

Margate Civic Society

SUMMER 2021 NEWSLETTER
ISSUE NO. 403

***Margate Civic Society is a Founder
Member of Civic Voice***

CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Members

How are you all?

This year seems to be 'flying by' and the majority of you will now have received your second Covid vaccination, with younger Members receiving their first, which is excellent progress. Restrictions are easing and hopefully the situation will continue to progress without any further setbacks.

After months of staying apart: the prospect of meeting up with family members has now become a reality and my daughter and young grandchildren were able to spend some much-needed time with my husband, Ray and I over the May bank holiday, which also incorporated my birthday which was fortuitous. Six days of jam-packed fun including a treasure hunt, BBQ, garden games, a visit to the Carlton Cinema at Westgate to see 'Peter Rabbit 2', trips to the beach hut at Westbrook, playing in the sea, eating fish and chips, litter-picking, lawn mower rides and loads of love and laughter! The perfect antipode to months of separation.

Since last writing to you three months ago, life has gradually reopened, albeit it in a new 'normal' way but with the exception of those who are keen to attend large events and travel abroad, the majority of us have acted with continued caution. The pandemic has impacted on the quality of our lives in various ways and left many of us with some form of anxiety, depression and uncertainty. Should you be in need of some support, there is an organisation that could help you:-

Connect Well East Kent Tel: 0300 302 0178
email: connectwell@sekgroup.co.uk

I hope that most of you are now all managing to stay well and safe and our best wishes go to anyone who is suffering from any ill health issues at this time.

In Memoriam: Sadly, we ascertained from Peter that Daphne Frewin sadly passed away last year. This was, unfortunately, not included in our newsletter at the time, due to the Pandemic. Peter and Daphne were Life Members but prior to being Chair of our Society, I knew Daphne and Peter as met her, initially when I was re-training at Thanet Community Development Trust in Northdown Road. She was involved with the Surrey Road Area Action Group and was very proactive and committed, as indeed were several other residents' groups at that time with whom I worked, together with the local Councillors. She maintained contact with me over the years and used to telephone me for a chat when she was feeling lonely. She was a kind-hearted woman who did charity work and wanted to support those less fortunate than herself. Daphne also owned a large collection of dolls and was a clairvoyant, liking nothing better than to give me a free reading via telephone! The Committee and I send our condolences to Peter and his family.

Meetings: In increasingly difficult circumstances, the Committee have endeavoured to keep the Society's flag flying and we have maintained contact by email and telephone and some of us have actually seen each other, with Sally Whitworth, Mike Wilton, Mike Thompson meeting up in my garden at the end of April. It was freezing though, so hopefully next time I can invite all the Committee around for an alfresco lunch and some much-needed sunshine over the summer.

Newsletter: This is the third quarterly newsletter edition for which Sally has been Editor, so please continue to give your support and remember that you are most welcome to contribute to forthcoming editions by forwarding articles, photographs, postcards, life stories, news of events, etc. I hope you will enjoy reading about Ralph's fascinating varied life in *Rhodesia, the British South African Police, in the 1950s*, more of

which will follow in future issues. Certainly his life has not been dull!

Town Pride Awards 2020: We have now decided to incorporate the presentation of the 2 Plaques on the evening of our AGM in October, before our guest speaker. This will enable much-deserved kudos to be given to the 2 very commendable projects. Photographs will be taken, enabling them to be included in the Winter Newsletter and shown on our website. This will be a special evening, as will be the first time we will have met since March 2020, so we do hope you will be able to attend.

To remind you: the two winners receiving a **Town Pride Plaque and Framed Certificate** are:-

The Margate Caves Visitor Centre, 1 Northdown Road, Cliftonville

(In recognition of innovative and sensitive design, making a major contribution to the regeneration of an important community amenity and to the local area)

'Westbrook House', 145 Canterbury Road, Westbrook, Margate

(In recognition of innovative, sensitive and eye-catching design, making a major historical contribution to Westbrook)

Historical Walks: I am delighted to share the following good news!

Vice President Robin Colyer is planning to return with further Margate walks later in 2021. The walks will be around the **Old Town, Six Squares, Cliftonville** and **West of the Brooks**. Dates will be circulated to members in advance as it will be necessary to limit numbers and take bookings in advance.

Once restrictions have eased sufficiently, you will be updated of details.

