Mill House, Ramsgate.

Painting by Rosemary Ann Bambridge
FROM OUR PATRON

The Ramsgate Montefiore Heritage was set up over five years ago to perpetuate the memory of Sir Moses Montefiore and to acknowledge his importance to all the residents of Ramsgate. I was delighted when I was invited to be a Patron. My late husband Patrick was a great-great-nephew of Sir Moses, and was immensely proud of his ancestor. His picture has always hung in the hall of my home together with the family crest and motto “Think and Thank”, it was these words that Patrick would often quote to our children Poppy and Dominic as they were growing up telling them to remember them, the words were important to him as he felt that they were a template for life.

I think the fact that Sir Moses gave so generously to so many local causes, irrespective of religious affiliations, is a pivotal reason why he is so highly regarded locally.

The Committee meets regularly to organise various activities throughout the year, which attract many visitors and keeps his memory alive.

Coral Sebag-Montefiore

RMH NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2017

Since our last edition, we have had two very successful events: a talk in March by Rabbi Dr. Andrew Goldstein on the “The Early Travels of Judith Lady Montefiore” and the Montefiore Day Concert by the bOYbershop quartet, both of which are reviewed in this edition by Tamara Kolbl. We also have a review of last summer’s Ramsgate Festival by Pamela Fields, which unfortunately we omitted to include in the previous edition of the newsletter.

Also in this edition, we have an update on the Worth Park Restoration Project from Elizabeth Steven, and an article on Mill House by Benedict Kelly.

For future editions, we welcome any contributions relating to Sir Moses, either about his life, his friends and wider family, his international work as well as his life in Ramsgate, so please get in touch with us, preferably by email to ramsgatemontefioreheritage@outlook.com.

The next edition will be available in early January 2018 and contributions should be received by 30th November 2017.

Gerald Tripp

Chairman & Editor Pro-Tem
“Smoking Vesuvius”

The Early Travels of Judith Lady Montefiore

On the 16th March 2017 Rabbi Dr. Andrew Goldstein ably assisted by Rabbi Cliff Cohen, our image projection expert, delighted and captivated an audience of approximately thirty-nine appreciative guests at the Comfort Inn, Ramsgate with his talk about the early travels of Judith, Lady Montefiore. Rabbi Dr. Goldstein’s research into the Montefiores had uncovered Judith’s previously unpublished hand-written diaries on their travels in Europe. The diaries give fascinating details of continental travel by the upwardly-mobile middle class at the beginning of the 19th century. The RMH enjoyed the privilege of being the first audience to learn of these findings.

Rabbi Dr. Goldstein has researched the travels of the Montefiores extensively and details of their journey of 1827/28 to the Holy Land are included in his thesis “Travel to the Holy Land: 1799 – 1831”, the subject of his PhD. Rabbi Dr. Goldstein shared the fact that he had as far as was possible embarked upon the same routes the Montefiores had taken in those parts of Europe discussed during his talk. This clearly enhanced his understanding and appreciation of what was involved. The talk was further illustrated by the showing of a selection of relevant supporting images.

Moses and Judith Montefiore who were very adventurous and, might I suggest, brave travellers left the comfort of their London home during the month of May 1816 bound for France. Their first stop as recorded by Judith was at Dartford where they partook of breakfast and then on to Canterbury to adjourn for dinner and finally to Dover by 10.00pm. The following morning the Montefiores embarked upon a four-and-a-half-hour journey to Calais aboard a small packet boat “The Dart”. This particular tour took the Montefiores as far as Marseilles before returning home by August.

The talk included interesting and easy to relate to snippets pertaining to the Montefiore’s activities whilst travelling through France. Judith records their appreciation of wine and champagne which they enjoyed at various hostelries/hotels during their well-earned respite from horse-drawn coach travel. It was fascinating to learn that the coach used by the Montefiores had a section that could be converted into a bed.

We also heard of their participation in what we now call retail therapy. Judith recorded in her diary that they had purchased amongst other items gloves and shoes in Paris. Dental extractions were also on the menu in Paris. No doubt this would have been one of the less pleasing aspects of their travels.

