

Our Community— Let's Work Together

February
Edition 2014

Lighting up the Parish



The Parish area was lit up again this Christmas. Both villages had their 'special displays'. Thank you to all those residents who helped to brighten up our area.

In Cliffe Woods a local resident, in Reedham Crescent Cliffe Woods put on a special show for the area and raised £1,000 for the Kent Air Ambulance. Congratulations and thank you to Andy Broad and his family..

I know Andy is already starting to plan for next year. He has already brought some more and has been asking if anybody has got any additional lights for purchase or donation.

The Parish Council have erected Christmas Trees in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods but has had problems with vandalism and the weather previously. With the recent changes to the Cliffe Woods shops it was not possible to arrange the installation of trees and the power supply for the lights but the Emmanuel Christian Centre did have a tree. In Cliffe The Fire Station took over the display and did the parish proud.

It is never too late to start planning for Christmas 2014 and any ideas should be sent to the parish council—although funds are limited as we try to keep our budget down, perhaps we can do something this year.

Marie Vyse MBE 19/5/18 to 19/9/13

Marie was well known in both villages and had a long history of working for the local communities into her 90s. She was an active member of St. Helens Cliffe, the Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parochial Charity and the Cliffe Woods Community Association and Ladies Club until very recently. She also worked with Cliffe Woods Youth Club and previously in Cliffe for many decades. With a friend she set up a youth club in Cliffe in 1948, she also helped out at Cliffe Woods School

She came to live in Cliffe when she married and quickly became active in helping the local community, something that she continued to do for the best part of 70 years. In 2007 she was awarded the MBE (Member of the British Empire) by the Queen for service to the community. At that time she expressed her delight in the honour and said "I volunteer because it gives me a great deal of pleasure. I have met a lot of friends over the years".

Marie left a large hole in the local community and one that is difficult to fill. She was very supportive of others and set an example that is going to be very difficult to match—but every little bit helps. A Memorial Service was held at St. Helen's on the 2nd October and the church was packed.



The Parish Council and the Cliffe Woods Community Association are investigating options for a suitable memorial for Marie on the Cliffe Woods Village Green.

Cliffe and Cliffe Woods

Estuary Airport

The Howard Davies Airports Commission has been directed to report on airport capacity and come up with a recommendation after the General Election in 2015. Although that seems a long way off they have been gathering evidence from interested parties that want major new airports, growth of existing airports, better use of existing capacity or no growth because of damage to the environment and local communities.

There were a wide range of options proposed by various groups, with a lot of publicity for the ideas of Boris Johnson (Mayor of London), Lord Foster and others. Just in the local Thames Estuary and Hoo Peninsula there were two options on the bank of the Thames at Cliffe, three at Allhallows/Grain, one in the Thames Estuary (off Whitstable) and a small airport on the site of the new port in Tilbury—The Mayor of London also expressed support for an airport at Grain, in the Estuary and growth at Stansted.

The Parish Council did respond, officially, to the Airports Commission in response to the options submitted (see www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk/html/cliffe_airport.htm for a summary of the submissions and the parish response).

Meanwhile FoNKM (Friends of North Kent Marshes) continue to argue the case for No Estuary Airport. Led by two of our parish councillors—Gill Moore and Joan Darwell they have taken the community's message to local, regional, national and international audiences—a major personal commitment.

The commission produced its interim findings on 17th December and the Parish Chair, Chris Fribbins, was present at the first public meeting held by the commission to unveil their report. The full commission was present although Sir Howard Davies handled the introduction and almost all the questions.

Media headlines were mixed, and in many cases missed the key parts of the document and the commission's findings.

Key points :

Growth – Commission reported that **only one runway required by 2030, and one further runway by 2060**. (certainly not enough to justify a new 4/6 runway hub airport on capacity alone)

Location – Suggestion for the first runway was Heathrow (two options) or Gatwick (second runway). Options for the second runway were much more open with Stansted adding to the options (and of course what remains from the first runway options).

But this growth is predicated on making better use of what we have already : It was clearly recognised that both Gatwick and Heathrow have capacity issues (Gatwick is probably the most used single runway in the world, with Heathrow taking the title for a two runway airport). There is significant spare capacity at Stansted, Luton and other regional airports, with some surface transport (primarily road and rail) improvements to provide alternatives to air and/or better access to improve capacity/usage.