Community News:-

'Wilderness to Wonderland' Project (which enhances Civic Pride)

This is an excellent community gardening initiative organised by Rory Waitt and others. Their aim is to raise £1,900 to finish Westbrook Gardens with a rockery feature, plan their next WTW project and clean the weeds from our pavements and gutters.

Margate Civic Society has contributed £80.00 as this is a very commendable project, which is much needed and received community support. Should you wish to make a donation please see link.

https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/imagine?utm_term=3e6rXrrnY

GRASS Cliftonville CIC (Gordon Road Area Street Scheme)

Those of you who reside in Cliftonville may already be aware of the sterling work that this community group has recently undertaken and via our newsletters, I intend to keep you updated of their forthcoming community events. .

For details see <https://grasscliftonville.org/outdoor-cinema>

Cliftonville Farmers' Market

You may also be interested to note that the next Cliftonville Farmers' Market will be held on **Sunday, 27 June**.

Subsequent dates for the next 3 Farmers' Markets are:-

25 July, 29 August and 26 September.

Acknowledgements: I should like to extend our most grateful thanks to Members who have kindly renewed their membership this year and also for the generous donations and good wishes that have been received. Your support ensures the longevity of the Society and we look forward to when we can start organising activities again for you to enjoy.

As always, I should also like to thank all the Committee for their ongoing support, professionalism, friendship and resilience.

In the interim, take care of each other and I look forward to seeing you when it is safe to do so.

Wishing you all a fantastic summer, enjoy whatever you decide to do!



With my very best wishes

Pamela

pamela@hurstoncottage.co.uk

Lecture Programme 2021 (Subject to COVID-19 Guidelines)

Hopefully, we will be able to re-commence meetings in the autumn but should this not be permitted, you will obviously be notified accordingly.

7 October Annual General Meeting (Renewal of Subs due) Guests: £4.50 nominal fee

Presentation of 2020 Town Pride Plaques

Topic: “Bits That Don’t Fit!” (Stand-up History! Weird and wonderful historical square pegs).

Please note prior to the raffle, there will be a collection for Cancer Research UK. Refreshments will then be served enabling an opportunity for Members to mingle.

Speaker: Steve Hookins (After Dinner Speaker, historical presentations)

4 November

Guests: £3.00 Nominal fee

Topic: ‘The Life and Times of Edith Cavell’ (the story of the British heroine who died in Brussels in 1915. The Life and Times of Edith Cavell talk tells her story supported by photographs of existing artefacts of her life). This will be followed by the raffle.

Speaker: Melanie Gibson-Barton

9 December Christmas Soiree

Guests: £6.50 nominal fee

Topic: Quiz, short film (or alternative), music, refreshments and raffle - details tbc

Talks that were cancelled, will hopefully be rescheduled for next year’s programme.

Any suggestions for future topics, please feel welcome to get in touch.



Above – a hand-tinted postcard of Edwardian Margate circa 1902

In the last edition of the Newsletter, we published a summary of our President Ralph Handscomb's interesting and adventurous life. This time, we are very pleased to publish Part One of his life in Rhodesia, in the British South African Police, in the 1950s.

Following Ralph's National Service in the Royal Artillery and, after demob, in the Territorial Army, he found life in Civvy Street a little boring and unsettling. At his 21st birthday party, a friend suggested he joined the British South African Police, or BSAP, serving in Rhodesia. After some thought, Ralph applied, was interviewed, and was enrolled, signing on for three years. His story continues from then.

In February 1951 I said goodbye to family and England and boarded the Stirling Castle at Portsmouth. Here I met up with eight other recruits for the BSAP and we soon became good friends. The voyage was something to remember, after the war years and time in the army, suddenly we were in the land of luxury. Food that I had seldom seen and some I had never seen before was there in abundance. There were a number of very attractive girls our age and it didn't take long getting to know them.

For two weeks we were on the high seas eventually arrived at Cape Town. We had enough time before catching the Blue Train to Salisbury to take the mountain car to the top of Table Mountain. I can't remember how long the train journey was but it was a few days. At night the stewards came in and made up the beds, we were four to a compartment. Meals were served in the Dining car.

The views out of the window were fantastic. There were lots of glimpses of wild animals, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, different antelope, and occasionally lion, and lots more. I stood on the footplate of our carriage going through the Kalahari Desert in Bechuanaland. The train stopped at various stations, and the local traders tried to sell us numerous things. None of us had very much in the way of cash by this time.

