

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED.

51, SANDGATE HIGH STREET, SANDGATE, FOLKESTONE. KENT CT20 3AH
Company Number 1645228 U.K. Charity Number 287281 REGISTERED OFFICE, 29 Manor Road, Folkestone. Kent CT20 2SE

Please reply to the Chairman: -

Rob Hudson, 16, Bybrook Field, Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent. CT20 3BQ
Tel: 01303 245417/249124 Fax: 01303 249375 E-mail. rjhudson@cwcom.net

1907-L-SHTLRM-140899.doc

6 August, 1999

Mrs. L. E. René-Martin
149 Sandgate High Street
Sandgate
Folkestone, Kent.
CT20 3DA

Dear Linda,

As you may know Peggy Lugg our Treasurer for many years resigned from the Board of the Heritage Trust in March and I had to contact our new Treasurer who could find no reference to the Covenant to which Midland Bank refer. I have pleasure in enclosing a new Covenant Form and although it is made out on a Diocesan paper please do not let that worry you as we are using their Covenant Office to facilitate all Covenants made with the Sandgate Heritage Trust. If you would be kind enough to complete this form and let me have it back I will arrange to have it processed.

The Civic Trust/Heritage Days

I have now heard from the Civic Trust and in Folkestone there are only three premises open for the Heritage Open Days this autumn. The three locations are:

The Church of St. Mary the Virgin, Capel le Ferne

The Leas Cliff Lift

The Volunteer Fire Station and Reading Room, Sandgate

I enclose some leaflets and would be very grateful if you could liaise with the potential guides to arrange for tours to be available if they are required. We shall have someone on duty on both the Saturday morning from 10.30am – 12.30pm and also on the Sunday afternoon from 2.30-5.30pm. I am writing to the Chairman of the Sandgate Society along similar lines but as you were the person who had written to me I felt it only right to write back to you first.

I have seen your letter about the wall round the War Memorial and completely agree with your sentiments.

Yours sincerely,

Rob

P.s. Please see letter received today from Shepway.
R

FAX

SHEPWAY
DISTRICT COUNCIL

To: Rob Hudson (Sandgate Society)

Fax No: 01303 256522

Attention of: Rob Hudson

From: Krystyna Matyjaszkiewicz, Arts/Tourism Officer

Date: 5 August 1999

Total Pages: 1

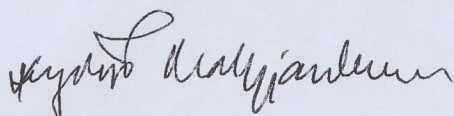
Heritage Open Days

Please could you let me have the following details for the Heritage Open Days special opening of the **Volunteer Fire Station and Reading Room, Sandgate**, for the district publicity we are co-ordinating, including listing on Shepway District Council's web-site:

- Opening times on Saturday 11 / Sunday 12 September
- Whether people can just turn up, or whether there are timed tours (if so please give times of tours)
- Meeting point if there are tours
- Is access provided/suitable for wheelchairs, and are there any other restrictions?
- Date of building, Listing, Architect (if known), Notable features, Famous associations/occupants/uses, Areas open to the public, What there is to see

I am out of the office tomorrow (Friday 6th) but please could you fax or send details so that I have them for Monday 9th. If you have any queries please phone me on Monday.

With thanks,



Krystyna Matyjaszkiewicz
Arts/Tourism Officer

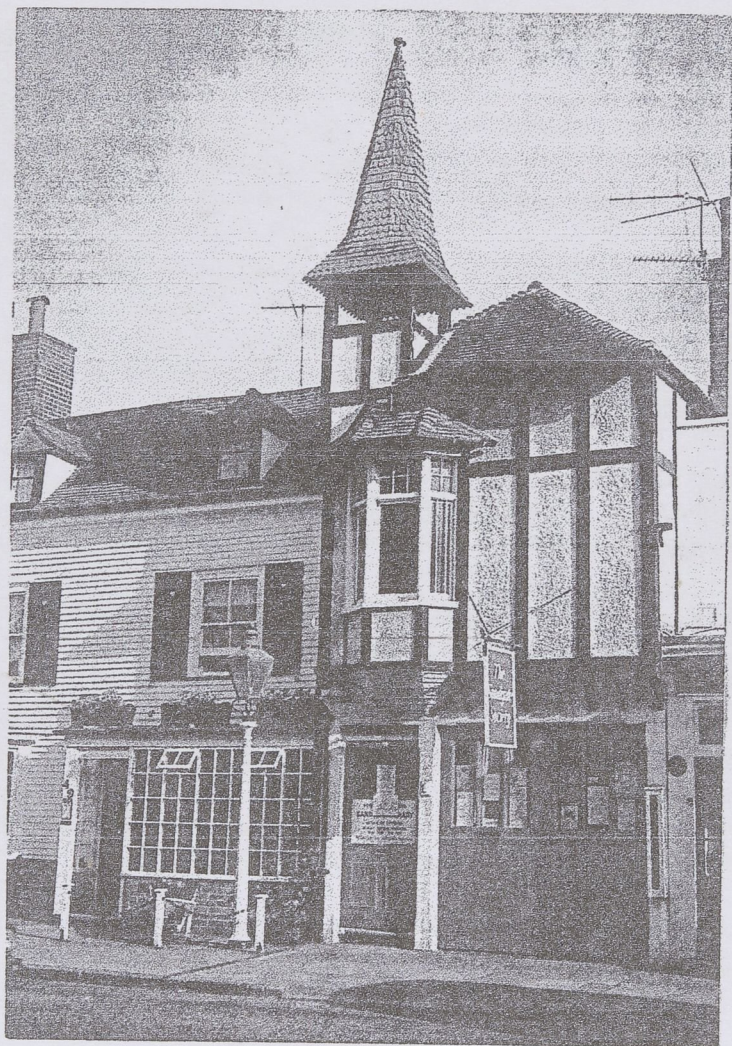
FOLKESTONE · HYTHE · ROMNEY MARSH



Kent's Garden Coast

SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL
TOURISM SERVICES, THE CIVIC CENTRE, CASTLE HILL AVENUE,
FOLKESTONE, KENT, CT20 2QY

Tel: (01303) 852363 Fax: (01303) 852502 E-mail: krystyna.matyjaszkiewicz@shepwaydc.gov.uk



The Sandgate Heritage Trust

Price 20p

Sandgate Fire Station-Sandgate Heritage Trust and Sandgate Society.

As far back as 1855 Sandgate had a voluntary Fire Brigade. Its inefficiency was, however, the factor that made Sandgate start a campaign for a new fire engine and H.Q.

An appeal was launched with the support of Lord Pelham, Lord Radnor, and Baron Mayer de Rothchild among others. Even the Governor of the Bank of England, James Morris donated £50 which was added to the £150 collected from local people of Sandgate enabling them to purchase a new horse drawn fire engine.

In July 1883 a great bazaar was held at Encombe to re-establish the Sandgate Library and Reading Room and to provide permanent housing for the new fire engine.

Land next to the Providence Inn was deeded by two sisters the Misses Reilly of Encombe for use as building ground for the Fire Station. By 1884, enough funds had been raised and a building was designed and erected by a local builder Mr Waddell. In June of that year the Fire Brigade paraded through the town to take possession of their new engine room. The building included an engine room on raised tile floor, a spired tower for the alarm bell and on the 25th of June 1884 a beautiful reading room and library was opened on the first floor complete with elegant pine panelled walls.

The Reading Room vested in the Board of Trustees was later administered by the Sandgate Literary Institute, and for many years the Local Board of Health was permitted to use it for their monthly meetings.

Ten years later in 1893 the Misses Reilly offered to build an extension consisting of a room at the rear of the engine room and a small room above as offices for the Board of Health Surveyor.

In 1904 the building was purchased by Sandgate Urban District Council. First, they had to get a loan of £650 since one of the sisters had died and a niece had inherited the estate.

In 1934 Sandgate Urban District Council was merged with Folkestone Borough Council who took control of the building. During the Second World War the Auxiliary Fire Service once again occupied the engine room. After the War the building fell into disuse. The former Reading Room now became a Public Library and the engine room was used temporarily as a bailiff's depot for seized goods.

In 1974 with the Local Government reorganisation the building passed to the K.C.C. In 1976 the Sandgate Society was permitted to rent the engine room. In 1982 with the opening of the new library on the site of the James Morris dwellings the Sandgate Society was given notice to quit to enable the K.C.C. to sell the building to the highest bidder.

At this point, the Sandgate Heritage Trust a charitable body specially set up, finally succeeded in acquiring this historic building from K.C.C. at the stipulated open market price (£18,100.00). *£18,100*

The Trust took over the building in October 1983. Ironically, the Sandgate community which had originally contributed to the erection of the Fire Station had now been required to raise funds again in order to buy it back.

chairman
In November 1983 the Sandgate Heritage Trust launched an appeal to renovate the dilapidated building and sought help from grant-making bodies. Famous people lent their names to the project including The Earl of Guildford, Sir John Betjeman, Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock, Alec McGowan, Sir William Deedes, Lt.Col R Drake-Brockman, Mrs R.E. Greenwall, Dr Courtney Lendon and Mr. Peter Fynmore whose grandfather was mayor of Sandgate no fewer than thirteen times.

rubbish: He was chairman
The first chairman of the Sandgate Heritage Trust was Mrs. L René Martin. She was succeeded by Mr. Dennis Vorley who served for many years in this capacity until his death in 1996.

The Sandgate Society referred to earlier was formed in 1962. Its founder members included Mrs Estelle Greenwall, Mrs.L René Martin and Mr Dennis Vorley. It started when the Royal Kent Hotel (now Sir John Moore Court) was demolished.

The Society, in the absence of a Parish Council, serves as a forum for the whole community and to preserve its special identity as a village. It deals with conservation matters, road traffic, major new developments and the general enjoyment of a village including the organisation of social events.

The Sandgate Heritage Trust is the legal owner of the Old Fire Station and the only income it receives is from rents for the hire of the two rooms in the building. This does not provide a substantial income but only really covers normal outgoings. When major repairs are necessary this requires additional finance and we are appealing for donations at this time to help us meet some substantial repairs to the building. We are a registered charity and if people would like to covenant or gift aid their support, this can be arranged. It is hoped in the future that the hall will be used by more Sandgate groups and so foster a sense of fellowship within the village.

Further information can be obtained from either our :-
Company Secretary, Mr Oliver Champion 01303 258460
or our Treasurer Mrs Peggy Lugg 01303 248159

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST APPEAL
List of supporters up to 27th Sept. 1983

Mrs. A. Armytage		Mr. B.F.J. Cronin
Lady E. Bairamian		Mr. F.R. Upton
Mrs. E.V. Brand and another		Miss M. Hornsby
Moreen Brown		Mr. B.W. White
Mr. R.L. Burton	<i>Charles A. Bryant</i>	Mr. and Mrs. Whitehair
Mrs. D. Burrow		Mrs. T.W.M. Widall
Miss O. Capenhurst		Miss W.L. Williams
J. Couling		Linda Wilson
Mrs. C.A. Court		Mr. D.G. Vorley
Mr. P. Carter		Col. H.A. Sammes
Lt.-Com. R.F. Colville		Mr. V.M. Allen
Mr. and Mrs. Denham	Mrs. M. D. Denham	Mrs. Hilton
Mrs. Olive Dickinson		Lt. Col. Drake-Brockman
Mrs. F.L. Dinwiddie		Dr. J. Grobstein
Mrs. E.M. Edelman		Dulux Community
M.E. Edwards	<i>Mr/Mrs W. Evans</i>	Projects (I.C.I.)
M.R. File		Mrs. B. Georgiou
A. Fisk	<i>Muriel Judd</i>	Mrs. Chapman
H.I. Fisk	<i>Capt. Felix Hilton</i>	Mrs. Barnsley
C. Foulds		Mrs. Dennis
Mrs. Stella Furnivall	<i>Mrs. A. Fraser</i>	<i>Mrs. R.M. Dixon</i>
Miss Daphne Gale	<i>Mrs. Giles (Winifred</i>	<i>Mr & Mrs. Penfold</i>
Mrs. E. Haigh	<i>Chaplin Memorial)</i>	<i>Mrs. Doolan</i>
Mr. C. Haigh	<i>Sir Albert Costain</i>	<i>Dr. & Mrs. Ewer</i>
Dr. J. Harvey		<i>Mrs. C. Gover</i>
Mrs. Audrey Petherington		<i>Miss Wile</i>
Mrs. R.E. Greenwall		<i>Mr. D. Pratt</i>
Mr. B. Hobbs		<i>Mr. Newton Branch</i>
Mrs. F. Jago	<i>Mrs. H. Lye</i>	<i>Mrs. M. Thompson</i>
Mr. Roger Joyce		<i>Mrs. K.J. Bytom</i>
Miss C. Lambert		<i>Miss Deehan</i>
E. Lea		<i>Mr. R. Tatt</i>
Mrs. J. Gillett		<i>Mrs. B. Bentley</i>
Mr. C.F.M. Lister		<i>Mr. P. Fynmore</i>
Mr. A. McCowen		<i>Mrs. L. Lachlan</i>
H. Merriott		<i>M. & Mrs. Mount</i>
Mr. and Mrs. Miller		<i>Mrs. Pullan</i>
Dr. N.C. Lendon		<i>Mrs. Ann Neill</i>
F.M. Newey		<i>Dame Sheila Shedd</i>
Dr. E.E. Oliver		<i>Mr & Mrs Shagman</i>
Mrs. F.B. Pinchin		<i>Mrs. V. Bodilly</i>
Mrs. E.A.E. Paul		<i>Mrs. M.C. Sparrow</i>
Sir Thomas and Lady Rapp		<i>Mr. J.H. Broome</i>
Miss J.A. Rosie		<i>M. F.T. Moore</i>
Mrs. E.G. Rowland		
Mrs. D.C. Ritson		
Mrs. L. Rene-Martin		
Mrs. and Mr. A.D. Simpson		
Mrs. E. Spiller		
Mrs. C. Stringer		
Mr. G.F. Taylor		
Mrs. J.E. Thompson		
R.V. Thompson		
M. Townsend		
Mr. and Mrs. Turnill		
Mr. F.D. Smith		