The report dismissed all other suggestions for further airports (supporting the views of this blog previously and many campaigners including [RSPB](#), [Friends of North Kent Marshes](#)

and local [Medway Council](#) (unitary) and [Kent County Council](#) (although it must be said that KCC's suggestions for handling growth were rejected).

So where does an airport on the Isle of Grain (Hoo Peninsula) fit in?

The report indicates that serious consideration was given to all proposals, especially the Norman Foster and Transport for London (TfL/Boris Johnson) options. The commission created their own hybrid version (taking elements from the various submissions) and worked up a scheme that would be located further away from the Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) storage facility at Grain.

The commission recognised the environmental issues and the lack of any detail of the surface transport needs and implications (road and rail). The other agreement was that Heathrow Airport (and also, probably, London City and London Southend Airports) would have to close.

The commission's report also highlights the difference between airport developments in the rest of the world. In the UK, all the airports are in public hands and without state control and enforced changes would come at a high price. There was even a suggestion that key airports may have to be nationalised (at considerable cost, with high compensation) to remove the 'competition element'. This would mean a massive gamble on what income would be generated to pay for it. There are EU rules against public subsidy of airports that would need to be considered.

So why left in? The commission agreed that a Grain option was a massive undertaking and that perhaps not enough time has been available to make the case. They have agreed to give them a little longer to work up the option, but a decision still needs to be made by summer 2014. Cost of construction and supporting infrastructure was estimated at over £100 billion.

Boris Johnson (Mayor of London, not Kent) is continuing to argue for massive development in North and North West Kent. The vacated site at Heathrow would also contribute to a massive redevelopment opportunity (but ignores the existing, and planned, massive infrastructure investments in the Heathrow area that are driven by the Heathrow affect. Redevelopment of the Heathrow site would come at a high cost, but he argues it could help fund the Grain option.

What Next ?

The major factor will be how the Westminster Politicians take this report. History is littered with studies and development decisions that have then been dropped (e.g. Foulness).

There is a general consensus that the Isle of Grain option is still a non-starter (operationally, economically and environmentally) but it will be a case of keeping an eye on proceedings and continuing to remind the decision makers of these issues.

A report on how the commission will assess the site has now

Developments

been published (and open for consultation until February). The assessment criteria includes most of the issues that the Parish and others have raised over the years :

- **Environmental / Natura 2000 impacts**
assessment of the impacts on the Natura 2000 sites (generally referred to as RAMSAR and other environmentally sensitive areas), coastal system, habitats and species affected and historical and archaeological sites, in constructing and operating a new airport and identifying whether the legal tests can be met
- **Operational feasibility and attitudes about moving to a new airport**
assessment of key potential operational issues and potential; mitigation, including meteorological and wildlife impacts, the SS Montgomery and relocating energy facilities; assessing airline, airport, business and industry attitudes to the decision to move operations to a new hub airport, and to the moving operations.
- **Socio-economic impacts**
assessment of the local, sub-national and national economic and social benefits and impacts of building a new hub airport in the inner Thames Estuary, closing down Heathrow and London City airports, and redeveloping the Heathrow site.
- **Surface access impacts**
assessment of the operational, cost and environmental impacts of any surface transport proposals (road and rail) required to support a new hub airport, as well as impacts on existing and planned local and strategic transport infrastructure..

A final report on the viability of this option will be produced in September 2014. If, in the unlikely event, it manages to demonstrate that it is feasible, it will then stand alongside other options in the Commission's Final Report 2015, after the General Election.

Keeping up to date in the Online Age

There is a lot of time and cost involved in producing a newsletter like the Clarion and it is difficult to respond quickly when issues arise. The parish web site www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk tries to keep up to date, but can also struggle at times. However there are a number of groups on FACEBOOK that cover issues in the parish. These are created and maintained by local residents and often have up to the minute issues, publicity for events and discussion on local topics. Local groups include

:
Cliffe Woods Kent; (a community facebook page)
Cliffe, Kent; (a community facebook page, currently with lots of old local photos.)
Cliffe At Hoo Historical Society; (covers the work of the group)
The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods village Appreciation Group <3;
The Village of Cliffe (Facebook Page);
Cliffe Woods Social Club (events and social club matters). (

Although none of these are run by or endorsed by the parish council, some councillors do monitor them and try to respond when necessary. It is hoped to have one for Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Youth Club soon.