On arrival in Salisbury our fairy tale life ended. Once again it was drill time with a difference. This included horses. At five am we were awakened by



Above Ralph in Ceremonial Dress and left in Dress Uniform

bugle. It was into riding breeches, boots, and shirt and down to the stables. The first couple of weeks were hell with lots of sores and bruises. We rode bareback, this was to get us to grip with our knees. If you didn't, off you came and the horse would laugh at you along with the instructors. This went on for an hour. Back to barracks for shower and breakfast. Then there was a day of lessons in Police work, instruction in horse maintenance, and grooming.

Slowly we were introduced to saddles until we became quite competent horsemen. Then we learnt dressage and taking our horses over small jumps progressing to larger jumps. We were taught tent pegging, which was riding at the canter with a lance and hitting a tent peg stuck in the ground. Also, with a sabre, picking up stirrup irons from the ground. This of course meant leaning out of the saddle to make contact. There was also a great game we played. Two teams riding bareback. A ball made from rags was passed or thrown to members of your team while the opposing team tried to dislodge you from your horse and get the ball.

When I first arrived in Salisbury, I was asked what sport I played. Rugby and Hockey and Cricket. I was put into a rucker team. The ground was like concrete and every time a tackle was made, skin was left behind. This made bare-back riding even more painful, and I had to pull out of rucker and went into the hockey team. For a time, I played in the Police 2nd eleven team, and we travelled to a number of towns in Northern Rhodesia, once to Nyasaland and to other towns in Southern Rhodesia.

Training went on for about three months. We were issued with various pieces of kit from everyday wear to ceremonial.

In 1953 it was the Queen's coronation, and a contingent was sent from the BSAP. I just helped in preparing the horses.

My first posting was to Bulawayo attached to the Railway Police. One of our duties was to escort the gold shipments from the bullion trucks to the station and hand the consignment over to the South African Police. Other duties were routine police work, investigating murders, rape, theft, arson assault etc. There were a number of children reported missing or abducted. On investigation we found that a butcher was selling very tender meat to the local white compound. Yes! It was the missing children. We rounded up the gang and the butcher. The case went to the High Court and they were all eventually hung. What an introduction to my police career.

My next posting was Nymanshlovu (translation – house of the elephant) in Matabeleland. One white sergeant and one constable (that was me) and below me came two African Sergeants and six African constables. From this small Police station, I was sent out on horse patrol visiting the white farmers in our area and dealing with any problems they were having with their workers and also visiting the kraals of the local people and settling the odd dispute. I had with me two African constables and a sergeant who were great. I also had my houseboy who followed on with a donkey cart and set up camp at a prearranged destination. These patrols were usually about two weeks long.

But one patrol I was sent deep into the Gwaai Reserve which runs alongside the Wankie Game Reserve. After leaving the last of the farmers, I didn't see another white man for six weeks. I slept under the stars with a shotgun by my side and a revolver under my pillow. There were a lot of prowling animals, hyena and jackal were always round the camp. My horse Irish had to be kept close to our all-night fire to keep him safe. Most nights there was the roar of lions and the occasional grunt of a leopard. We also had to keep a watchful eye for snakes and scorpions. The Reserve was teeming with game. After making camp I would take my .22 and go out to shoot my dinner. Bushbuck, stembuck duiker, guinea fowl, all within a short walk from camp. On one of these walks in the bush with a lad from a local kraal, in thick mapani bush, we entered a clearing and right in front of us was the biggest elephant I have ever seen. He had his trunk up

smelling the air and his ears were flapping. Not a good sign. Very slowly and quietly we backed out the way we had come and gave the area a wide berth.

A little later I shot a bushbuck which we carried back to camp. The best way to cook on patrol was to prepare a fire as soon as camp is made, in a small pit, lining the bottom with stones. On return with the kill, in the case of a buck, skin it, cut it up, cover it in mud, the mud got from an ant hill, put it in the firepit, cover with brush and leave it for an hour. If it's a bird, guinea fowl or partridge (swempi), just gut it and cover the bird in mud. When it's cooked, break open the baked mud, and all the feathers come away leaving delicious juicy meat. For veg? An abundance of wild spinach, and various roots, and I always carried a variety of dried veg which were quite good. That's the cookery lesson for today. This patrol took me right down to the Pandamatanka Road which is on the boarder of Bechuanaland (that was) and one krall we entered the children ran away screaming. They had never seen a white man. The Matabeli were a very friendly people.