Mr & Mrs. S. Richards

Miss A.M. Heath

Mr. Howard Godfrey

Mrs. J. Keel

Mrs. J. Roberts

Dr. J. East

Mr. J. P. L. Smith

Mrs. Ann Neill
Dame Sheila Shedd
Mr & Mrs Shagman
Mrs. V. Bodilly
Mrs. M.C. Sparrow
Mr. J.H. Broome
M. F.T. Moore

SANDGATE AS A CONSERVATION AREA

Memorandum submitted by Mrs. L. Rene-Martin on behalf of the Sandgate Society (affiliated to the Civic Trust, The Committee for the Preservation of Rural Kent and Kent Federation of Amenity Societies)

INDISCRIMINATE DEVELOPMENTS OF NEW HOUSING IN VILLAGES COULD CAUSE THEM TO LOSE THEIR IDENTITY AND SHOULD BE STRONGLY RESISTED (Buchanan Report on Ashford, 1967)

In 1855, The Sandgate Local Board was established, and this became the Sandgate Urban District Council in 1894. Sandgate was autonomous with its own Mayor, Council, Water works, and Voluntary Fire Service, until in 1934 it was incorporated into the Borough of Folkestone. Since then it has become Folkestone's forgotten outpost.

It is impossible for Sandgate to have real representation on the Borough Council because the new Ward boundaries include so much of West Folkestone which has no historical connection with the original village, besides large areas which demographically, should be part of Cheriton.

Since Sandgate lost control over its own affairs, much unnecessary demolition has taken place owing to total indifference on the part of the Borough Council or to deliberate connivance. In particular, Sandgate lost an historic landmark in 1962 -- the fine Royal Kent Hotel in the centre of the village. The Sandgate Preservation Society (affiliated to the Civic Trust) was quickly formed, but was too late to save the building.

Despite Sandgate's absorption into Folkestone for administrative purposes, Sandgate has never lost its social identity and unique village character, but the struggle to keep them becomes harder every year. The problems are:

1. Planning blight resulting from long-term but totally unrealistic plans to widen the main coastal trunk road (see storm pictures). Much property has fallen into neglect because owners see no future in repairing or modernisation. Property developers have bought up large strips of valuable beach frontage with the idea of eventually exploiting, and thereby vulgarising, the village. This kind of thing has already ruined the coastline from Dymchurch to Dungeness and should not be allowed to spoil what remains of a pleasant amenity area.
2. Increasing heavy through traffic, far heavier than the traction engines which in the last century were forbidden to use the new Macadam roads. Old people and children frequenting the village shopping area are at the mercy of fast traffic. It is hoped that traffic will be eventually diverted through Churchill Avenue behind Folkestone, linking up with the A 256.
3. Sandgate has been the victim of many natural disasters; erosion from the sea, and due to the geological formations and inadequate land drainage, there is continual earth movement. A major landslide in 1893 wrecked over 70 houses. Despite these well-known facts, the Kent Development Plan put forward by James R. Adams (Kent County Planning Officer) designated large areas for residential development. These were approved by the Minister of Housing in 1957.

4. As a result of 3 Sandgate has been at the mercy of man-made disasters brought about by irresponsible planning decisions, permitting development on well-known landslide areas -- viz. Encombe Estate, Golden Valley and elsewhere. Despite tree preservation orders, there has been indiscriminate felling on the hillside. The Borough Council has thus been guilty of serious errors of judgment, and of ignoring everything except the interests of a few developers. Since 1966, The Sandgate Society has made strenuous efforts to force the Council to face up to these problems -- and has been an effective pressure group at Council and at Whitehall level.

THE PROPOSED CONSERVATION AREA FOR FOLKESTONE virtually ends where Sandgate begins. The village area (shown pictorially in this album) is excluded, and it completely ignores the stretch known as The Riviera where the residences dating from the spacious Victorian and Edwardian eras form a most agreeable sea frontage. The littoral known as Radnor Cliff on the south of the Lower Sandgate Road, with its early Victorian architecture and terraced gardens to the sea is also the obvious target for the developers. (See old print in Appendix). Yet unsightly building could visually destroy the coastal scene where the Metropole and the Grand are set upon a densely vegetated green bluff like jewels on a mount.

Castle Road, however, which has no more intrinsic value than the rest of the village, is included together with the remains of the Castle which are on a par with other Martello towers along the coast, but not accessible to the public.

It is also vital to protect the wooded hillsides of Sandgate from further spoliation. The vegetation bonds the soil and absorbs much water which would otherwise build up in the lower geological stratas with their well-known tendency to landslip and earth movement. These woods, form a delightful 'green belt' between Sandgate and War Department land on the plateau above.

Sandgate is the last pocket of peace and tranquility left along a coastline ruined by caravan sites, holiday camps, bungalow strips and noisy amusements. Sandgate from the foot of the Leas to the Seabrook boundary, has an unique sweep of beach frontage which is ideal for the family seeking a quiet holiday. It is recognised to have the best sea-angling on the South Coast; numerous fishing competitions (on a National scale) take place here, and it is a favourite haunt of beach and boat fishermen. With a good jetty, it could become a splendid yachting centre and relieve the crowded Harbour area of Folkestone of small craft. The Folkestone Rowing Club already has its quarters on the Parade.

The essence of Sandgate is still its unspoiled village character, and its peace and quiet, almost impossible to find in any other coastal resort. As such it is a precious recreational and amenity area both for local residents, and for large urban centres such as Ashford (20 mins by car) and even London (80 mins by train).

SANDGATE NEEDS GOOD DEVELOPMENT IN KEEPING WITH THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS AND WITH ITS VILLAGE CHARACTER

The Tweddell Report of 1963 was considered acceptable by the majority of Sandgate residents when the proposals and plans were laid before them. Because of the subsequent growth of supermarkets in Folkestone, one great modification is now necessary. Sandgate has all the shops it can reasonably hope to support.

Furthermore, Sandgate needs parking space for visitors and shoppers, to take their cars off the main High Street; much of the present space is earmarked for housing redevelopment. Much of the vacant space between the Castle and Granville Road East

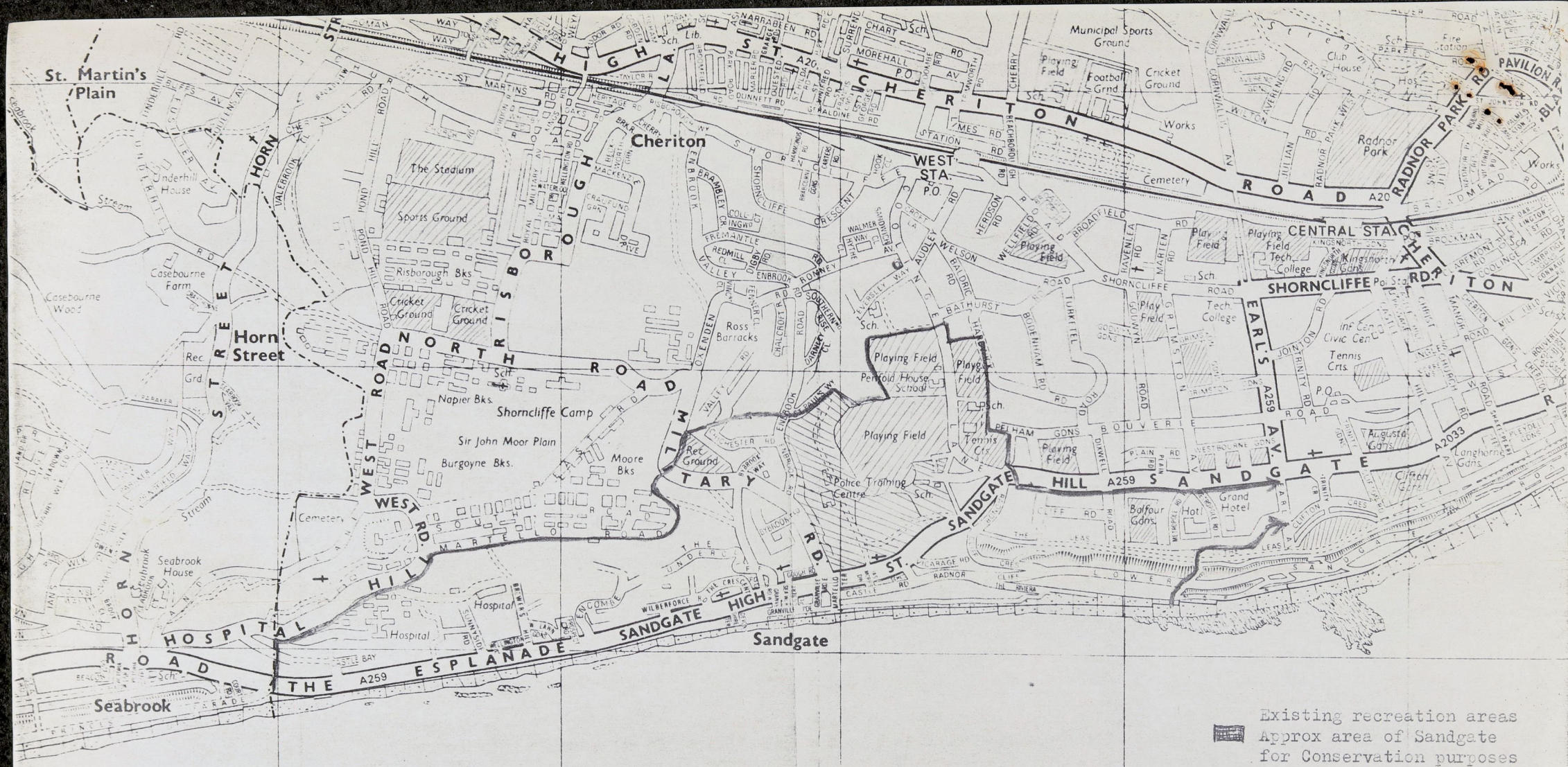
could form an ideal leisure area, with a pavilion, providing changing room facilities for bathers (compare with beaches on the Continent and USA) a paddling pool for young children, and a pleasant teagarden and cafeteria (run by a suitable concessionaire).

At present, Sandgate has only two public conveniences along its whole stretch viz. the lavatories adjoining the Chichester Hall, and those recently built and ill-sited on the public promenade. (There are no means of hiring deckchairs). Much more attention should be given to appropriate siting of benches and lavatories, so that the village can receive visitors with basic hospitality.

Residential development in the village area should follow the recommendations of the Tweddell Report, particularly as regards scale. The view from the hillside looking down upon Sandgate reveals a harmony of grey slate roofs, and perhaps this feature could be followed through in any new building. Great care was taken when the Fishmarket area of Folkestone was demolished and admirably restored to keep the local character. It is debatable whether new buildings should be in traditional style or not. Modern buildings worth noting are the superb Ministry of Defence barracks at Shorncliffe Camp, which for design and materials are far better than any so-called luxury blocks built by private developers in Folkestone.

One further consideration to be borne in mind is the attraction of a relatively unspoilt village to the many foreign visitors staying in Folkestone or passing through.

TO SUM UP Sandgate as it stands has retained enough of its old village character, of individual architectural interest, and of its wooded environs, fully to justify its being designated as a whole, as a Conservation Area.