Judith made reference to the various Christian statues and crucifixes they observed whilst travelling through Europe. She and her husband were intrigued by their presence. It was not uncommon to encounter such physical references to the Christian faith in parts of Europe during the 19th century and this continues to be the case in modern times.
The desire to travel was ever present and six months after their return from France, the Montefiores set out again and on this occasion Italy was the destination of choice. The Montefiores visited Rome, Venice and Naples. Whilst in Naples Judith describes her participation in an expedition to the very rim of the smoking Vesuvius. The ascent to the summit of Mount Vesuvius by horse and foot was indeed challenging, if not treacherous in part, and Judith records in her diary having sustained scorching to her footwear and feet upon reaching the very rim of “Smoking Vesuvius”! A mere inconvenience to this amazingly adventurous and brave woman.

The ascent to the rim of Vesuvius would have proved an impossible challenge to most people. Sir Moses interestingly and very wisely some might suggest did not accompany his illustrious and very adventurous wife to the rim of Vesuvius.

Throughout the account of their travels Lady Judith describes the satisfaction she and Sir Moses derived from their engagement with other travellers. This couple clearly enjoyed the excitement and challenges of things new and were fascinated by the cultures and religious practices they encountered whilst exploring France and Italy. I think it would be fair comment for me to suggest that the early travels of Moses and Judith Montefiore were indicative of their future as denizens of a much wider world.

A sincere thank you to Rabbi Dr. Goldstein for delivering an interesting and very engaging talk. We look forward to future talks Rabbi Dr. Goldstein might conduct and no doubt there are many interested parties who will appreciate the privilege of reading the diaries in full once they are published.

Tamara Kolbl,
Ramsgate Montefiore Heritage.
Dear Friends. I have been asked to write an update of the Worth Park Restoration Project. (Summer 2014 Newsletter)

I am pleased to inform you that the ‘Restoration’ was successfully completed at the end of 2016. I’m also ‘delighted!’ to report that we can proudly call ourselves an ‘Award Winning Park!’ The project has received a handful of Heritage Project Awards from various societies for the work that has been carried out, and in addition to these, we have won Silver-Gilt Award in The South and South East in Bloom Heritage Gardens Category. Not bad when we have only been entered for the last two years. Can you imagine how we all felt when receiving last year’s report; we had missed the Gold Award by only ten points! The gardening team and Garden Club volunteers work so hard to make the Park look wonderful.

The Worth Park Project, as it is now known, has been the inspiration for several new related groups to commence. We can now boast both “A Poet and An Artist in Residence”, a ‘Costume Group’, making costumes using traditional methods - i.e. lots of hand sewing! reflecting the Victorian period that the Montefiores lived at Worth Park. A NEW group beginning this year and one that I am coordinating is a Worth Park History Group. These are to name but a few. These groups’ working together, aim to encourage people to become more involved with the Park and learn about the rich history of the area. In the ‘Visitors Centre,’ based in what were the stables, we are in the process of setting up a small museum.

Several events are now held each year, including a Victorian Picnic, Heritage Days and ‘seasonal’ events. The local Lithuanian Community also holds its ‘Mid-Summer Festival’ in the Formal Gardens which is a delightful event when visitors bring a picnic, listen to the music and can join in with the dancing. We have also been very fortunate that visiting orchestras from Europe who are touring the region, have delighted us by holding FREE concerts on the lawn under the Cedar Trees.

Worth Park is situated on the East side of Crawley and is an ‘oasis of calm’ in a busy town and well worth a visit if you are in the area. Unfortunately, we are unable to have permanent catering facilities on-site due to residents’ restrictions; however, there are some good hostelries within the vicinity.

It is greatly hoped that sometime next year, a visit is being arranged for members of Ramsgate Montefiore Heritage to spend a day with us and thus strengthen the Montefiore ties that bind us. We look forward to meeting you.

Elizabeth Steven
Worth Park Project - Volunteer.
The Ramsgate Festival, 28th July 2016

As part of the Ramsgate Festival, the Mayor of Ramsgate, Patron of RMH, Cllr. Trevor Shonk, hosted an event celebrating the life of Sir Moses Montefiore - coincidentally 28th July marked the 131st anniversary of Sir Moses Montefiore’s death.