We do appreciate that many residents do not have the facilities to access the Internet, the knowledge to do so, or even the willingness to try and the parish council still aim to produce the Clarion on an ad-hoc basis. Perhaps we could consider providing training if there is a demand.

Lodge Hill/Chattenden

There has now been two attempts to compile a Local Plan for the Medway area. This outlines the core strategy for development of the area. Although it is much more than housing numbers, it is this area that gets the most attention.

There have been plans for the development of Lodge Hill/Chattenden for almost 20 years. It was planned to provide almost one third of the total housing needs of the area (up to 5,000 houses). This would include provision for up to 5,000 jobs and community facilities (including schools, health, shopping, community centre etc.) for both the area itself and the wider Hoo Peninsula. However there have been major concerns about the impact of this on the local roads (in particular the A228 and other local roads). Meanwhile the actual area of the development has been surveyed in detail and environmental concerns raised.

Earlier this year, English Nature declared an interim extension to the SSSI (Site of Special Scientific Interest) due to special environment concerns, including habitat for nationally significant number of nightingales. There has been a long standing SSSI in the woods between Cliffe Woods and Chattenden and this designation expands that area to include a large part of the area proposed for the Lodge Hill development.

Although the expanded SSSI does not prevent the development of Lodge Hill, it does present a list of questions that need to be answered before development can be agreed

- Is there an alternative development that avoids the impact on the SSSI ? —if so develop elsewhere. If not, can the environmental impact be realistically mitigated against ?—if not, build elsewhere, if yes then development can progress (remembering that there are other concerns around the highway implications).

Without a way forward, the new Local Plan (Local Development Framework—Core Strategy) does not have enough land for the number of houses agreed—so on that basis it has been withdrawn (for a second time) and a new plan will have to be developed (2014 onwards).

This could leave our area open to potential housing development proposals. If they have less impact than Lodge Hill they could get planning permission (by a planning inspector, if not Medway Council themselves). As reported in previous Clarions there are landowners in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods that would like to see their land developed (although it would not be of the scale of Lodge Hill so the community facilities would be much less). The parish council are likely to hear about any proposals, early in 2014 so watch the parish web site for further details and further editions of the Clarion.

A Proud History

In November, a packed St. Helen's Church heard a presentation on the Early History of the Town of Cliffe (The most famous lost place in Anglo-Saxon England)

The Cliffe at Hoo Historical Society have put a lot of work into assessing the evidence of Cliffe's historical importance and much of it has been peer reviewed by experts. The parish would like to thank them and their colleagues in the Cliffe History Project for their, continuing, work in piecing together the proud history of the parish.

English Heritage have also published their report on the Hoo Peninsula Historic Landscape Project, available online @ www.tinyurl.com/PeninsulaHistory
 This year sees the centenary of the start of World War One and there is a further local story to tell there. Have you got any information or artefacts?

MAGIC Arrival

Bradbury House, the former CPC Care centre next to Cliffe Woods Primary School, had been empty for 2 years - prompting fears from some residents that it would be sold for housing.

The good news is, that MAGIC (Medway Autism Group & Information Centre) moved in just before Christmas and are actively renovating the building.



MAGIC (see www.medway-magic.com) are a parent - led group who support 590 local families where there is a child or young person with autism. They run youth clubs, playschemes, activity days, soft-play sessions, a tuition centre, parent support groups with training and a family advice line.

MAGIC works closely with schools, Medway Council and health services to support families to get appropriate services for their child. They were voted Ward & Partners Kent and Medway "Charity of the Year" 2013 by readers of the Kent Messenger.

Emmanuel Church and other local businesses have helped to redecorate and furnish the building. Donations and other offers of help would be welcomed. Particularly needed are good quality stacking chairs and tables, a domestic fitted kitchen for the parents support group and commercial kitchen equipment to enable the hall and kitchen to be used for community events, weddings etc.

MAGIC would be interested in letting the building to Cliffe Woods community groups at evenings and weekends. They also have a well equipped meeting room which may be of interest for meetings or training courses.