G	L	I	S	H	C	H	A	N	N	E	L
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EXTRACTS FROM BOROUGH OF FOLKESTONE COUNCIL MINUTES

Housing and Town Planning Committee - 18 September 1963

- (19) The Town Clerk submitted a circular 56/63 issued 2 September 1963 by Minister of Housing and Local Government

... The Minister in the circular indicated that the coast constantly attracted growing numbers of people for holidays, for week-ends, and for residence in retirement and that, in the case of the South Coast, there was a notable increase in the number of people living in coastal districts. The Minister was of the opinion that in making provision for these needs, the development permitted should not spoil the charm and attraction of the coastline. The Minister also drew attention to the need for authorities to make a special study of coastal areas in consultation with the National Parks Commission and the Nature Conservancy.

- (24) Royal Kent Hotel (Refusal of planning permission to Mr. Fyson)

The Minister considered the density of the development proposed exceptionally and unjustifiably high and a building 7 storeys would be quite out of place in Sandgate High Street, and would destroy whatever charm and character this small seaside resort might possess. In any event the Minister considered it wrong to permit the development proposed until it could be considered against the background of the master plan for Sandgate which was in course of preparation. The appeal site occupied an important position in an area which, by common consent, was in need of comprehensive treatment and its redevelopment in isolation would prejudice the satisfactory redevelopment of the area as a whole.

THE FREDDELL REPORT recommended that any new building should not be more than 4 storeys high.

C O N T E N T S

- A MAP - The village area in relation to Folkestone
- B Aerial view of Sandgate, Notes by Noel Tweddell
History and Character of Sandgate
- C The perfect setting
- D Sandgate as a Conservation Area - Submission
- E Minister of Housing - comments 1963
- 1 Spade House and H.G.Wells
- 2 Storms
- 3 & 4 Esplanade area
- 5 & 5a Prospect Road/Brewers Hill area
- 6 & 7 High Street, Coastguard Terrace
- 8 & 9 High Street (North side) 156-84
- 10 & 11 Houses fronting Promenade and Sandgate Parade
- 12 High Street (North side) Post Office to War Memorial
- 13 Chichester Hall and Methodist Church
- 14 & 15 Side roads, North and South of High Street
- 16 Castle area
- 17 Ship Inn, High Street (South side)
- 18 Gough Road and Bleach the Butcher
- 19 High Street with Library (South side)
- 20 High Street (South side) Ship Inn to Library
- 21 Wilberforce Road and other side streets
- 22 & 23 Castle Road looking east towards Riviera
- 24 & 25 High Street (South side) 25-75
- 26 & 27 Sandgate Hill area and Primary School
- 28 & 29 Sandgate Hill (North side)
- 30 Wilberforce Road and other side lanes
- 32 Undercliff area and Prospect road area
- 33 Encombe Estate
- 34 Listing of examples of traditional weatherboarding
- 35 List of other interesting buildings
- 36 & 37 Independent Campaign for a Sandgate Councillor
showing strength of local feeling
- AT END- MAP showing areas under survey

Also Appended Ministry of works
and Buildings Report 'The Land slides
& Kent'.



AERIAL VIEW (July 1949) shows Sandgate and the hinterland, before Encombe Estate was built, the Golden Valley pastures were built over, on unstable land with disastrous results.

DESCRIBING SANDGATE, NOEL TWEDDELL SAYS IN HIS 1963 REPORT:

'The hills rise steeply to 200 feet above sea level, are largely wooded and are remarkable for their shape and beauty. They form an almost ideal background and protection for a small village of the type exactly what Sandgate is. I have referred above to the intimate scale of its architecture and its main street. I would now draw attention to the scale and relationship of the village to the hills in which it rests. It is these things that give Sandgate its unique character - the scale of its buildings, the intimacy of its curving street and the way it nestles into the hillside. It would be destroyed if it were once allowed to grow appreciably larger, or have high buildings. (See also recommendation of Minister of Housing 1963, prior to the commission of this report.)

HISTORY AND CHARACTER

Sandgate is an historic place. The Castle was built in 1539, and later visited by Queen Elizabeth I and Queen Victoria and the Prince Consort. Sandgate began to develop around 1773 when John Phipps started shipbuilding, erecting houses for his workmen and others. About the same time, the 1st and 2nd Lords of the Manor, sold land to the War Office (1794) and most of the fine houses remaining were originally built for the officers at Shorncliffe Camp and their families. Sandgate has the flavour of the Napoleonic era in the names of roads and individual houses. This was the reason for Sandgate as a fashionable watering place, and its popularity continued well after the 19th century. The Alhambra Music Hall attracted some of the best London actors and music-hall stars.

Tweddell says that this gradual growth produced a jumble of timber and brick Georgian and late Victorian houses, shops, churches and chapels and many fine Edwardian buildings. There are also two outstanding examples of early 20th century architecture, notably Spade House designed for H.G. Wells, and Encombe House by Basil Ionides (1923) for Mrs. Phillipson. Between the 18th and 19th centuries Sandgate could boast 7 millionaires with residences there.

Kent ragstone was too porous to withstand the force of wind and rain. So most of the residences were weatherboarded, in Venetian blind fashion. Sandgate still has at least 50 partially weatherboarded dwellings and these are listed at the end of this album.

As Tweddell points out, no one architectural style predominates, and it must not be thought that this is partly due to the major landslide in 1893, which wrecked 70 houses and disrupted the life of the village.

CITY OF FOLKESTONE COUNCIL

Ross House, Ross Way,
Shorncliffe, Folkestone, Kent. CT20 3UP
Telephone: Folkestone (STD 0303) 30022 Ext. 267

YOUR REF:

MY REF: RAH/BMW SH/83/292a

Social View Ltd. c/o RA. Joga Esq., Archt. Date: 9.6.83
St Catherine, Cliff Rd, HYTHE.

Local Authorities (Historic Buildings) Act, 1962
51 Sandgate High Street, Folkestone

Your application for financial assistance in respect of the costs of specified works of repair and maintenance to the above property has been considered by the Council, who have decided to offer a grant/upto of £1,500= in respect of:

Proposed repair and rehabilitation of old fire
station and library for use as Heritage Centre.

subject to the following conditions,

- (i) that no work shall be carried out other than in accordance with the schedule of works, or quotation, approved by the Council's Technical Officer before the works start;
- (ii) that the Council's representatives shall have the right to inspect the works in progress and on completion at reasonable hours, and that the works shall be carried out to their satisfaction;
- (iii) that the work shall be completed within a period of two years from the date of offer of the grant (or other period specified in the case of extensive or complex works);

NOTE: The above offer is the maximum possible under standard conditions. It may be subsequently possible, provided funds are available, to consider a special plea for additional grant.

If you wish to accept the grant as offered, you should sign the attached form of confirmation that you accept the conditions stated. In order to ensure that payment is made to the proper person, it will also be necessary to provide the account(s) for the works showing the addressees and/or such other documents as will confirm the relevant information.

Yours faithfully,



for Controller of Technical
and Planning Services.

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST

Coffee morning in aid of Trust funds following the recent repairs to the Old Library.



**Coffee available in the Old Library from
10:30 am till 12 noon on Saturday 8th November 1997.**

**Please come and give your support to this local Trust.
Raffle and other attractions.**

"THE OLD FIRE STATION, SANDGATE HIGH STREET, 1987"

This painting by a local artist (Mrs. Jean M. Whitfield)
was presented to Sandgate Heritage Trust Limited by

Dr. Alan and Mrs. Hilda Fisk

in January 1989

History of the formation of Sandgate Heritage Trust Limited

In 1976, the Sandgate Society (the local amenity group) rented the disused engine room of the Old Fire Station, refurbishing it as their headquarters. Upon the removal of the first-floor library service to new premises in 1982, Kent County Council (in whom the property became vested in 1974) gave the Society notice to quit, prior to disposing of this "surplus building" by closed tender.

In response to local feeling, a Steering Committee was formed to try and acquire the building for community use, and to prevent it from falling yet another victim of stringent government policy.

In July 1982, following an extraordinary general meeting, the Sandgate Society decided to send a deputation to Kent County Council. The K.C.C. Estates Officer agreed that an offer, if made within one month, would be considered.

The Steering Committee bought a "shelf" company (i.e. not yet trading) as a vehicle to acquire the property. This company - "Socialview Ltd." - offered £15,000.

In September 1982 the K.C.C. Lands Use Committee agreed to accept an increased offer of £18,100.

In August 1983 "Socialview Ltd." became "Sandgate Heritage Trust Limited" and was given charitable status by the Charity Commissioners (Reg. No. 287281).

Owing to the short interval between the granting of charitable status and completion date, 3rd October 1982, there was little time for a widespread appeal. Purchase was made possible through the generosity of Sandgate residents and an allocation of £250 by Folkestone Charter Trustees.

The object was to preserve this unique building for the benefit of Sandgate residents and visitors to the area, with the long-term aim of setting up a Heritage Centre; also to ensure that the Sandgate Society retained the Old Engine Room as its permanent headquarters.

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SCHEDULE OF DEEDS AND DOCUMENTS RELATING TO
SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED, 51 HIGH STREET,

1. Pre-registration Deeds and Documents.
2. 9.1.1903. Conveyance Miss J.H. Reilly (1)
Sandgate U.D.C. (2)
3. 10.10.1977 Certified Copy Kent County Council (1)
Conveyance D.A. Burch & Others (2)
4. 30.3.1983 Certified Copy Kent County Council (1)
Conveyance Whitbread Fremlins Ltd. (2)
5. 3.8.1983. Contract Kent County Council (1)
Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd. (1)
6. 28.9.1983 Bundle of Land Charges Searches (not affecting)
7. 28.9.1983 Bundle of Land Charges Searches with Office Copy
Entries certified as not affecting
8. 28.9.1983 Letter from Kent County Council
9. 18.10.1983 Conveyance Kent County Council (1)
Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd. (1)
10. Memorandum and Articles of Association of Sandgate
Heritage Trust Ltd.
11. 7.3.1984 Letter to Tunbridge Wells District Land Registry
12. 22.3.1984 Letter from Tunbridge Wells District Land Registry
13. LAND CERTIFICATE, TITLE NO. 'K560244

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST LTD.
RECEIVED OF MESSRS. HALLETT AND CO. THE ABOVE

MENTIONED TITLE DEEDS AND DOCUMENTS THIS

DAY OF 1st May 1984

George Lloyd Bank Plc
Folkestone

for Manager

.....

SANDGATE STUDY - An Informal District Plan (Appendices)

Shepway District Council, May 1976 p.28

No 51 High Street, Sandgate Library Grade 11 A

Built in 1883/4 Custom built as a dual fire station and reading room Now Sandgate Library. Late 19 c. Two storeys applied timber-framing with pebble-dashed infill. Hipped tiled roof having left side square bellcote surmounted by a fishscale tiled spire. 1st floor has left side Scottish baronial style bartizan with 3-light sash. Band of machicolation between ground and 1st floors. The ground floor has a left side simple doorcase and a right side entrance designed to accomodate fire engines.

Note Showing signs of apparent neglect. Requires redecoration....

Brief Chronology

- 1855 -- Sandgate WORKING MEN'S LIBRARY & READING INSTITUTION founded, later known as SANDGATE LITERARY INSTITUTION
- 1859 -- Sandgate FIRE BRIGADE started about this time
- 1877 -- Serious fire at Devonshire Terrace, brigade deemed inefficient
- 1882 -- Feb: Appeal for funds for efficient fire engine and suitable modern appliances. Aug: New Shand and Mason fire engine and new set of ladders arrives in village. Temporary quarters in coach house of Royal Kent Hotel. Oct: VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE established. See Rules and Regulations. Lord Pelham consents to be President
- 1883 -- GREAT BAZAAR at Encombe for the purpose of 'Re-establishing the Sandgate Library and Reading Room and to provide Permanent Quar' for the new Fire Engine' (see Handbill July 1883)
- 1884 -- June: Volunteer Fire Brigade parades through town, takes possession of new engine house 'supplied for their use through the munificence of the Misses Reilly of Encombe' who provided the land. Building designed by Mr Waddell, a local builder. Further contribution from the townsfolk needed. June 25: LIBRARY AND READING ROOM opened
- Sept: SANDGATE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH seek permission from the Trustees of the Literary Institution to hold their monthly meetings in the Reading Room (above fire engine room). Becomes their regular venue.
- Nov. 3: Inaugural dinner of Volunteer Fire Brigade. Sir E.W.Watkin in the chair
- 1892 -- Sandgate Literary Institution becomes SANDGATE LIBRARY INSTITUTION
- 1893 -- Following Sandgate Landslip disaster, the Misses Reilly agree to build additional room (now Whitbread's bottle store) at rear of Engine Room for use of the Board's surveyor. Rent £ 10 pa.
- 1897 -- Theodosia Reilly of 'Encombe' dies 2 Sept, leaving entire estate to her sister Jane Hester (about £ 29,000)
- 1903 -- Jan 9: Attorneys for the surviving Miss Reilly sell the building land running to Granville Parade, to SANDGATE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL for £ 650. The UDC have obtained Whitehall's sanction to a loan. Serves as COUNCIL CHAMBER till 1934
- 1904 -- Feb 15 Jane Hester Reilly dies aged about 84 years. Estate (about £ 2262) left to her three nieces
- 1934 -- Folkestone Borough Council takes over Sandgate Urban District Council SANDGATE BRANCH LIBRARY opened in the former Reading Room Library
- 1974 -- Under Local Government Re-organisation Act of 1972, the property is transferred to KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, responsible for Library services
- 1976 -- SANDGATE SOCIETY become tenants-at-will in disused engine room, refurbish it as their headquarters
- 1982 -- July: SANDGATE BRANCH LIBRARY moves to new premises on site of another Sandgate benefaction known as the James Morris dwellings. Sandgate Society given notice to quit prior to Kent County Council's intention to put this 'surplus building' up for sale by closed tender to the highest bidder.
- June: Decision by a group of residents and members of the Sandgate Society to send a deputation to Kent County Council. County Estates Officer agrees that an offer, if made within a month, will be considered.
- STEERING COMMITTEE advised to buy an already formed company (not yet trading) as vehicle to acquire the property. SOCIALVIEW LTD offers £ 15,500 and subsequently raises the initial offer to £ 18,100 to compete with another bidder.