There was one strange incident that occurred. I was about four or five weeks into the patrol, deep into the Gwaai reserve and came across a drillers camp. This family, white Afrikaans (father, mother and seventeen-year-old daughter) were sinking boreholes for water. They invited me to make camp there and stay for dinner. After dinner I was asked if I believed in 'The Spirits'. This turned out to be a board with letters and numbers around it. We sat round the board all with a hand on a glass in the middle. "Anybody there" was asked several times and the glass suddenly moved to 'yes'. I should have mentioned that at either end of the board were the words 'yes' and 'no'. The 'spirit was asked who they wanted to talk to, and the glass spelt out my name, correctly. "Ok", I thought, they could have got my name off my kitbag. But when I asked who it was who wished to contact me, the answer spelt out 'Brighton'. No one there could possibly know that a great-great uncle on my father's side was named Brighton. My first question was, "Am I going to have any trouble on this trip?" "Yes". After many questions I was told that on the 14th of the month I would be washed out of my camp by a sudden downpour of rain. (This was still the dry season). Now on these long patrols, we were going to be visited by our commanding officer at an unknown time. So my

next question was "When am I going to be visited by my Sergeant?" "23rd" was spelt out.

I left the drillers camp the following morning heading for Ngamo. On the 14th, with tongue in cheek, I pitched my tent on an old anthill to be on the safe side. In the middle of the night I was sliding down the side of the hill in a torrent of water!

Having cleaned everything up we continued our trek. To approach Ngamo we had to cross a large stretch of grassland. There were lots of giraffe, wildebeest, zebra, ostrich and many small species of buck. I rode slowly towards a large herd of wildebeest. As I approached a number of bull wildebeest trotted out in front of the herd. I noticed that behind them the cows were mainly with young. These males came towards me at a walk. I decided it was time to leave. I turned and started trotting away, they broke into a trot, I broke into a canter and they followed suit. The railway from Bulawayo to Victoria Falls runs through the Ngamo flats, I crossed the rails and the wildebeest stopped. That was quite nerve racking but wonderful to see.

On arrival in the village of Ngamo, it was the 22nd. I told my boys to get all kit cleaned and polished, horse groomed, saddlery polished and brasses shining and to dress in full uniform. Me too. The following morning who should get off the train? Sergeant! His first words were "How the hell did you know I was coming today". My reply, which didn't amuse him was "The spirits told me!"

I read a book recently about the troubles in Zimbabwe. Many of the farms mentioned that had been taken over by Mugabe's thugs were ones I used to visit. I often wonder what became of them. I know some died during the troubles. It was such a lovely country.

I had a motorcycle accident returning from investigating a murder. I was found and picked up by an Afrikaans farmer and taken to hospital. It was found I had impacted some vertebrae. I was forbidden to ride horse and motorbike for a month. As Nyamshiovu was a patrol police station, I was transferred to Wankie, a few miles up the road towards Victoria Falls. I was put in charge of the Charge Office, booking in detainees. Wankie was

an industrial area of Coal Mines. The whites at the of their shift would go to the club and get drunk