To contact MAGIC call 01634 560706 or email office.manager@medway-magic.org ps. If you are a golfer - MAGIC is holding a charity tournament on 14th May 2014.

Parish Council Update

***NEW* CCTV AND BARRIER GATE**

Following recent vandalism at the allotments and some anti social behaviour from minority groups around the small hall car park, the Parish Council were keen to address these issues and ensure this area is safe for all to use. We are pleased to advise that CCTV has now been installed here and operates 24 hours a day using an infra red camera for night vision. A barrier gate has also been installed at the car park entrance and will be locked in the evenings and other times ensuring only key holders and authorised vehicles are allowed access

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - 3rd APRIL 2014

Our annual meeting will this year be held in the Small Memorial Hall, Church Street, Cliffe at 7.30pm. This meeting is an opportunity for the Parish Council and our many local organisations to report on their activities over the past year and what they have planned for the forthcoming year. Projector and powerpoint presentation facilities are available. This meeting is always well attended with over 30 organisations invited, everyone welcome!

CLARION ADVERTISING

You are reading this and so are many others in the 2,000+ homes in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods where the Clarion is delivered free of charge by the Parish Council. If you would like to advertise in the next edition please contact the Clerk for further details. These are our advertising rates:

1/8 page	10cms x 7cms	£25.00
¼ page	10cms x 14cms	£45.00
½ page	20cms x 14cms	£85.00
Whole page	20cms x 28cms	£160.00

Responsible Dog Owners Clean Up After Their Dogs—All should !

The Parish Council are getting more complaints about dog mess being left on the pavements and even on private drives. There is no excuse for this. Responsible owners bag the dog mess and dispose of it in one of many dog bins in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods or take it home.

As well as littering green spaces, pavements and alleyways, dog waste can cause illness and disease including toxocariasis, which can lead to sight loss, stomach and bowel problems, asthma and epileptic fits. Toxocara eggs are present in the faeces of dogs that are not regularly wormed or vaccinated, or pregnant bitches or puppies. You can catch toxocariasis if you swallow toxocara eggs. Children and toddlers are also at risk if they put their fingers in their mouths after playing in an area where dog mess has been left.



Medway Council are responsible for cleaning our streets, but we can help them by doing our best by not dropping litter or leaving dog mess in the first place (it will always take some time for the council to get to the 'scene of the crime'). Cliffe Woods residents have reported the problem to Medway Council and the Dog Warden has promised to patrol the area. Ring them on (01634) 333333 if you spot a problem—but let's all try and prevent it happening in the first place.

Canine bins are provided in hotspot areas and residents can request a free supply of dog waste bags from all council offices or by calling Customer First on 01634 333333

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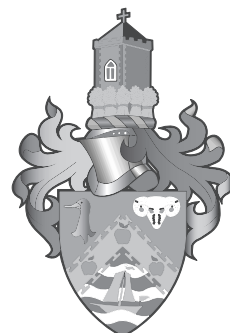
The Clarions is produced around three to four times a year and is delivered to over 2,000 homes and is available online at

www.cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk.

If you wish to advertise in the Clarion contact the Clerk by phone or email

01634 566166

clerk@cliffeandcliffewoods-pc.gov.uk



Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Council

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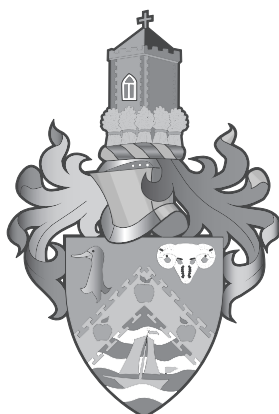
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Cliffe & Cliffe Woods Parish Councillors

Cliffe Village Ward

James Wenban	222620
Lynne Bush	222103
Jim Corrigan	220373
Gill Moore	222205
Colin Elliott	220877
Peter Clements	220681
Joan Darwell	220121
Vivienne Walton	221710

Cliffe Woods Ward

Chris Fribbins	566256
Ken Kentell	221434
Robert Hunt	222042
Derek Cory	216088
Sue McDermid	220864
Ray Letheren	222224
Ian Petrie	221862
Vacancy	

Cliffe Memorial Hall and Cliffe Woods Community Centre are hosting a number of events in 2014. Apart from the social aspect, these help raise significant funds for maintenance and improvement of the halls.