THE SANDGATE SOCIETY
AN EXTRAORDINARY
GENERAL MEETING

will be held
FOR MEMBERS ONLY
on WED., 16th JUNE, 1982
at 7.30 p.m. at

The Old Fire Station, Sandgate

To receive information and a
statement on the termination
of the society's tenancy of
these premises.

A/J16

Present

[Signature]
[Signature]
Oliver Dickson
Oliver Capenhurst
Bill Gosling
Dorothy Lendon

Gene Lachlan
M. Hornsby
E. Haigh
C. Haigh
- H. Todd & Ann Todd
- Wm Chaplin
M. H. Pullan
- R. H. Jones
- Mary Brooker
Paul S. Smith
Stetta Furnival
- Greta Collart
Richard Gier
- Eric J. Hames
- B. Hames
- L. Phones
David Haw
Roger A. Joyce
Linda E. Rose-Martin
(Grobstein)
H. Fish
- H. B. Heath

SANDGATE HERITAGE
TRUST LTD

Balance Sheet
and
Accounts.

Larking & Larking,
Chartered Accountants.

NOT TO BE REMOVED
FROM FIRE STATION

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

ACCOUNTS

PERIOD FROM 1ST OCTOBER 1983 TO 31ST MARCH 1984

I N D E X

	<u>Page</u>
Auditors' Report	1
Directors' Report	2
Profit and Loss Account	3
Balance Sheet	4

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS

TO THE MEMBERS OF SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITED

We have audited the Financial Statements and Directors Report on pages 2 to 4. Our audit was conducted in accordance with approved auditing standards.

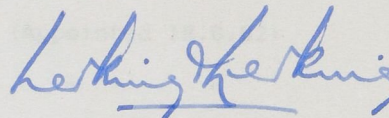
The charity, in common with many others of similar size and organisation, derives a substantial proportion of its income from voluntary donations which cannot be fully controlled until they are entered in the accounting records, and are not therefore susceptible to independent audit verification.

Due to the nature and size of the charity it was not considered appropriate to set out the accounts in the format required by the Companies Act 1981.

In our opinion the Financial Statements give a true and fair view of the state of the charity's affairs at 31st March 1984 and of its surplus for the period there ended.

82 High Street
SANDGATE

and at Ashford, Canterbury,
Maidstone and Sittingbourne.



LARKING & LARKING
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITEDREPORT OF THE DIRECTORSFOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 1984

The Directors present their report and the Audited Accounts for the period ended 31st March 1984. The Company was incorporated on 21st June 1982 as Socialview Ltd and the certificate of incorporation on change of name was dated 27th July 1983. The Company commenced its charitable work upon the acquisition of 51 High Street, Sandgate on 1st October 1983.

The death of Mrs Lachlan was a severe blow to the Company and a deep personal loss to the other Directors. Her place was taken on the 9th July 1984 by Mrs J Thompson, secretary of the Sandgate Society, as was Mrs Lachlan. The Directors also regret the resignation on 17th July 1984 of Mrs René-Martin, Chairman since the inception of the Company, who wishes to devote more time to her literary pursuits. The Company is Limited by Guarantee and has no share capital.

REVIEW OF THE CHARITY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Company's principal activity during the year was the upkeep and restoration of the Old Fire Station and Reading Room. The Directors acknowledge with grateful thanks the many generous donations and valuable assistance during the year. The Directors propose to concentrate on the continued upkeep of the freehold and its extended beneficial use for the residents of Sandgate.

RESULTS

The surplus for the period amounts to £11407.70 as set out on page 3.

DIRECTORS

The Directors of the Company during the period were as follows:-

Mrs L E René-Martin, Chairman	(Appointed 18.8.82)	
Dr A Fisk, Secretary	" "	
A W Ruderman Esq., Treasurer	" "	
Mrs L M Lachlan	" "	Deceased
D G D Vorley Esq	" "	22 December 1983)

Note: Mrs J Thompson was appointed on 9.7.84

AUDITORS

Messrs. Larking & Larking were appointed to act as Auditors of the Company. A resolution proposing their re-appointment as Auditors to the Company will be put to the members at the next Annual General Meeting.

REGISTERED OFFICE

82 Sandgate High Street
Sandgate
FOLKESTONE
Kent

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Alan Fisk
.....

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND No. 1645228

UNITED KINGDOM CHARITY No. 287281

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITEDPROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNTFOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31ST MARCH 1984INCOME RECEIVED

Donations		6930.66
Covenants	3300.00	
Add: Tax Refund on Covenants	<u>1414.53</u>	
		<u>4714.53</u>
		11645.19

ADD: SUNDRY INCOME

Rent Received	300.00	
Grant from Shepway D C Lottery	250.00	
Interest Received	147.92	
Card Sales	<u>52.00</u>	
		<u>749.92</u>
		12395.11

LESS:EXPENSES

Cost of Company Formation	279.50	
Architect's Fees	353.74	
Insurance	106.79	
Printing and Stationery	147.38	
Accountancy	<u>100.00</u>	
		<u>987.41</u>

Surplus for the Period		<u><u>11407.70</u></u>
------------------------	--	------------------------

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST LIMITEDBALANCE SHEET AS AT31ST MARCH 1984FIXED ASSETS

Freehold Property at cost, 51 High Street, Sandgate (Note)	18832.35
--	----------

CURRENT ASSETS

Bank Deposit Account	2300.93
Bank Current Account	234.89
Debtors - Tax Refund on Covenants	<u>1414.53</u>
	3950.35

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Loans for Covenants	3155.00
Sundry Creditors	<u>100.00</u>
	3255.00

NET CURRENT ASSETS

<u>695.35</u>
19527.70

LONG TERM LIABILITIES

Loans for Covenants	6310.00
Loan for Freehold Property Deposit	<u>1810.00</u>

<u>8120.00</u>
11407.70

Financed by:-ACCUMULATED FUND

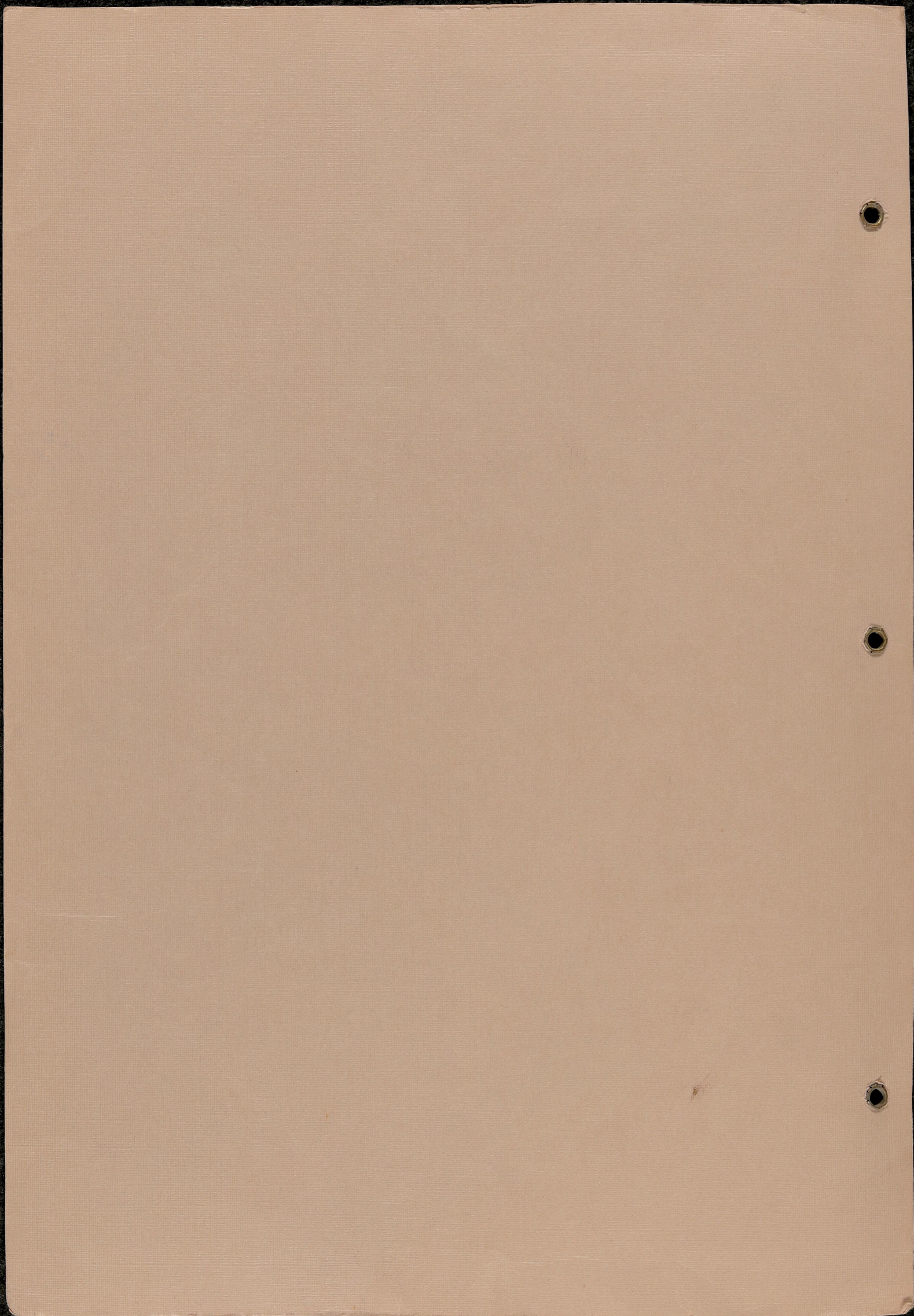
Transfer from Profit and Loss Account	11407.70
---------------------------------------	----------

Note:- No Depreciation has been provided on Freehold Property (as required by Statement of Standard Accounting Practice No 12) as the Directors consider that no depreciation has taken place since purchase. This matter will be considered further next year.

Approved by the Board on

..... A Ruderman Hon Treasurer

..... Alan Fisk Hon Secretary



Sandgate Heritage Trust*



OLD VOLUNTEER FIRE STATION and PUBLIC READING ROOM

51 Sandgate High Street, Kent

Built 1884 by public subscription and private benefaction. Since 80 years in ownership of local and county authority. Building of County-wide Importance, Grade 11 A in Conservation Area.
(brief history, back cover)

Patrons: The Earl of Guilford, ~~Sir John Betjeman~~,
The Rt.Hon.W.F.Deedes MC,DL., Lt Col.R.F.H.Drake-Brockman,
Peter Fynmore, Mrs R.E.Greenwall JP, N.C.Lendon MA,MD,
Alec McCowen OBE, Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock MD

* Proprietors: Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd (Charity Reg.287281)
Registered Office: 82 Sandgate High Street, Kent CT20 3BX

"ENCOMBE," SANDGATE.

A BAZAAR

FOR THE PURPOSE OF
RE-ESTABLISHING THE
SANDGATE LIBRARY & READING ROOM,
AND TO PROVIDE
Permanent Quarters for the New Fire Engine,
WILL BE HELD IN THE
BEAUTIFUL GROUNDS OF "ENCOMBE,"
ON
TUESDAY, JULY 31st, 1883.

Patronesses :

The COUNTESS STANHOPE,
The LADY PELHAM,
LADY MONTGOMERY,
MRS. O'REILLY,

The LADY EMILY HANKEY,
The LADY KATHARINE EUSTACE,
LADY HUNT,
MRS. LONSDALE.

Stalls for Flowers, Work, Paintings, Pottery, &c.