RMH Vice-Chairman Mark Negin gave a talk on Sir Moses Montefiore’s impact on Ramsgate and how his legacy is felt to the present day. Mr Malcolm Wilkinson, the Ramsgate Town Sergeant then gave an illustrated talk on the Mayoral chain which Sir Moses Montefiore had presented to the town in 1884. The chain is of exceptional quality and design and is much admired.

The Mayor of Ramsgate, who was wearing the chain, invited the audience to view it together with other artefacts that he and the Town Sergeant had put on display.

We were delighted to have attracted a full house to the talk. Several attendees remarked that after spending a lifetime in Ramsgate, they were pleased to have had the opportunity to view the chain and associated items close at hand.

Pamela Fields
Montefiore Day Concert 2017

Music of the Victorian Synagogue

On the 18th June 2017, the Ramsgate Montefiore Heritage invited members of the public to attend a concert at the Montefiore Synagogue organized to commemorate the day in 1833 when Sir Moses and Lady Montefiore celebrated the dedication of their synagogue. Ramsgate neighbours of all denominations, personal friends and family were invited by Sir Moses and Lady Montefiore to witness this joyful and significant event.

The illustrious members of the bOYbershop quartet namely Benjamin Wolf, Eliot Alderman, Matthew Pochin and Gabriel Gottlieb delighted an attentive audience with an eclectic and well-chosen programme of “Music of the Victorian Synagogue”.

This year marked the 5th anniversary of the RMH’s annual concert organized to help promote the memory of the Montefiores who were revered citizens of their time and continue to be so in modern times. Forty-six guests attended the concert and most found the cool interior of the Grade II * listed synagogue a welcome escape from the exceptionally hot weather conditions of the day. The synagogue is a fine example of ecclesiastical Regency architecture. It was the first purpose built synagogue in Britain designed by a Jewish architect. The architect was Sir Moses Montefiore’s cousin David Mocatta. Guests who wished to do so enjoyed browsing the various event appropriate books, catalogues, cards and CDs available for inspection and purchase before and after the concert.

This year the focus was on music composed and performed in British synagogues during the Victorian era. The synagogues included were Bevis Marks, the Great Synagogue in London, the West London Synagogue, the
North London Synagogue and the Princes Road Synagogue in Liverpool. Although two of the synagogues aforementioned, namely the Great Synagogue in London which was destroyed in 1941 during the Blitz and the original North London Synagogue which was closed during the 1950s, no longer exist their musical legacy was much in evidence during the concert arranged by RMH.

Music produced by the composers represented was mostly published by their own synagogues. In addition to that, their music was also included in “The Handbook of Synagogue Music, Kol Rinah VTodah – The Voice of Prayer and Praise” more commonly referred to as “The Blue Book” (it had a blue cover) which is the most successful and popular compilation of British synagogue music.

Each of the five synagogues named is associated with specific composers and/or specific pieces of music. Sir Moses Montefiore would no doubt have been familiar with the music of the Spanish and Portuguese tradition as heard in the Bevis Marks Synagogue which is the oldest surviving synagogue in the U.K. and is home to the Sephardi community. The De Sola family’s musical creativity was prolific and continues to be appreciated today. David De Sola (1796 – 1860) who was born in Amsterdam served as Chazzan at Bevis Marks. During his lifetime, he tirelessly and meticulously collated the ancient melodies of the Spanish and Portuguese Jews and in 1857 his impressive collection was published. One of his most well-known melodies, “Adon Olam”, was performed by the bOYbershop quartet at the concert and was much appreciated by the audience.

In addition to owning the Montefiore Synagogue, Sir Moses was a leading member of the Bevis Marks Synagogue and his seat has been preserved and is now only ever occupied by senior dignitaries as a special honour.