Ralph on motorbike patrol

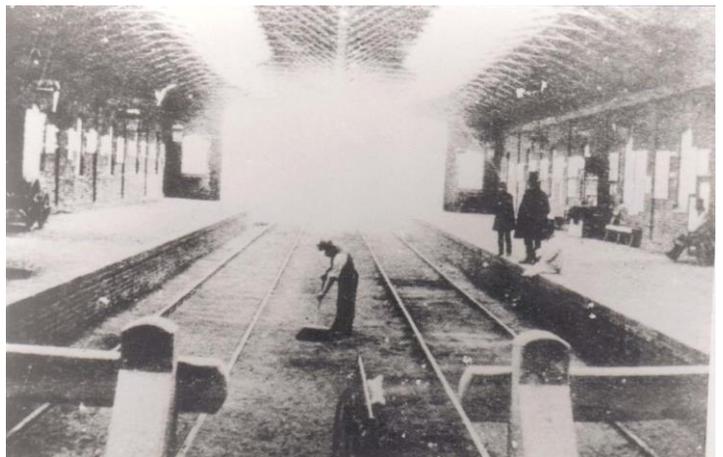
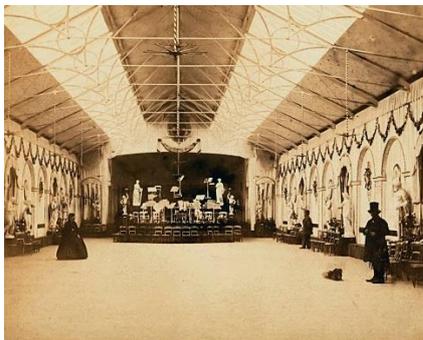
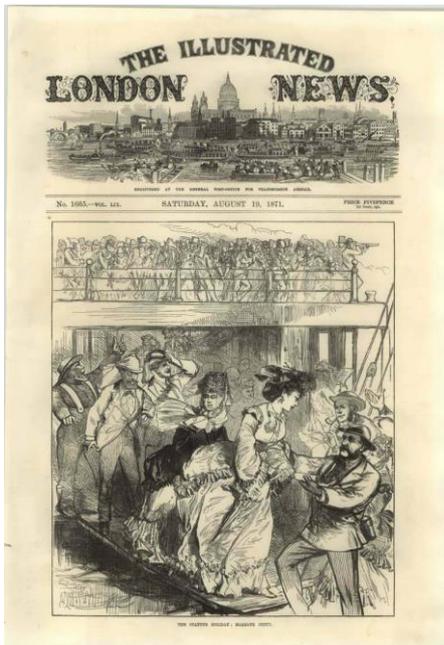
Many ended up in the cells for the night. When it was considered I could get back to full duty, one of my duties was to visit the club and arrest the odd drunk. Sometimes there were some very funny incidents. One extremely large and drunk Afrikaans was throwing his weight around. I told him I was arresting him, he thought this very funny. I was about half his size. But behind him was a very large Scotsman, who was a friend. He hit the Afrikaan and dropped him. We piled him into the police wagon and took him to the cells. During the night he started shouting, I told him to shut up or I would come in and belt him again. He remained silent for the rest of his stay in jail. When I met up with him again in the club, he was as good as a baby. He really did think I had put him out.

We will continue Ralph's adventures in East Africa in the next edition of the Newsletter.



Ralph in Bulawayo

7TH AUGUST 1871 - A NEW BANK HOLIDAY



Above – (top left) article in the Illustrated London News and below an early photograph of The Hall by the Sea. Top right – early photograph of the Nayland Rock and below Margate Sands Station circa 1870

On the first Monday in August 1871, Margate was packed to over-flowing. The new Bank Holiday Act had come into force and Margate traders, shop-keepers, publicans, hoteliers etc were totally unprepared for the huge amount of people who crammed into the town to take full advantage of a chance to get out of London for the day. The Bank Holiday Act designated four days in England, Wales and Ireland – Easter Monday, Whit Monday the first Monday in August and the 26th December (if a weekday) as public holidays. Good Friday, Christmas Day and Sundays were considered traditional days of rest so it was not necessary to include these days in the Act.

The bill was sponsored by Sir John Lubbock (a Maidstone MP) and the Bank Holiday Act was a great success, to the extent that, for some time

after, Bank Holidays were referred to as St Lubbock's Days.