From 3.30 to 5.30,

The Band of the Bedfordshire Regiment,

(By kind permission of Col. HORNE and Officers,) under the leadership of Mr. BOEHMER, will play the following Selections :

QUADRILLE, - - - "Commerce," - - - Kuhnert.	FINALE (1st Act), - - - "Belisario," - - - Donizetti.
SELECTION, - - - "La Mascotte," - - - Audran.	POLKA, - - - "Les Sauterelles," - - - G. Delbruck.
VALSE, - - - "Visions d'Amour," G. & A. Delbruck	FANTASIA, - - - "Patience," - - - Sullivan.
SONG, - - - "St. Agnes' Eve," - - - Sullivan.	VALSE, - - - "Dream Faces," - - - Meisler.

Full Dress Parade of the Sandgate Volunteer Fire Brigade.—Fire Escape and Fire Engine Drill.

6.30 to 7.30. THE BAND.

PROGRAMME—

VALSE, - - - "Turkish Patrol," - - - Michaelis.	GALOP, - - - "Round Oak," - - - Van den Heuvel.
- - - "Happy Thoughts," - - - Prout.	VALSE, - - - "Jeunesse Doree," - - - Waldteufel.

REFRESHMENT STALL.

THE GATES WILL BE OPEN AT 2 P.M., & CLOSE AT 8.30 P.M.
ADMISSION 1s.; after 6 o'clock, 6d.

* * * Visitors are requested to abstain from touching the growing shrubs and flowers or otherwise damaging the grounds.

STACE, PRINTER, SANDGATE AND FOLKESTONE.



ENGINE ROOM, formerly used by Volunteer Fire Brigade and later AFS 1976-1982: Sandgate Society rents it from KCC -- holds meetings coffee mornings, maintains archives, displays local memorabilia also original fire-bell; campaigns for village preservation, buildings, footpaths etc. In Jubilee Year, the Society gained 3rd prize in Illustrated London News contest for best decorated village

August 1984

REPORT TO 1st AGM, Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd.

Two years have elapsed since the bold decision taken at an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Sandgate Society, for the setting up of a steering committee to find a way to retain the former Volunteer Fire Station and Library. This had become surplus to the needs of KCC in 1982 and was in danger of passing into private hands.

As you will remember, this steering committee negotiated with KCC, and acquired Socialview Ltd (a company limited by guarantee and not having a share capital) as a vehicle for the purchase. After many months of uphill work, the company changed its articles and its name to Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd, and in July 1983 was granted charitable status.

By August 1983, contract was exchanged with KCC, in September the promised funds and others were gathered in, and on November 2 completion of the purchase (18 Oct) was announced at a reception in the old Fire Station, attended by patrons, town dignitaries and others, and received widespread coverage in the Press and on TV.

With so much still to accomplish, it is perhaps well to look back on progress made to the present time by a handful of dedicated people.

First and foremost, the Sandgate Society is assured of permanent headquarters in the old Engine Room. In April 1983, already, KCC permitted the Society to resume occupancy on a rent-free, caretaker basis and, in January 1984 the Society agreed to pay £ 300 year's rent in advance to the Trust -- the arrangements, according to a Minute dated 16.11.83, to be much the same as operated with KCC. A lease between the Trust and the Society now awaits finalisation.

Restoration: Another milestone was reached when this listed building on the occasion of its centenary in June 1984, happily came into its own again. Though it still awaits the necessary funds for full-scale restoration some basic repairs to rear roof and gutters were put in hand in the Spring of 1984, water and electricity supplies to the first floor were reconnected and electrical outlets extended. The furnishing of the panelled library and the provision of kitchen facilities, hot water etc. has enabled the building to become once again a focal point in village life, to start earning its living and to generate new uses.

Events to date include a Candlelight Supper for 37 people, a Bring-and-Buy, an after-church reception, a children's prizegiving, and hire by a bridge group. The potential for social meetings, exhibitions etc. is wide and these can be income productive.

Public Relations: The Trust has also established its identity in the village and far beyond, by means of an attractive wood-engraved symbol, a letterhead, a display panel in the local Library, and through articles and press reports. In particular, the year-round greeting card and the coloured postcard (on sale at 10p each) have found popular appeal. They have given people a sense of participation and have helped to spread the message. An initial run of 1600 greeting cards (with envelopes) is virtually exhausted, showing a profit of approx £ 40. A revised, two-colour edition has been widely requested in good time for Christmas. The subsidized postcard (2400 + PR) will net £ 240 eventually.

Fundraising -- inevitably slow and often disappointing at the start, has only scratched the surface. At a time, however, when humanitarian and religious causes naturally make first claim on people's generosity, when monied interests do not always coincide with conservation ideals, and when the needs of conservation groups throughout the UK far exceed available resources, fund-raising to date has gone better than might have been expected.

eking boxes
shops /

x Steering ctee
Lola Lachlan, Nellie Hornsby, Linda Remé Martin
Cdr Richard Colville

Grants, large and small, have been received from the following: The Pilgrim Trust (£ 1000), The Manifold Trust (£250) The Folkestone Charter Trustees (£ 250) The Lesley-David Trust (£ 200), Kent Voluntary Services Council Initiatives Fund (£ 70), proceeds from the Mayoress's Banquet (£ 50), besides gifts in kind from Dulux(ICI), Chubb Fire Equipment and from Sandgate Society members. Local firms such as Channel Woodcraft would now be worth approaching.

Statutory grants (KCC and Shepway) amounting to £ 2500 (or approx 20% of approved structural repairs) are available till June 1985 and if recommended works are not effected, these benefits will be lost. The Architectural Heritage Fund makes 2-year loans at 5% to conservation groups and it would be advisable to get into the pipeline as soon as possible, secure in the knowledge that repayment can be effected from tax refund on covenants and other efforts.

Manpower Services Commission which provides unskilled labour, has placed the Trust on its long waiting list. Other sources, worth exploring are CSO's (Community Service Orders) run by Probation Service.

Present finances stand at about £ 3500 and our Treasurer, Arthur Ruderman who has kept the Trust on an even Keel, is to be thanked for his invaluable services.

The Future: The articles of the Trust permit amalgamation, co-operation etc with bodies with similar objects to its own. The future of the Trust and the Society are closely bound and activities should be co-ordinated.

Finally, let me say that my resignation in no way alters my keen interest in the future of the old Fire Station and my desire to be of help and advice when possible. I wish the next Chairman and Council of Management every success and harmony in their new term of office.

Linda René-Martin
Linda René-Martin

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST (Proprietors: Socialview Ltd)

AIMS AND OBJECTS

The primary object of the Sandgate Heritage Trust is to acquire the old Volunteer Fire Station/Reading Room (Listed Grade 11 A) built in 1883 by public subscription and private benefaction, and further to maintain it for the townsfolk of Sandgate (Kent) and visitors to the area.

The ultimate aim is to set up a Heritage Centre, the possibility of which depends on raising sufficient funds, over and above the agreed purchase price, for maintenance and running costs. This could be more easily achieved if we were able to obtain the goodwill and moral support of people of standing, willing to lend their names as Patrons to the cause.

Within the framework of a Heritage Centre it is proposed, inter alia

- a. To provide headquarters for the Sandgate Society (a registered charity, affiliated to the Civic Trust, the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, the Committee for the Preservation of Rural Kent).

Note: The Sandgate Society rented the disused engine room, refurbished it etc. until given notice to quit by KCC in June 1982 prior to putting the building for sale by closed tender.

- b. To convert the former Reading Room, on the first floor, into a Local History Room and a comfortable centre for Group Meetings and other social and educational activity.

1. FUNDING

A widespread appeal for funds will be launched as soon as the Company, formed to acquire the building, has been granted Charitable Status. In the meanwhile it will depend on interest-free loans.

Despite local enthusiasm for the project, donations and subscriptions may prove to be inadequate, given the modest means of a predominantly elderly population. Restoration grants and Improvement grants will be vital as well as grants towards the display element.

2. RESTORATION

The exterior fabric of the building, especially the rear elevations are in a very poor state of repair. Weatherboarding is exposed, peeling and rotting; gutters and drains are rusted; roof ridge broken; window frames and sashes rotting. There are roof leaks in several places and some window panes are cracked or broken. Casing round water tank and rear gable should be replaced with matching weatherboards. Estimate, including total repainting

3. IMPROVEMENT

Heating: The former heating system has been dismantled by KCC. Ideally the building requires central heating and hot water supply, insulation where possible.

Re-wiring necessary

Toilet facilities: The existing lavatory and basin on the 1st floor landing needs replacement. A similar cloakroom at rear of ground floor would be useful. Floorboards and ceiling of upstairs washroom need renewal.

1st Floor backroom: This would provide excellent galley space. i.e. sink unit, counter top, cupboards, hob for light refreshments and self-catered meetings.

Reading Room: Woodwork needs oiling and restoration. A small cubicle near entrance would be practical for hanging coats etc.

Ground Floor: Apart from services listed above, a set of heavy glass doors will be needed to let in light and exclude cold air in this very draughty area. In this way, the main doors can be kept open during visiting and viewing hours.

A fire exit to rear alleyway (property of Old Fire Station) would also be advisable.

Total cost of improvement grant

NOTE A complete survey will be necessary and builder's estimates subsequently provided.

Linda René-Martin tells the story of Sandgate's historic fire station and library.

Sandgate looks to its heritage

Flanked by the Providence Inn and an antique clock shop stands one of Sandgate's listed buildings, distinctively Victorian in style.

Raising its fish-scale spire above the rooftops, it forms the centrepiece of the High Street and, as it were, the heart of village life. Though the bell no longer clangs in the bell-cote, the bright red double doors proclaim it to be an old fire station. A beautifully pine-panelled library with an oriel window overlooking the High Street occupies the floor above. This dual-purpose building, a century old in 1984, is thought to be unique.

Sandgate owes this practical scheme to two charitable sisters, Theodosia and Jane Hester Reilly of Encombe, who provided the narrow strip of land running south from the High Street, seaward to Granville Parade.

The design was entrusted to John Waddell, a local builder who, with an eye for elegant simplicity, sensed the requirements of a genteel, salubrious little watering-place like Sandgate.

Built by public subscription and private benefaction, this unusual edifice — though worn and weather-beaten — is unchanged in all respects but one. A sign now hangs above the former engine room. It denotes the headquarters of the Sandgate Society, the local amenity group that came of age this year and which has done so much to preserve the village character.

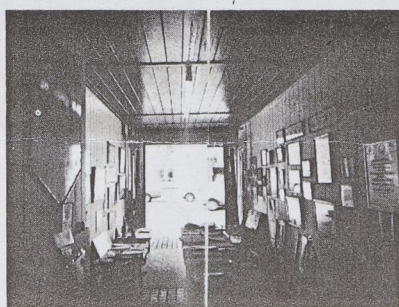
Sandgate's first volunteer fire brigade appears to have been founded in about 1859. But over the years it had become sadly lax and deficient in buckets ("borrowed" for pig-swill) and other vital equipment. The local Board of Health, despite various pleas, had no statutory obligation to supply them.

In 1877, a serious fire on Devonshire Terrace reminded the townsfolk how vulnerable they were.

No one could at first find the key to the engine house and then something was in the way and the engine could not be got



The old fire station and library, Sandgate.



The former engine room used by Sandgate Volunteer Fire Brigade and later by the Auxiliary Fire Service.

out, and when got out it was useless. But for a change of wind the damage could have been horrendous.

All sections of the community were equally at risk and the situation was fairly desperate. The deputy clerk suggested that the local board take the matter in hand themselves.

In February 1882 an appeal was launched to provide the town with efficient fire fighting apparatus. Lord and Lady Pelham headed the appeal, James Morris (a governor of the Bank of England) offered £50 and a further £150 was sought from the residents.

The whole Brigade drank a toast to the Reilly sisters who obviously bore the major cost, though did not actually deed the land

Sandgate Heritage Trust, background brief used in conjunction with applications to grant-making bodies.

This included the words:

This has
partly
succeeded

'The long-term aim is to set up a Heritage Centre. This will depend on raising funds for display, amaintenance and supervision over and above the agreed purchase price and restoration costs (set out below).'

The wording, after at least six drafts, was approved by all Directors of the Trust -- Dennis Vorley, Arthur Ruderman, Lola Lachlan and Alan Fisk -- and my humble self.

As for the Reilly 'generosity' I'm sure ^{the sisters} ~~they~~ would have been horrified to find that it was to be SOLD, by nieces with power of attorney. I looked up their wills at Somerset House -- the building was sold before the death of Jane Hester, who was probably incapable of managing her own affairs by then.

I submitted the article in Kent Life to the scrutiny of the Fisks --

* Land was never properly deeded

By August, a brand new Shand and Mason fire engine, equipped with a new set of ladders, made its appearance. Amid cheers, the horses drew it through the town to temporary quarters in the coach house of the (now demolished) Royal Kent Hotel.