The Great Synagogue was the earliest Ashkenazi synagogue built in London after the return of the Jews to England during the 17th century and is famously associated with Julius Mombach. Julius Mombach (1813 – 1880) who was born in Germany started his musical career at the Great Synagogue in about 1827 as a choirboy and progressed to choirmaster during the course of his illustrious musical journey. A significant amount of Ashkenazi synagogue service music was composed by Mombach and his works remain a consistently popular source of melodies for services throughout the Jewish year. The concert was opened with a selection of Mombachs’s creations and “Boruch Habbo” which is commonly used for weddings was lively and uplifting in style. Mombach worked alongside Marcus Hast who served as Cantor at the Great Synagogue from 1871 until his passing in 1911. Hast, who was born in Poland in 1840, also published a significant amount of synagogue music which has not remained as well-known as that of other composers and as a consequence the opportunity to enjoy some of his pieces at the concert was most welcome.

“Zochreinu L’Chayim”, a popular creation by Haim Wasserzug (1822 – 1882) who is associated with the North London Synagogue, was performed as an example of High Holyday music. Wasserzug, who was born in Poland, elected
to live in London where he embraced the more liberal political atmosphere of Great Britain. He served at the North London Synagogue during the period 1867 – 1882. Another example of a High Holyday melody performed was “Shema Koleinu” which is a traditional and very well-known piece.

The audience was further treated to compositions associated with the West London Synagogue which is the grandest of the synagogues in Britain’s Reform Movement. Charles Salaman (1814 – 1901) and Charles Verrinder (1834–1904), both born in England, composed many pieces for the West London Synagogue and were instrumental in the development of the Synagogue’s own particular musical tradition. Two lovely secular pieces, “A Hebrew Love Song” and “Fair is the Swan” by Charles Salaman, delighted the audience. Charles Verrinder, an Anglican, was the West London Synagogue’s first organist and an arrangement of his most famous melody “Esa Einai” (Psalm 121) was a well-received concert piece. The West London Synagogue organ was renovated in 2007.

Outside the “Big Smoke” Abraham Saqui (1824 – 1893), who was born in England, was the first choirmaster at the Princess Road Synagogue in Liverpool and was instrumental in establishing this particular synagogue’s choral tradition. To date a significant selection of Saqui’s compositions are to be heard at the Princess Road Synagogue’s Services. The bOYbershop quartet performed two of Saqui’s compositions namely “Ein Keloheinu” and “Yigdal” which were much appreciated by the audience.

The bOYbershop quartet also performed the Austrian cantor and composer Salomon Sulzer’s “Adon Olam” and “Mi Addir”. The nineteenth century Jewish choral tradition began with Salomon Sulzer (1804 – 1890). Nathan Isaac’s “If that High World” and Naumburg’s “Se’u She’arim” and “Psalm 23” attributed to H.P. Mendes were also performed. Again, these pieces were much appreciated by the concert audience.

Alas, the concert which has become an established part of the Ramsgate cultural and social agenda came to an end. However the musicians were persuaded to return awhile for an encore in response to enthusiastic applause. Commentary regarding the pleasing nature of the entire performance was much repeated and some of the regular Montefiore Day Concert attendees suggested that the Montefiore Day Concert 2017 was and I quote “the best ever”. No doubt many are already looking forward to the Montefiore Day Concert 2018. The opportunity to enjoy fine music within the oasis of peace and tranquillity provided by the Montefiore Synagogue and surrounding woodland most certainly gives us a reason to “Think and Thank”.

Tamara Kolbl.
Ramsgate Montefiore Heritage.
Mill House – 37 Honeysuckle Road, Ramsgate.

Hereson was once a medieval hamlet which consisted of a small collection of agricultural cottages. Some of these cottages survive to this day and can be found near the Honeysuckle Inn leading up the road. Mill House was located on a steep bank on the boundary of the modern-day Montefiore Medical Centre.

The main entrance was off Honeysuckle Road, but Mill House could be reached via a path near the Honeysuckle Pub. Here there was once a large field which contained a garage. Walking up a slope and steps brought you to an iron gate which led into the garden.

Mill House was probably rebuilt at some point in the early 1900s, but another much older house previously stood on the same site. The 1840 Tithe Map clearly shows the earlier building, which was owned and occupied at that time by Esther Pettit (née Upton). She appears in the 1841 and 1851 census, with her address listed simply as ‘Hereson’.
Esther was born in 1776 and was married to Henry Pettit in 1824. She died in 1852 and was buried on 28th February of that year. She had a 'life interest’ in the house, which was left to her by her late husband, Henry, who died in 1830.