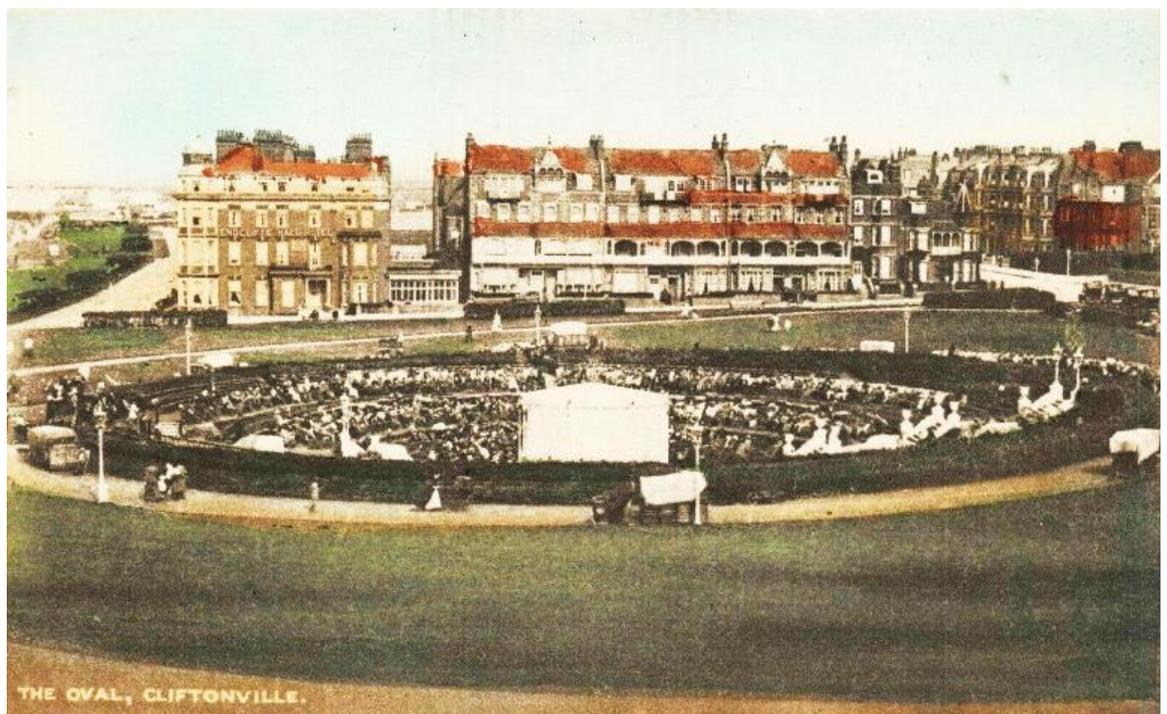
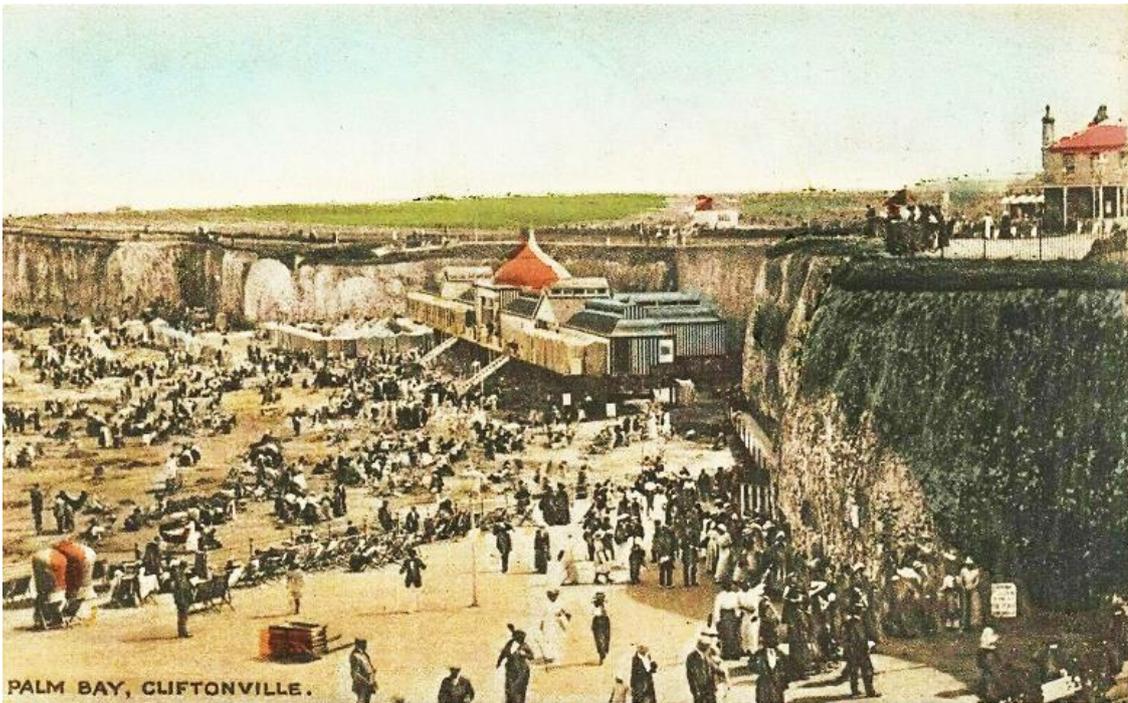
In London there were amazing scenes at railway stations and steamboat piers, who were unable to cope with the rush. Boats were packed like sardines, and passengers had bought all their food and drink supplies in the first ten minutes. Trains were also packed and at Charring Cross Station, excursionists arriving had a wait of two hours before seats were available on a train. Those arriving for the 8 am did not get a train until 10 am. *The Morning Advertiser* reported (on the 8th August 1871) that "various excursion trains to Margate, Ramsgate and Brighton and other popular places of resort were crowded with the holidays makers and a number of extra trains were put on the accommodate the holiday

makers". Papers also reported that "the number of excursionists leaving the City were very large".