By June 1884, the new engine house with raised tile floor, the same we see today, was ready. With suitable fanfare, the brigade took possession and the first of many annual, sumptuous suppers marked the great occasion.

With all that modern equipment at the brigade's disposal, how alert were they really?

During a test week in September 1884 their president, Lord Pelham, summoned them without warning. Within three minutes the men had assembled, in seven minutes the horses were harnessed, and in three minutes more the brigade was in the grounds of Enbrook House (where Saga Holidays now has its HQ). It was enough to restore confidence.

Upstairs, the gracious new library and reading room, opened on June 25, 1884, was continuing a long tradition.

From the end of the 18th century every self-respecting watering-place offered a reading room/library reflecting the needs of an increasingly literate and travel-minded public.

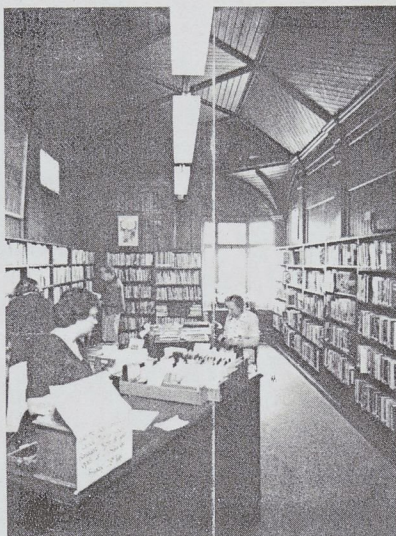
It was maintained by the Sandgate Literary Institution (founded 1855). Renamed Sandgate Library Institution in 1892, it "afforded the means of mental culture to many of its younger members, daily enjoyment to the elder, and from time to time, by lectures and entertainments, instruction and amusement to all." James Morris and Baron Meyer de Rothschild, MP, among others, were donors.

By permission of the Trustees, the Sandgate local Board of Health claimed the reading room for their monthly meetings.

Along with other notable buildings, Sandgate's new fire station and library took its special place in village life. It was an object of civic pride in an age of social benefaction and scientific progress.

Fortunately, the Sandgate landslip disaster of 1893 left the building unharmed, and the managers of the Institution gave temporary use of the reading room to Mr Walton, the Board's overworked surveyor. The Reilly sisters then came to the rescue, agreeing to build an extension to the rear of the engine room (now a bottle store).

The unfailing Reilly beneficence, however, was soon to end. Theodosia, "who always exerted her great influence for



Sandgate branch library, formerly a reading room and library in trusteeship of Sandgate Literary Institution.

good," died in September 1897 leaving her entire estate, no less than £29,900 to her sister Jane Hester, who was to die in February 1904 possessed of a mere tenth that sum.

In the interim, it appears that Emily Reilly and Matilda Bell, two of her three nieces (the third being Winifred Countess of Arran) had obtained power of attorney.

In 1903, for the sum of £650 the land and premises were conveyed to the Sandgate Urban District Council. The Library then became the council chamber, reverting in 1934 to its former use.

The purchase price fell, naturally, upon the Sandgate residents. But over the next 80 years, alas, control of the building became more and more remote through changes in local government.

Nobody quite remembers when the fire station ceased service. During the Second World War, the Auxiliary Fire Service manned it and sped to the aid of Canterbury during the savage blitz.

For a while the engine room led a discreet life as a bailiff's depot for seized goods. Then for 10 years or so it stood empty.

In 1976 the Sandgate Society was permitted to rent and refurbish the old engine room as its headquarters. Thanks to the Society's vigilance, the original fire-bell is now in their safe-keeping.

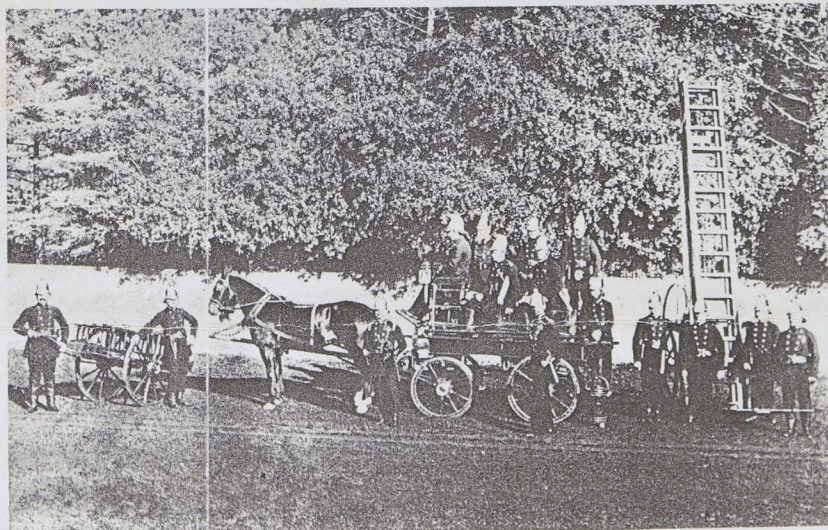
The Society's tenancy-at-will, however, was cut short. In 1982, upon removal of the upstairs branch library to new premises on the site of the former James Morris dwellings (another Sandgate benefaction), the Kent County Council gave the Society notice to quit prior to disposing of this "surplus building" by closed tender.

Feelings ran high. A steering committee was formed, followed by a deputation to the County Council, who then agreed to consider offers from interested parties.

The Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd, a charitable body specially set up, succeeded in acquiring this historic little building, at an open market price.

The formation of the Sandgate Heritage Trust is a bold and welcome step in the life of the community. It means that this key building in Sandgate's conservation area can take on a new lease of life, as a permanent home for the Sandgate Society, as a local history centre and for many other social purposes.

All that is needed now, are the funds to restore and maintain it, and the dedication that has contributed to the success of similar projects throughout the UK.



Sandgate's volunteer fire brigade, 1882.

SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST 51 Sandgate High Street, Nr Folkestone, Kent CT20 3EZ

Proprietors: Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd
Registered Office: 82 Sandgate High Street, Kent CT20 3EX
Charity Reg.No. 287281

The Sandgate Heritage Trust has been formed for the purpose of acquiring a building surplus to the needs of Kent County Council -- the former Volunteer Fire Station and Reading Room) Grade 11 A in the Conservation Area) built in 1884 by public subscription and private benefaction. The object is to preserve and utilise this unique building for the benefit of Sandgate residents and visitors to the area.

The long-term aim is to set up a Heritage Centre. This will depend on raising sufficient funds for display, maintenance and supervision over and above the agreed purchase price and restoration costs (below).

In the meantime, it is proposed inter alia:

- a To provide headquarters for the Sandgate Society (Charity Reg: 280497) registered with the Civic Trust, and affiliated to the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, The Council for the Protection of Rural England (Kent Branch).

Note: The Sandgate Society rented the disused engine room, as a tenant-at-will until June 1982. At this time, Kent County Council proposed to put this building up for sale by closed tender, and the Society was given notice to quit.

- b To convert the former Reading Room, on the first floor, into a Local History Room and a comfortable centre for small meetings and social or educational activities. The quality of the panelling in this room is considered of 'county-wide importance', and at the head of contemporary panelling in the County.

FUNDING

1. Purchase of the property: At the request of Kent County Council, this could not be delayed beyond 3 October 1983, two months after the Company had been granted charitable status. Purchase was made possible mainly through the generosity of residents who had earlier pledged their support, with an allocation of £250 by the Folkestone Charter Trustees, and through further appeal.
2. Restoration: Since 1903, the building has been in the ownership of the local authority, passing in 1934 from Sandgate UDC to Folkestone Borough Council. Under re-organisation of Local Government, it was transferred in 1974 to Kent County Council (Library Services). Sandgate Heritage Trust had to decide at very short notice to make an offer for this Listed Building in its present rather neglected state.

The speed with which essential structural repairs can be effected (and then interior improvements) depends on the measure of response to local fund-raising efforts. The sooner repairs can begin the more economical it will be and the sooner the building can be put to full use. The Trust is conscious, however, that Sandgate is a retirement area with a small, and not especially wealthy, community. Potential donors such as industry and commerce, are few. Thus, it could take 5 years or more to achieve its aims.

With these factors in mind, the Trust of necessity is looking to official bodies and charitable foundations, in the hope these can assist with additional working capital.

Donations in kind, such as building materials, would also be welcome. To date Dulux Community Project (ICI) have made a gift of paint worth some £500. Chubb Fire Security Ltd have provided the building with fire fighting equipment worth some £400.

As far as statutory grants are concerned, the prospect is very limited. There is no Town Scheme for Sandgate (Folkestone) and TCPA 1972 Section 10 is unlikely to apply. The DoE (HBC) have written that 'although the Old Fire Station is of special historical and architectural interest and so deserves statutory protection under the Town and Country Planning Act, it does not quite come up to the standard of interest necessary for it to qualify for the limited category of buildings eligible for grant under the Historic Buildings and Ancient Monuments Act 1953'. So far, expected Local Council (Shepway) grants do not exceed £1500 on a total expenditure of £12,750. KCC will grant £1000 on an expenditure of £10,500

COSTS

Purchase price	£ 18,100
Company formation, legal fees, conveyance etc	1,100
Surveyor's fees	300
Estimated structural repairs and interior restoration based on independent survey*	24,000 + VAT
	£ 43,500 + VAT

*This includes

Preparation and repainting of all surfaces	£ 5,000
Replacement of antiquated services, plumbing, light, heat	4,100
Restoration of panelling in Reading Room	500
Glazed lobby screen, kitchen equipment, security etc	2,800

£ 12,400 + VAT

STOP PRESS

Manpower Services Commission have indicated that they would be willing to help when Supervisor becomes available. i.e. Non-specialist work.

Expected
in 1986

Folkestone Charter Trustees £250 (1983) £250 (1984)
The Hesley David Trust has recently granted £200. The Manifold Trust £250. The Pilgrim Trust £1000

CORRESPONDENCE



1884-1903 -- Reading Room under Trusteeship of Sandgate Literary Institution
 1903-1934 -- Council Chamber, Sandgate UDC
 1934-1982 -- Sandgate Branch Library, transferred 1974 from Folkestone BC to Kent CC



REAR VIEW, seaward side. Evidence of poor maintenance, superficial repairs. Roof leaking, gutters and pipes rusted. Projecting bay decaying, weatherboards replaced with mineralised felt. Unsightly water tank and obsolete chimney stack. This room could provide excellent galley and storage space

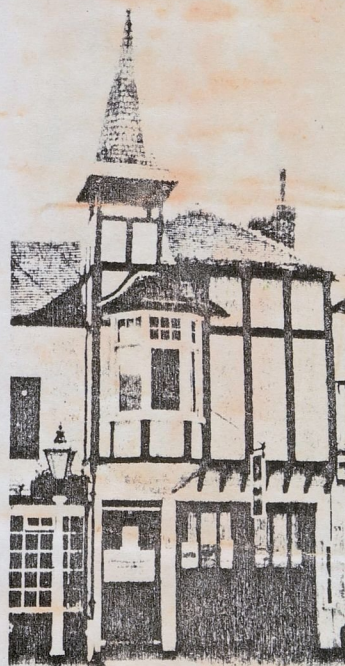
A UNIQUE BUILDING?

SIR—My photograph shows a building in Sandgate, Kent, which was designed as a volunteer fire station with a public reading room above. It was built in 1883 by private benefaction and public subscription, and save for the original fire-bell, now in safekeeping, this listed building (Grade IIA) is virtually unaltered.

The engine room still has its raised tile floor, and though the engine has long since disappeared, one recalls the crack team of volunteers who manned it, and who were greeted at an International Congress of Firemen held in Paris in 1889 with cries of *Vive les sapeurs pompiers d'Angleterre*.

The interior of the upstairs reading room, once the hub of Victorian social life, is clad throughout in dark pine. The upright lathes and inset columns, the raised and angled ceiling, moulded frieze and dentations give it great charm, especially the fan-like curve above the window alcove overlooking the High Street.

In recent years, the Sandgate Society (the local amenity group) rented the disused engine room, refurbishing it as their headquarters. Upon removal of the first-floor library service to new premises, Kent County Council (in whom the property became vested in 1974) gave the Society notice to quit, prior to disposing of this "surplus building" by closed tender.



THE OLD FIRE STATION, SANDGATE, KENT

See: A Unique Building?

In response to local feeling, a steering committee was formed to try and acquire this building for community use, and to prevent it from falling yet another victim of stringent government policy. Funds are difficult to come by, but a campaign will start shortly to buy back a property that was built, in the first place, for Sandgate people.

Is it possible that this dual-purpose building is the last of its kind or can readers point to any others like it? Any background on the general history and whereabouts of similar volunteer fire stations would be most welcome.—LINDA RENÉ-MARTIN (Mrs), Coast Cottage, Sandgate, Kent.