Henry’s will directed that after his wife’s death, the house should form part of his residual estate which would be inherited by his five children (Henry, Mary, Martha, Emma and Louisa). The house was purchased by Sir Moses Montefiore on 21st June 1860, the vendor being John Gower (the husband of Henry Pettit’s daughter Mary). The total area of the house and gardens was 1 rood and 4 perches (1113 m²).

The first reference to the building being called “Mill House” appears to be an announcement in the Thanet Advertiser on 6th January 1883, of the birth at Mill House, Hereson of a daughter to the wife of Mr Shandel. Another early reference to Mill House is in the Burial Register for the Ramsgate Jewish Cemetery, which recalls that Esther London died at Mill House on 3rd September 1885 at the age of 70.

The exact date that Mill House was rebuilt is not clear. The “plans, specification, letter and bill” by G.M.Hinds for the rebuilding of Mill House by the Trustees of Montefiore Endowment Fund are dated 1909, but some sources give an earlier date for the building’s construction.

Mill House was a large property, with 9 bedrooms, 1 bathroom and 1 separate w/c located upstairs. On the ground floor, there was a hallway which led to a living room on the left and a dining room on the right, both had large bay windows that overlooked a large orchard. At the end of the hallway there were two passageways which led to the kitchen and one to the living room. A door from the living room led to the pantry, scullery and downstairs toilet.

The property would have provided ample space for the Reverend Herman Shandel and his family. Shandel was the Minister for the Montefiore Synagogue for 48 years. Originally from Poland, he appears in the 1891 Census as living at Mill House. He was married to Julia Shandel, who was born in Germany. They had 4 daughters (Matilda, aged 15, Judith aged 10,
Emily aged 8 and Esther aged 3). They also had 3 sons (Solomon aged 14, Lewis aged 12 and Moses aged 9). Another daughter Evelyn was to follow and another son, Jacob was stillborn on 18th May 1886 and buried at the Ramsgate Jewish Cemetery. Lewis Shandel was later to become one of the proprietors of the Thanet Advertiser, he died at Mill House on 21st October 1925 at the age of 46. Matilda Shandel became a teacher and the other sons and daughters moved overseas. Herman Shandel died at the age of 74 on 16th June 1924 and Mrs. Shandel continued to reside at Mill House until her death, at the age of 90 on 1st May 1935.

The 1936 and 1938 Kelly’s street directories list Mr. Edward Horsham as living next at the property.

Joseph and Harriet Wilson lived at Mill House between 1942 and 1962. They have fond memories of the building and recall that they were self-sufficient during the war years. They kept chickens and grew many kinds of vegetables, some of which they were able to sell locally. The house had 3 cellars which were used as bomb shelters.

In 1967 Lubavitch Camps leased the building until 1974, the street directory lists them as “Lubavitch Camps & Week-end Seminars”.

Mill House was demolished in around 1975. Today, parts of the cellar can still be seen, but the site is overgrown with mature trees.

Benedict Kelly
Ramsgate Montefiore Heritage

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Many thanks to Rosemary Ann Bambridge for the use of: the photographs of Mill House that appear in this article, and the painting of Mill House which appears on the newsletter front cover.
FORTHCOMING EVENTS

KEEP THESE DATES!
FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE DISPATCHED NEARER THE TIME

SUNDAY 26TH NOVEMBER, 7.00pm

FATHER MARCUS HOLDEN – “Building Jerusalem in Ramsgate – The Converging and Contrasting Visions of Sir Moses Montefiore and Augustus Welby Pugin”

Father Marcus from St. Augustine’s Abbey will be giving a talk on Montefiore and Pugin, two great Ramsgate figures taking a look at their architectural monuments.

SUNDAY 21st JANUARY afternoon - JUST CONFIRMED!

The return of SHIR, Klezmer Group, their third visit, by popular demand – for an afternoon of singing and dancing.

Further information pertaining to all events are sent out by separate mailings. Announcements also appear on the RMH website and Facebook page:

Website: http://www.ramsgatemontefioreheritage.org.uk

Facebook: Ramsgate Montefiore Heritage
https://www.facebook.com/RamsgateMontefioreHeritage/info/?tab=page_info