Hall Bookings

Cliffe Memorial Hall

email: cliffememorial@hotmail.com

Phone: 07510676638

Cliffe Woods Community Centre

email: cliffewoodshall@hotmail.co.uk

Phone: 01474 824367

Regular Events

Cliffe Memorial Hall, Church Street
Cliffe

FARMER'S MARKET (3rd Sunday of month, next 16/2)

QUIZ NIGHT 14/3, 9/5, 20/6, 1/8, 5/9, 3/10, 7/11 & 19/12

Cliffe Woods Community Centre, Parkside,
Cliffe Woods

QUIZ NIGHT (Last Friday of month, except August and December, next 21/2)

INDOOR BOOT FAIR (First Sunday of each month, October to March except January)

Cliffe Woods Social Club, Parkside,
Cliffe Woods

First Saturdays (members only) –
DISCO NIGHT

Third Saturdays (members only) –
ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT

Special Events

22nd February Cliffe Woods Community Centre

ABBA NIGHT £12.50 includes Chicken & Chips (Tickets 01634 220864)

14th March Cliffe Memorial Hall

NHS GIVE BLOOD VAN

3rd April Cliffe Memorial Hall (Small Hall)

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

10th May Cliffe Woods Community Centre

CABARET NIGHT

19th July Cliffe Woods Community Centre

CLIFFE WOODS SUMMER FAIR

25th July Cliffe Memorial Hall

NHS GIVE BLOOD VAN

4th October Cliffe Memorial Hall

ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT

(with Fish & Chip Supper)

5th October Cliffe Woods Community Centre

INDOOR BOOT FAIR 9am (restart after summer)

25th October Cliffe Woods Community Centre

BARN DANCE

22nd November Cliffe Woods Community

Centre **NEIL DIAMOND & LEGEND TRIBUTE NIGHT**

28th November Cliffe Woods Community

Centre **XMAS QUIZ NIGHT** 7:30

5th December Cliffe Memorial Hall

NHS GIVE BLOOD VAN

6th December Cliffe Memorial Hall

CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND SHOW DAY

Quiz nights, entertainment nights, barn dance in Cliffe Woods Community Centre and Cliffe Memorial Hall require tickets in advance. Check details of events with the relevant hall.

Dates for Cliffe Fayres (Buttway/Church) awaited at time of printing.

Who we are and what we do

The Cliffe and Cliffe Woods Parish Council has existed for over 100 years. We are nationally recognised, and the most local level, of local government. There are 16 councillors, (8 for Cliffe Woods and 8 for Cliffe). The council meets monthly, alternately, in Cliffe and Cliffe Woods. There are a small number of committees that also meet to discuss specific issues in more detail before making recommendations to the Parish Council. The Clerks manage the parish on a day to day basis and the Caretaker looks after the recreation ground and play area in Cliffe and helps keep the Buttway and Cliffe Woods Car Park clean and tidy and helps with general maintenance.

The Parish is funded through the local council tax. Residents pay an extra amount on top of Medway Council, police and fire services—**this will raise £44,967 in 2014/2015**, and is, for band D, 50p per household per week! We also raise funds from other sources for larger schemes such as the Cliffe Ball Court, Cliffe Play Area, BMX/Skatepark and the allotments and receive a Rural Liaison Grant from Medway Council to spend on other improvements.

We are consulted on planning applications in our Parish as well as local, regional or national issues affecting our area. We also take an active part in liaising with Medway Council, the police and the longer term strategic plans for our area. We also run the Youth Clubs in both Cliffe and Cliffe Woods and work is underway to improve them further. Funds are also available to support neighbourhood watch schemes, the grass cutting in the churchyard of St. Helen's Church, Cliffe (£1,000 a year) and to support our two village halls (£5,000 a year, each).

All members have to stand for election every four years, if there are more nominations than positions, polling takes place on the same day as the Medway Council elections. (May 2015 is the next date). In between elections any vacancies can be filled by a by-election if sufficient local electors request it, but more commonly additional members are co-opted. **Why not take a more active part in the community and join us as a councillor or a non-councillor member of one of our committees (especially the Footpath and Common Land, Youth, and Allotments Committees)?**