No 51 High Street, Sandgate Library Grade II A

*Built in 1884. Custom built as a dual fire station and reading room. Now [1976] Sandgate Library. Late 19c. Two storeys applied timber-framing with pebble-dashed infill. Hipped tiled roof having left side square bellcote surmounted by a fishscale tiled spire. 1st floor has left side Scottish baronial style bartizan with 3-light sash. Band of machicolation between ground and 1st floors. The ground floor has a left side simple doorcase and a right side entrance designed to accommodate fire engine

Note 'Showing signs of apparent neglect. Requires redecoration... '.

Brief Chronology

- 1855 -- Sandgate WORKING MEN'S LIBRARY & READING INSTITUTION founded, later known as SANDGATE LITERARY INSTITUTION
- 1859 -- Sandgate FIRE BRIGADE started about this time
- 1877 -- Serious fire at Devonshire Terrace, brigade deemed inefficient
- 1882 -- Feb: Appeal for funds for efficient fire engine and suitable modern appliances. Aug: New Shand and Mason fire engine and new set of ladders arrives in village. Temporary quarters in coach house of Royal Kent Hotel. Oct: VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE established. See Rules and Regulations. Lord Pelham consents to be President
- 1883 -- GREAT BAZAAR at Encombe for the purpose of 'Re-establishing the Sandgate Library and Reading Room and to provide Permanent Quarters for the new FIRE ENGINE (see Handbill July 1883)
- 1884 -- June: Volunteer Fire Brigade parades through town, takes possession of new engine house 'supplied for their use through the munificence of the Misses Reilly of Encombe' who provided the land. Building designed by John Waddell a local builder. Further contributions from the townsfolk needed.
June 25: LIBRARY AND READING ROOM opened.
Sept: SANDGATE LOCAL BOARD OF HEALTH seeks permission from the Trustees of the Literary Institution to hold their monthly meetings in the Reading Room (above fire engine room). Becomes their regular venue.
Nov 3: Inaugural dinner of Volunteer Fire Brigade. Sir E.W. Watkin MP in the chair
- 1892 -- Sandgate Literary Institution becomes SANDGATE LIBRARY INSTITUTION
- 1893 -- Following Sandgate Landslip disaster, the Misses Reilly agree to build an additional room (now Whitbread's bottle store) at rear of Engine Room for use of the Board's surveyor. Rent £ 10 pa.
- 1897 -- Theodosia Reilly of 'Encombe' dies 2 Sept, leaving entire estate to her sister Jane Hester (about £ 29,000)
- 1903 -- Jan 9: Attorneys for the surviving Miss Reilly sell the building and land running to Granville Parade, to SANDGATE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL for £ 650. The UDC have obtained Whitehall's sanction to a loan. Serves as COUNCIL CHAMBER till 1934
- 1904 -- Feb 15: Jane Hester Reilly dies aged about 84 years. Estate (about £2262) left to her three nieces
- 1934 -- Folkestone Borough Council takes over Sandgate Urban District Council. SANDGATE BRANCH LIBRARY opened in the former Reading Room/Library. Fire station continues service
- 1974 -- Under Local Government Re-organisation Act of 1972, the property is transferred to KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, responsible for Library services. Note Library area occupied less than one third of total property
- 1976 -- SANDGATE SOCIETY becomes tenant-at-will in disused engine room, refurbish it as their Headquarters
- 1982 -- July: SANDGATE BRANCH LIBRARY moves to new premises on site of another Sandgate benefaction known as the James Morris dwellings. In advance, Sandgate Society is given notice to quit prior to Kent County Council's intention to put this 'surplus building' up for sale by closed tender to the highest bidder.
July: Following an extra-ordinary general meeting, Sandgate Society decides to send a deputation to Kent County Council. County Estates Officer agrees that an offer, if made within one month, will be considered.
STEERING COMMITTEE buys a 'shelf' company (i.e. not yet trading) as vehicle to acquire the property. SOCIALVIEW LTD offers £ 15,300
Sept 10: Lands Use Committee (KCC) agrees to accept an increased offer of £ 18,100
- 1983 -- June-August: Socialview Ltd becomes SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST LTD. Articles and Memorandum of the company approved by Charity Commissioners for charitable status. (Reg.No. 287281)
Oct 18: Purchase officially completed

Socialview

15. May 83

Dear Lola

I enclose a copy of the Mem. & Arts proposed for Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd, & a copy of the official notice to a company meeting. Our solicitors are anxious to have the name-change passed as K.C.C. is possibly getting a little impatient for the exchange of contracts.

Officially a co. meeting should be summoned 3 weeks or more in advance, it is suggested (approved by solicitors) that if the summons is appropriately dated the meeting might be held on 25.5.83 which date was, at one time, convenient for all. I suggest 5.30pm here (117) if convenient for all - otherwise please notify me. The solicitor does not have to attend.

Yr Alan

No. of Company 1645228

The Companies Acts 1948 to 1981

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL

Memorandum and Articles of Association of

SOCIALVIEW LIMITED

(Incorporated the 21st day of June 1982)

Jordan & Sons Limited
Company Formation and Information Services
Printers and Publishers
PO Box 260, 15 Pembroke Road
Bristol BS99 7DX
Telephone 0272-732861 Telex 449119



CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION
OF A PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY

No. 1645228

I hereby certify that

SOCIALVIEW LIMITED

is this day incorporated under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981 as a
private company and that the Company is limited.

Given under my hand at Cardiff the 21st June 1982.

E.A. WILSON

Assistant Registrar of Companies

SOCIALVIEW LIMITED

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the above-named Company will be held at
on day the day of 1983 at o'clock
in the noon to consider and, if thought fit, to pass the
following resolutions which will be proposed as Special Resolutions:-

SPECIAL RESOLUTIONS

1. That the name of the Company be changed to "Sandgate Heritage Trust Limited".
2. That the Objects set forth in paragraph 3 of the printed document produced to this meeting, and for the purpose of identification signed by the Chairman hereof, be approved and adopted as the Objects of the Company, in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, all existing Objects thereof, and the Memorandum of Association be altered accordingly.
3. That the Regulations set forth in the printed document produced to this meeting, and for the purpose of identification signed by the Chairman hereof, be approved and adopted as the Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, all the existing Articles thereof.

By Order of the
Board

Secretary

Dated:

Registered Office:

NOTE:- A Member entitled to attend and vote at the above meeting is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his place. A proxy need not be a Member of the Company.

Copies of the proposed new Objects and Articles of Association may be inspected at any time during usual business hours at the Registered Office of the Company from the date of this Notice and will be available for inspection at the above meeting.

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1981

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL

MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION OF

SOCIALVIEW LIMITED

(As altered by Special Resolution passed the day of
1983)

1. The name of the Company is "SOCIALVIEW LIMITED".
2. The registered office of the Company will be situate in England.
3. The objects for which the Company is established are:-

(i) To preserve and utilise for the benefit of the townspeople of Sandgate in the County of Kent and of the nation at large, the historical, architectural and constructional heritage of No. 51 Sandgate High Street, Sandgate aforesaid, known since 1883 as the Volunteer Fire Station and Reading Room and any other site or building (including any building as defined in Section 290(i) of the Town and Country Planning Act of 1971) of particular beauty or historical, architectural or constructional interest which may exist in and around the town of Sandgate aforesaid.

(ii) To promote the arts, science and education of the general public by fostering a wider knowledge and interest in local history, architecture and the environment.

In furtherance of the above objects but not further or otherwise the Company shall have the following powers:

(a) To acquire the property known as the Volunteer Fire Station and Reading Room at 51 Sandgate High Street, Sandgate and to open it for public viewing.

(b) To use the said building or buildings or to allow the use of the said building or buildings for meetings, lectures, films, exhibitions and displays in furtherance of the objects.

(c) To borrow and raise money for the purposes of the Company in such manner and on such security as the Company may think fit.

(d) To conduct appeals for money or other gifts or for any other assistance for any of the purposes of the Company, and to

solicit and accept subscriptions and donations (whether of real or personal property) and devises and bequests for any of the purposes of the Company.

(e) To invest the moneys of the Company not immediately required for its purposes in or upon such investments, securities or property as may be thought fit, subject nevertheless to such conditions (if any) and such consents (if any) as may for the time being be imposed or required by law.

(f) To purchase, take on lease or in exchange, hire or otherwise acquire any real or personal property and any rights or privileges and to construct, maintain and alter any buildings or structures.

(g) To sell, let, mortgage, dispose of or turn to account all or any of the property or assets of the Company as may be thought expedient with a view to the promotion of its objects.

(h) Subject to Clause 4 hereof to employ and pay architects, surveyors, solicitors and other professional persons, workmen, clerks and other staff as are necessary for the furtherance of the objects of the Company.

(i) To make all reasonable and necessary provision for the payment of pensions and superannuation to or on behalf of employees and their widows and other dependents.

(j) To subscribe to, become a member of, or amalgamate or co-operate with any other charitable organisation, institution, society or body not formed or established for purposes of profit (whether incorporated or not and whether in Great Britain or Northern Ireland or elsewhere) whose objects are wholly or in part similar to those of the Company and which by its Constitution prohibits the distribution of its income and property amongst its members to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Company under or by virtue of Clause 4 hereof.

(k) To purchase or otherwise acquire and undertake all or such part of the property, assets, liabilities and engagements as may lawfully be acquired or undertaken by the Company of any one or more of the organisations, institutions, societies or bodies with which this Company is authorised to amalgamate.

(l) To do all or any of the things hereinbefore authorised either alone or in conjunction with any other organisation, institution, society or body with which this Company is authorised to amalgamate.

(m) To undertake and execute any charitable trusts necessary for the furtherance of the objects of the Company.

(n) To establish and support or aid in establishment and support of any charitable trusts, associations or institutions and to subscribe or guarantee money for charitable purposes in any way connected with or calculated to further any of the objects of the Company.

(o) To print and publish, or procure to be printed and published, and to circulate, or procure to be circulated (whether gratuitously or not) any newspaper, periodicals, magazines, books, pamphlets, leaflets, or other documents on subjects which are within the objects of the Company.

(p) To pay all or any expenses incurred in connection with the promotion, formation and incorporation of the Company.

(q) To do all such other lawful things as are necessary for the attainment of the above objects or any of them.

4. The income and property of the Company shall be applied solely towards the promotion of its objects as set forth in the Memorandum of Association and no portion thereof shall be paid or transferred, directly or indirectly by way of dividends, bonus or otherwise howsoever by way of profit, to members of the Company and no member of its Council of Management or Governing Body shall be appointed to any office of the Company paid by salary or fees or receive any remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth from the Company provided that nothing herein shall prevent any payment in good faith by the Company.

(a) of reasonable and proper remuneration to any member, officer or servant of the Company (not being a member of its Council of Management or Governing Body) for any services rendered to the Company;

(b) of interest on money lent by any member of the Company or of its Council of Management or other Governing Body at a rate per annum not exceeding 2% less than the base lending rate for the time being prescribed by the Bank appropriate for the Company, or 3% whichever is the greater;

(c) of reasonable and proper rent for premises demised or let by any member of the Company or of its Council of Management or Governing Body;

(d) of fees, remuneration or other benefit in money or money's worth to a company of which a member of the Council of Management or Governing Body may be a member holding not more than 1/100th part of the capital of that company; and

(e) to any member of its Council of Management or other Governing Body of out-of-pocket expenses.

5. The liability of the members is limited.

6. Every member of the Company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the Company, in the event of the same being wound up while he is a member, or within one year after he ceases to be a member, for payment of the debts and liabilities of the Company contracted before he ceases to be a member, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributories among themselves, such amount as may be required not exceeding one pound.

7. If upon the winding-up or dissolution of the Company there remains, after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities, any

property whatsoever, the same shall not be paid to or distributed among the members of the Company, but shall be given or transferred to some other charitable body or bodies having objects similar to the objects of the Company, and which shall prohibit the distribution of its or their income and property to an extent at least as great as is imposed on the Company under or by virtue of Clause 4 hereof, such body or bodies to be determined by the members of the Company at or before the time of dissolution.

THE COMPANIES ACTS 1948 to 1981

COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE
AND NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF

SOCIALVIEW LIMITED

INTERPRETATION

1. In these Articles:-

"the Act" means the Companies Act, 1948.

"the seal" means the common seal of the Company.

"the Council" means the Council of Management of the Company.

"secretary" means any person appointed to perform the duties of the secretary of the Company.

"the United Kingdom" means Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Expressions referring to writing shall, unless the contrary intention appears, be construed as including references to printing, lithography, photography, and other modes of representing or reproducing words in a visible form.

Unless the context otherwise requires, words or expressions contained in these Articles shall bear the same meaning as in the Act or any statutory modification thereof in force at the date at which these Articles become binding on the Company.

