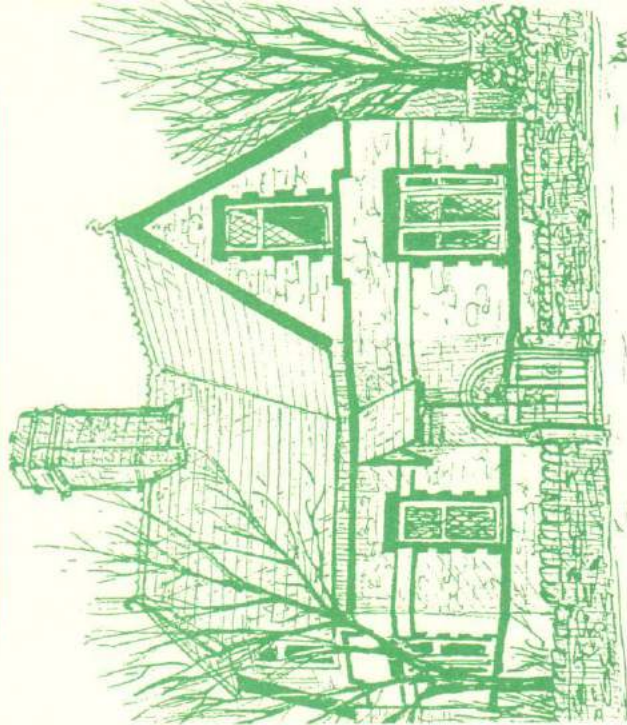


Town Trails No. 7



Northcliffe Cottage

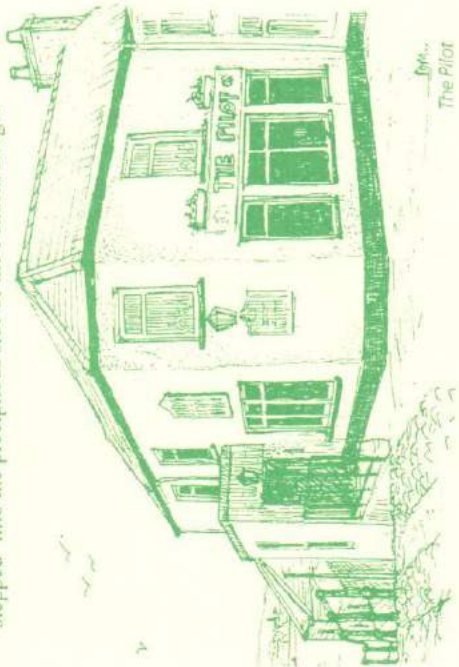
PENARTH TOWN COUNCIL

**Duration of Walk:
Approximately 45 minutes**

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Illustrations © Diana Mead

the rear have, however, been converted into 'mews flats'. Almost opposite at the top of Ferry Lane was another corner shop owned by Mrs. Brain, grocer.

Approaching the Pilot Hotel c1850's (first landlord W. Merchant) we see to our left a row of 6 houses, originally 8, 'stepped' into the precipitous side of the Penarth Ridge.

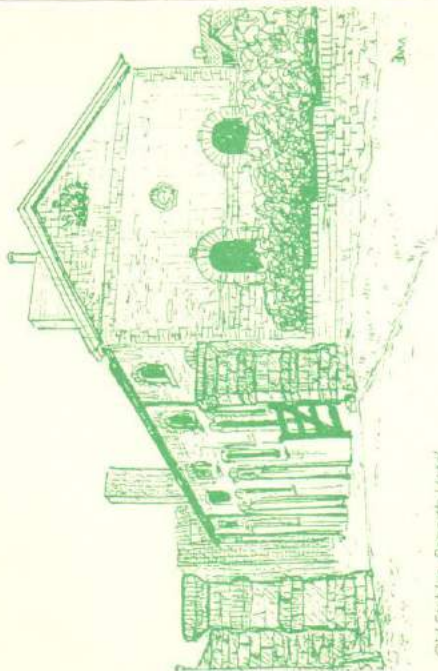


The Pilot

Opposite, at the western end of a small green area is a stone plateau, the site of one of the town's alfresco gentlemen's toilets. At one time there were about 25 of these in the Town, but not one for ladies! Alongside stand the Catherine Meazey Flats, named after Mrs. C. Meazey, a benefactor to the Town, especially the poor and needy during the Great Depression and the two World Wars. The flats were built on the site of the Ship Hotel (17) c1850's (considered as the "heart" of Daggertown – first landlord William Richards from St. Dogmael's) and also cover what was the town's first chemist shop (Mr. Proctor, 1860), a seamen's outfitters, a large smithy and the site of the infamous drinking club the Clifton Club c1860-1890, in James Street now Coronation Terrace. On the corner of Coronation Terrace and Glebe Street we have the building that housed the town's first Post Office (18) and grocer.