The local *Keble's Gazette* (19th August 1871) reported "We are over-crowded, invaded and threatened with famine. Visitors are constantly arriving, not only from every part of England, but from every part of the World. On Saturday, Sunday and Monday last, every nook and corner was filled. Monday was a holiday under the new Act and we, who live by the sounding sea, had

forgotten all about it. Our rooms were not reserved, our bread and beef had been supplied only in the customary quantities. When the rush of excursionists came – over 700 in one train, we were overwhelmed and the excursionists were starved".

The next year Margate, along with other sea-side towns, knew exactly what to expect on Bank Holiday Mondays!



Above – Edwardian views of Cliftonville

FORMER MARGATE SYNAGOGUE TO BE TURNED INTO A CULTURAL SPACE FOR CLIFTONVILLE RESIDENTS



Above: The Former Margate Synagogue

In December 2020 a group of local residents (Jan Ryan, Lucy Lyons, Kate Gillespie and Francesca Ter-Berg) saved the Margate Synagogue from being sold at auction, largely due to the support of the local community, shops, arts organisations and venues, local artists and local and national press. Following a Crowdfunding campaign, at the final hour an anonymous benefactor stepped in to buy the building, ensuring it will be turned into a cultural space to benefit local residents whilst preserving its Jewish heritage.

The newly named the Cliftonville Cultural Space (CCS) will be housed in the former Synagogue (now deconsecrated) which was built in 1928, located between the corner of Godwin and Albion Road.

Our vision is to convert the building into an inclusive, accessible, cross-cultural, multi arts hub, which will reflect the diverse communities of the neighbourhood. The building was originally built for community gathering, celebration and music, with a large central space. As well as retaining this, there will be artists' facilities and meeting rooms for workshops and educational programmes.

We will host a varied and exciting programme of innovative local, national and international music, theatre and dance in the converted space; as well as exhibitions, film, talks and workshops. Food will be central to our ethos, with a welcoming, affordable café catering for all cultures and generations.

We want to include as many views and voices as possible in shaping this new organisation and will therefore be talking to a wide range of people over the next few months. We will let you know more about these upcoming community consultations shortly.

In the meantime we have received a small viability grant from the Architectural Heritage Foundation to support the initial phase of the building's development, including selecting an architect and commissioning detailed the surveys.

Although we will not be hosting events in the building for some time, we will be part of Margate NOW this Autumn. We are working with local artists, musicians and community groups to build a Sukkah (a temporary structure) and programme performances and talks in the Sunken Gardens. Earlier in September, we are taking part in the

Margate Heritage Open Days, giving people an opportunity to visit the building and see its potential. Please keep an eye on our socials for announcements about all upcoming events and developments.

This is a very exciting time for Margate and we are proud to be part of the regeneration and cultural growth of the area. Thank you, Margate Civic Society, for your support! Cliftonville Cultural Space will be intrinsic to the flourishing future of Cliftonville and we need your help to make the project a success.

Follow us on our social media platforms
@saveourshulmargate and
www.cliftonvilleculturalspace.com for all updates
including who to contact and how to get involved.
We want to hear your voice



Above: The local residents who saved the Synagogue

Francesca Ter-Berg
Co-Director

PLANNING MATTERS

The Planning Reform Bill outlined in the last newsletter will be brought before Parliament in the autumn and is expected to ask Councils to zone land in their Local Plans for 'Growth', 'Protection' or 'Renewal' with the land designated for 'Growth' automatically acquiring outline planning consent. If the laws being proposed continue to be based on the proposals in the White Paper, this could reduce the voice of communities in the planning process. Furthermore, it is anticipated that Councils will be unable to reject planning applications that appear to accord with these newfound rules.

