In 1946, Mr Bates a retired businessman from Chatham bought it. He chose the area because one of his daughters was already living in Thanet. Vida Bates, another daughter visited her parents here many times and came to live with her father latterly after her mother died. They sold Stella Maris in 1969 to Philip Gibbs and his family who have owned it ever since. Robert Gibbs was the last permanent occupant, though other members of the family frequently visited the house. He has now (2007) bought a property in St Nicholas and is selling the house, probably for developers.