The top end of Glebe Street consists of houses built to accommodate dock excavators. The 1861 census shows John Hurley living with his wife and daughter born in Ireland, 2 sons and a daughter born in the USA and one son born in Glebe Street. They also had an Irish lodger; both Mr. Hurley and the lodger were excavators.

The trail ends at the Golden Lion, built 1850, the first landlord being David Price. (19)



Old Stables, Penarth Hotel

The 1881 Census shows Robert Glaister Sharpe, a shipowner of Newport, staying at the hotel, just the type of clientele the owners had hoped to attract. In the First World War Mrs. Gladys Gibbs bought the hotel and turned it into a Children's Home as a lasting memorial to her late husband, Major John Angel Gibbs, killed in action in 1917.

Leaving the hotel we enter John Street, two rows of houses built c1850's to house dock excavators. Halfway down on the right stands one of the town's original pubs, The Clive, known colloquially as the "Birdcage". (14). The landlord in 1861 was G. Lewis and in 1871 W. Sadler.

Maughan Terrace, formerly Maughan Place, leads off John Street and can be classed as the "centre of Daggertown". Houses to the right, originally 7 in number, were built in the 1850's as private residences but soon became seamen's boarding houses; the row included a notorious drinking club – The Marine Club – and the Penarth Dock Hotel (15), which closed in 1936. The 1861 Census shows pub landlord W. Price from Merthyr with Mrs. Price, 4 daughters and one son in residence, with 4 boarders: 2 carpenters, a foreman and a civil engineer. Most of the boarding house keepers were 'foreign' e.g. Christian Dippe, Frederick Stein, J. M'Zelius, G. Lorcar, S. Mazzurri, J. Sajuk etc. and street fighting, assaults, stabbings and murders were commonplace. The houses opposite were built about c1880's and the building at the junction with Maughan Street was originally Walker's Steam Bakery.

Moving up lower Queen's Road, formerly Maughan Street, we pass between two rows of houses c1880 built into the north face of the Penarth Ridge, exemplified by the aptly named Cliff Street. (16) On the corner is a classic example of a corner shop once owned by Isaac Beer, grocer, hardly changed by the dread hand of 'modernisation'; the stables at

The urban development that became the Docktown of Penarth took place between 1855 and 1865; an area bounded by Maughan Street, now High Street, to the west, Windsor Road to the south, the Parish Road later called Stanwell Road – now Albert Road – to the east, and the Dock to the north. The area is known colloquially and affectionately as “The Bowery”, with an aptly-named sub-division: “Daggertown”.

“Daggertown” covers an area roughly stretching from the Royal Hotel circa 1850’s, eastwards to the Penarth Hotel c.1860’s, now Headlands School, and includes the short streets and lanes that run off and parallel to the part of Maughan Street now Queens Road, and the Dock itself. A close knit, cosmopolitan, pulsating, violent, lawless area with seamen’s boarding houses, brothels, legal and illegal drinking clubs and perhaps ten pubs. An area that was home to harlots and hobbler, shell-backs and sinners, mariners and murderers.

The Trail starts at the Royal Hotel (1) built on a corner known colloquially as “Cape Horn”, a soubriquet bequeathed by the shell-backs of old. The building next to the Royal was for years Cousin’s Seamen’s Outfitters and was reputed to have been a pub c1850/60’s, kept by one Pat O’Sullivan. Next door in Queen’s Road, formerly Maughan Street named after Mr. Maughan, agent to the Windsor/Clive family, is a sub-post office, also reputed to have been a pub called “The George”. It is known that in the 19th century it was a drinking club: The Beaufort Club. Next door lived Declan Kenure, cox of the Penarth Lifeboat the “Joseph Dennon 11”, who saved Captain and crew of the four-masted “Drumblair” driven onto Sully Island 10. 12. 1892.

On the corner across the road is the site of, circa 1880, Mr. Baker’s general store, later Refreshment Rooms. The adjoining red-bricked houses were built on “The Tump” (2) or “Queen’s Bench”, previously in 1892 the site of St. Paul’s Church, the “Workmen’s Church”. This iron church was demolished in 1906 and re-erected on Barry Island. The 5 houses known as Church Terrace were built in 1909.

The nearby flats were built after 1945, on the site of shops bombed in W.W.2. Built in the 1860’s, shops included two outfitters, a grocer’s, hairdresser’s and a general store. The building on the corner of aptly named Steep Street, originally Powell’s Lane in the 1850’s, retains some original features. Across Steep Street stood, c1870-1880, the Albert Club (3); one-time manager Arthur Barnett bred fighting dogs to fight prize money and side bets.