As you may recall, Margate Civic Society (MCS) is a member of Civic Voice, the national body for Civic Societies like ours and 71% of member society's agree that we need more homes to be built and welcome the ambition to encourage earlier community involvement in the development of Local Plans. The Government's proposals are, it is felt, too limited in how they will involve the numbers of people engaging in the planning process and the proposals to move to engagement through digital methods are not, it is considered, a path to meaningful participation.

Civic Voice awaits further detail of the Planning Reform Bill with interest and has already held meetings with Government officials to discuss the next steps.

As if this wasn't enough, moves are afoot to apply a new 'Permitted Development' right to allow for Commercial, Business and Service Use Classes within High Streets to change to residential use without the need for planning permission. Concern has been expressed as to how this might impact upon Conservation Areas due to the potential impact on the character and appearance of the area, including sites of special architectural or historic interest. It is generally felt that a planning application should still be mandatory in instances where consideration of the potential impact upon strategic buildings and the character of the conservation area should be of prime importance.

Updates on these issues will follow in due course.

Despite extensive objections to the initial proposals, including those from MCS, Thanet District Council saw fit to include agricultural

land at Birchington, Westgate and Garlinge for residential development in their Local Plan.

Subsequently, an outline application has been submitted to the Council (ref. OL/TH/20/1400) for up to 2000 residential units, Care Home, a two form entry Primary School, Health Facility and a Mixed Use Centre together with associated access roads. A full application is also included for the erection of 120 residential units including parking, access, landscaping, equipped play area and associated works comprising Phase One of the development.

MCS has always been vehemently opposed to the allocation of any Grade One agricultural land here in Thanet for residential development, but the designation of these three sites within the Local Plan as being appropriate for housing has effectively nullified any subsequent chance of meaningful objection. We still believe that the proposal currently under consideration at Westgate and Garlinge is profoundly wrong. Not only does it mean the loss of valuable agricultural land but traffic congestion will surely become a major problem as the surrounding road network is totally inadequate to cope with such a massive increase in road traffic that some 2000 houses will eventually bring even allowing for the fact that the proposal includes a token gesture of so called 'access roads'.

It occurs to me that the term 'Local Plan' has now been reduced to a meaningless level. The amount of housing ultimately proposed within the so called 'Local Plan' - some 17000 new homes could house in excess of 50,000 people. Where are these people now? Certainly not 'local'.

The cynical amongst us would have to assume that the North Kent coastal region is being used to solve London's housing problems and that incursions into greenfield sites is now considered acceptable in order to achieve this. Perhaps not such a cynical thought after all is it?

I will endeavour to keep you abreast of developments in due course.

Mike Thompson

Margate Civic Society

www.margatecivicsociety.org.uk



Founded in 1968, the Margate Civic Society is a registered charity and a founder member of Civic Voice. It was also both an affiliated member of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies and a member of the Kent History Federation but, sadly, both those organisations have recently been wound up.

The Society's purpose and aims are to encourage high standards of architecture and town planning in Margate and its environs (Birchington, Westgate-on-Sea, Cliftonville, Westbrook, Garlinge, Acol, Sarre and St Nicholas-at-Wade); to stimulate public interest and care for the history and character of the area; and to encourage the preservation, development and improvement of features of general amenity and historical interest. To this end, Town Pride awards are given annually to those buildings which have been refurbished, cleaned or modified and which, in the opinion of the Society, have enhanced the appearance of the town. New high-quality buildings are also eligible for the award. The Society also vets planning applications and makes known to Thanet District Council any objections to those applications which it considers necessary.

Evening meetings are held monthly between October and May at the Walpole Bay Hotel, Fifth Avenue, Cliftonville. The lectures, mostly digitally illustrated, are interesting and of local interest; they are also varied in their appeal. A Newsletter is published four times a year.

Committee for 2020/21:

President: Mr Ralph Handscomb, 14 Eastern Esplanade, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3AB (Tel: 01843 293169)
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Chairman: Mrs Pamela Pople, Hurston Cottage, Sloe Lane, Westwood, Margate CT9 4DX (Tel: 01843 221689)
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Vice-Chairman: Mr Harry Scobie, 59 Gloucester Avenue, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 3NP (Tel: 078 6227 6466)
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Planning and Conservation issues: Mr Mike Thompson, 7 Seymour Avenue, Westbrook, Margate CT9 5HT
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If you are interested in joining our Society, please fill in the enrolment form below:



Enrolment/Renewal Form

I enclose the sum of £ (Cheques should be made payable to **Margate Civic Society**)

Name:

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