Along Queen’s Road a row of 14 houses are charming examples of the original town c1850’s. Early occupants

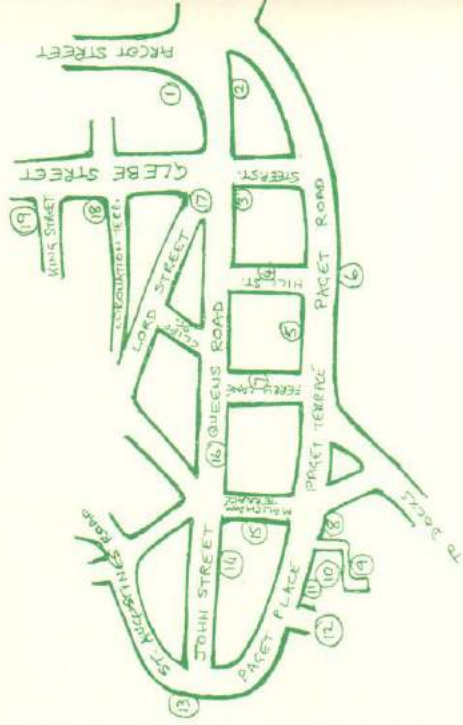
included Peter Bethel, a Town Missionary, and Joshua Parford Vesper, an artist from Tavistock. At the end of the row was John Stoke’s grocer’s shop alongside the stepped and cobbled Hill Street (4), originally c1850’s Richard’s Lane. Descending, we arrive in Paget Road, originally Dock Road. Residents of the houses built in the late 1870’s / early 1880’s included hobbler, ferrymen, bargees, coal trimmers and tippers and numerous mariners. Between Hill Street and Ferry Lane is an unusual elevated pavement (5), with railings. In the 19th century the large house at the opening to the stepped and cobbled Ferry Lane (7) accommodated a notorious drinking club, initially the Windsor and then the Central Club.

The long green sward (6) that runs between Paget Road and the dock escarpment, a play area, was once quarried. A network of tramways linked a number of small quarries to the Billy Banks quarries, lime pits and kilns. Later, the area became allotments and then a play area. At the eastern end is the opening to Dock Entrance Road, and a beautifully-maintained Lodge House (8) at the entrance to Northcliff Drive. Down the drive is the site of the Dockmaster’s house, “The Ferns” (10), c1864 now demolished but a section of the original boundary wall remaining. The first Dockmaster was James Poole Jr, Lt. R. N., son of James Poole Snr, Chairman of TVR. In 1871 Poole was in residence with his wife, 2 daughters, 2 sons, a governess and 2 servants.

At the end of the drive stand the Town’s original coastguard cottages (9) c1830’s. In 1841 the Chief Coastguard.



Original Coastguard Cottages



Frederick Weiss was in residence, and 4 Coastguard Boatmen. In front of the cottages remains part of the zig-zag path cut into the cliff face to give access to the beach and, up until 1865, the now demolished Penarth Head Inn.

Returning along the drive we see to our left new flats, built in a wood formerly the grounds of the Penarth Hotel. Prior to their erection a length of deep, wide, dried out watercourse could be seen as once a vigorous stream ran into the pill Cwrtsh-y-Cwm.

At the end of the drive we turn left into Paget Place, originally Plymouth Place and then Plymouth Road North. On the left hand side stands what may be the last example of the Town’s original, ornate, wide-based gas lamps. (11)

Northcliff Flats were built on the site and gardens of Northcliff (known colloquially as “Frenchie’s”) formerly Cliff Villa c1840 (12); the house was occupied by many notable people all with maritime connections: in 1851 H. H. Parry, a retired shipping agent; later John Batchelor, then Valentine Trayes with Shadrach Alf Smith as his lodge keeper. The grounds give access to the unique two-storeyed cliff house, reputedly built by W. A. Plisson of the Plisson Steam Navigation Company, Mountstuart Square. In more recent times the house was home to the Neale family of Neale and West Trawlers.

Across the road stands 3, Paget Place, once the Cardiff Home for Girls with a Miss Elizabeth Clarke as Matron. Opposite stands the Victorian pile (13) the Penarth Hotel, built by the Taff Vale Railway and opened in the 1860’s, never a commercial success, staff invariably outnumbering visitors. The 1871 Census shows T. Leysdon, his wife, 4 daughters and 2 sons with two staff members and only one paying guest (with W. Dimond, his wife and son and Dimond’s brother living above the stables.)