MEMBERS

2. The number of members with which the Company proposes to be registered is four, but the Council may from time to time register an increase of members.

3. The subscribers to the Memorandum of Association and such other persons as the Council shall admit to membership shall be members of the Company. Every member of the Company other than the subscribers shall either sign a written consent to become a member or sign the register of members on becoming a member.

4. Unless the members of the Council shall make other provisions pursuant to the powers contained in Article 66, the members of the Council may in their absolute discretion permit any member to retire provided that after such retirement the number of members is not less than two. Notwithstanding the preceding provisions of this

Article or of any Rule or Byelaw made pursuant to Article 66, the subscribers to the Memorandum of Association shall automatically cease to be members of the Company so soon as two other persons are members of the Company.

GENERAL MEETINGS

5. The Company shall in each year hold a General Meeting as its Annual General Meeting in addition to any other meetings in that year, and shall specify the meeting as such in the notices calling it; and not more than fifteen months shall elapse between the date of one Annual General Meeting of the Company and that of the next. Provided that so long as the Company holds its first Annual General Meeting within eighteen months of its incorporation, it need not hold it in the year of its incorporation or in the following year. The Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time and place as the Council shall appoint. All General Meetings other than Annual General Meetings shall be called Extraordinary General Meetings.

6. The Council may, whenever they think fit, convene an Extraordinary General Meeting, and Extraordinary General Meetings shall also be convened on such requisition, or, in default, may be convened by such requisitionists, as provided by Section 132 of the Act. If at any time there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient members of the Council capable of acting to form a quorum, any member of the Council or any two members of the Company may convene an Extraordinary General Meeting in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which meetings may be convened by the Council.

NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETINGS

7. An Annual General Meeting and a meeting called for the passing of a special resolution shall be called by twenty-one days' notice in writing at the least, and a meeting of the Company other than an Annual General Meeting or a meeting for the passing of a special resolution shall be called by fourteen days' notice in writing at the least. The notice shall be exclusive of the day on which it is served or deemed to be served and of the day for which it is given, and shall specify the place, the day and the hour of meeting and, in case of special business, the general nature of that business and shall be given, in manner hereinafter mentioned or in such other manner, if any, as may be prescribed by the Company in general meeting, to such persons as are, under the Articles of the Company, entitled to receive such notices from the Company:

Provided that a meeting of the Company shall, notwithstanding that it is called by shorter notice than that specified in this Article be deemed to have been duly called if it is so agreed:-

(a) in the case of a meeting called as the Annual General Meeting, by all the members entitled to attend and vote thereat; and

(b) in the case of any other meeting, by a majority in number of the members having a right to attend and vote at the meeting, being a majority together representing not less than ninety-five per cent. of the total voting rights at that meeting of all the members.

8. The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of notice of a meeting by, any person entitled to receive notice shall not invalidate the proceedings at that meeting.

PROCEEDINGS AT GENERAL MEETINGS

9. All business shall be deemed special that is transacted at an Extraordinary General Meeting, and also all that is transacted at an Annual General Meeting, with the exception of the consideration of the accounts, balance sheets, and the reports of the Council and auditors, the election of members of the Council in the place of those retiring and the appointment of, and the fixing of the remuneration, of the auditors.

10. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless a quorum of members is present at the time when the meeting proceeds to business; save as herein otherwise provided, two members present in person shall be a quorum.

11. If within half an hour from the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened upon the requisition of members, shall be dissolved; in any other case it shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, or to such other day and at such other time and place as the Council may determine.

12. The chairman, if any, of the Council shall preside as chairman at every General Meeting of the Company, or if there is no such chairman, or if he shall not be present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for the holding of the meeting or is unwilling to act the members of the Council present shall elect one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.

13. If at any meeting no member of the Council is willing to act as chairman or if no member of the Council is present within fifteen minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the members present shall choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.

14. The chairman may, with the consent of any meeting at which a quorum is present (and shall if so directed by the meeting), adjourn the meeting from time to time and from place to place, but no business shall be transacted at any adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place. When a meeting is adjourned for thirty days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of an original meeting. Save as aforesaid it shall not be necessary to give any notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.

15. At any General Meeting a resolution put to the vote of the meeting shall be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is (before or on the declaration of the result of the show of hands) demanded:-

(a) by the chairman; or

(b) by at least two members present in person or by proxy;

or

(c) by any member or members present in person or by proxy and representing not less than one-tenth of the total voting rights of all the members having the right to vote at the meeting.

Unless a poll be so demanded a declaration by the chairman that a resolution has on a show of hands been carried or carried unanimously, or by a particular majority, or lost and an entry to that effect in the book containing the minutes of proceedings of the Company shall be conclusive evidence of the fact without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of or against such resolution.

The demand for a poll may be withdrawn.

16. Except as provided in Article 18, if a poll is duly demanded it shall be taken in such manner as the chairman directs, and the result of the poll shall be deemed to be the resolution of the meeting at which the poll was demanded.

17. In the case of an equality of votes, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, the chairman of the meeting at which the show of hands takes place or at which the poll is demanded, shall be entitled to a second or casting vote.

18. A poll demanded on the election of a chairman, or on a question of adjournment, shall be taken forthwith. A poll demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time as the chairman of the meeting directs, and any business other than that upon which a poll has been demanded may be proceeded with pending the taking of the poll.

19. Subject to the provisions of the Act a resolution in writing signed by all the members for the time being entitled to receive notice of and to attend and vote at General Meetings (or being corporations by their duly authorised representatives) shall be as valid and effective as if the same had been passed at a general meeting of the Company duly convened and held.

VOTES OF MEMBERS

20. Every member shall have one vote.

21. A member of unsound mind, or in respect of whom an order has been made by any court having jurisdiction in lunacy, may vote, whether on a show of hands or on a poll, by his committee, receiver, curator bonis or other person in the nature of a committee, receiver, or curator bonis appointed by that court, and any such committee, receiver, curator bonis or other person may, on a poll, vote by proxy.

22. No member shall be entitled to vote at any General Meeting unless all moneys presently payable by him to the Company have been paid.

23. On a poll votes may be given either personally or by proxy.

24. The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing under the hand of the appointer or of his attorney duly authorised in

writing, or, if the appointer is a corporation, either under seal or under the hand of an officer or attorney duly authorised. A proxy need not be a member of the Company.

25. The instrument appointing a proxy and the power of attorney or other authority, if any, under which it is signed or a notarially certified copy of that power or authority shall be deposited at the registered office of the Company or at such other place within the United Kingdom as is specified for that purpose in the notice convening the meeting, not less than 48 hours before the time for holding the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the person named in the instrument proposes to vote, or, in the case of a poll, not less than 24 hours before the time appointed for the taking of the poll, and in default the instrument of proxy shall not be treated as valid.

26. An instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form or a form as near thereto as circumstances admit:-

"

Limited.

I/We of in the County
of being a member/members of the above named
Company, hereby appoint of or
failing him of as my/our proxy
to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the (Annual or Extra-
ordinary, as the case may be) General Meeting of the Company
to be held on the day of 19 , and at any
adjournment thereof.

Signed this day of 19 ."

27. Where it is desired to afford members an opportunity of voting for or against a resolution the instrument appointing a proxy shall be in the following form or a form as near thereto as circumstances admit:-

"

Limited.

I/We of in the County
of being a member/members of the above named
Company, hereby appoint of or
failing him of as my/our proxy
to vote for me/us on my/our behalf at the (Annual or Extra-
ordinary, as the case may be) General Meeting of the Company
to be held on the day of 19 , and at any
adjournment thereof.

Signed this day of 19 .

This form is to be used *in favour of
 against the resolution.

Unless otherwise instructed, the proxy will vote as he thinks fit.

* Strike out whichever is not desired."

28. The instrument appointing a proxy shall be deemed to confer authority to demand or join in demanding a poll.

29. A vote given in accordance with the terms of an instrument of proxy shall be valid notwithstanding the previous death or insanity of the principal or revocation of the proxy or of the authority under which the proxy was executed, provided that no intimation in writing of such death, insanity or revocation as aforesaid shall have been received by the Company at the office before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the proxy is used.

CORPORATIONS ACTING BY REPRESENTATIVES AT MEETINGS

30. Any corporation which is a member of the Company may by resolution of its Council or other governing body authorise such person as it thinks fit to act as its representative at any meeting of the Company, and the person so authorised shall be entitled to exercise the same powers on behalf of the corporation which he represents as that corporation could exercise if it were an individual member of the Company.

COUNCIL OF MANAGEMENT

31. The maximum and minimum number of the members of the Council may be determined by the Company in General Meeting. In the event of the minimum number of members of the Council fixed pursuant to these Articles being one, a sole member of the Council shall have authority to exercise all the powers and discretions by these Articles expressed to be vested in the members of the Council generally.

32. The members of the Council shall also be paid all reasonable travelling, hotel and other expenses properly incurred by them in attending and returning from meetings of the Council or any committee of the Council or General Meetings of the Company or in connection with the business of the Company.

BORROWING POWERS

33. The Council may exercise all the powers of the Company to borrow money, and to mortgage or charge its undertaking and property, or any part thereof, and to issue debentures, debenture stock and other securities, whether outright or as security for any debt, liability or obligation of the Company or of any third party.

POWERS AND DUTIES OF COUNCIL

34. The business of the Company shall be managed by the Council, who may pay all expenses incurred in promoting and registering the Company, and may exercise all such powers of the Company as are not, by the Act or by these Articles, required to be exercised by the Company in General Meeting, subject nevertheless to the provisions of the Act or these Articles and to such regulations, being not inconsistent with the aforesaid provisions, as may be

prescribed by the Company in General Meeting; but no regulation made by the Company in General Meeting shall invalidate any prior act of the Council which would have been valid if that regulation had not been made.

35. All cheques, promissory notes, drafts, bills of exchange and other negotiable instruments, and all receipts for moneys paid to the Company, shall be signed drawn, accepted, endorsed or otherwise executed, as the case may be, in such manner as the Council shall from time to time by resolution determine.

36. The Council shall cause minutes to be made in books provided for the purpose:-

(a) of all appointments of officers made by the Council;

(b) of the names of the members of the Council present at each meeting of the Council and of any committee of the Council;

(c) of all resolutions and proceedings at all meetings of the Company, and of the Council, and of committees of Council;

and every member of the Council present at any meeting of the Council or committee of the Council shall sign his name in a book to be kept for that purpose.

DISQUALIFICATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

37. The office of member of the Council shall be vacated if the member:-

(a) without the consent of the Company in General Meeting holds any other office of profit under the Company; or

(b) becomes bankrupt or makes any arrangement or composition with his creditors generally; or

(c) becomes prohibited from being a member of the Council by reason of any order made under Section 188 of the Act; or

(d) becomes incapable by reason of mental disorder, illness or injury of managing and administering his property and affairs; or

(e) resigns his office by notice in writing to the Company; or

(f) is directly or indirectly interested in any contract with the Company and fails to declare the nature of his interest in manner required by Section 199 of the Act.

A member of the Council shall not vote in respect of any contract in which he is interested or any matter arising thereout, and if he does so vote his vote shall not be counted.

ROTATION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

38. At the first Annual General Meeting of the Company all the members of the Council shall retire from office, and at the Annual General Meeting in every subsequent year one-third of the members

of the Council for the time being or, if their number is not three or a multiple of three, then the number nearest one-third, shall retire from office.

39. The members of the Council to retire in every year shall be those who have been longest in office since their last election, but as between persons who became members of the Council on the same day those to retire shall (unless they otherwise agree among themselves) be determined by lot.

40. A retiring member of the Council shall be eligible for re-election.

41. The Company at the meeting at which a member of the Council retires in manner aforesaid may fill the vacated office by electing a person thereto, and in default the retiring member of the Council shall, if offering himself for re-election, be deemed to have been re-elected, unless at such meeting it is expressly resolved not to fill such vacated office or unless a resolution for the re-election of such member of the Council shall have been put to the meeting and lost.

42. No person other than a member of the Council retiring at the meeting shall unless recommended by the Council be eligible for election to the office of member of the Council at any General Meeting unless, not less than three nor more than twenty-one days before the date appointed for the meeting, there shall have been left at the registered office of the Company notice in writing signed by a member duly qualified to attend and vote at the meeting for which such notice is given, of his intention to propose such person for election, and also notice in writing signed by that person of his willingness to be elected.

43. The Company may from time to time by ordinary resolution increase or reduce the number of members of the Council, and may also determine in what rotation the increased or reduced number is to go out of office.

44. The Council shall have power at any time, and from time to time, to appoint any person to be a member of the Council, either to fill a casual vacancy or as an addition to the existing members of the Council, but so that the total number of members of the Council shall not at any time exceed the number fixed in accordance with these Articles. Any member of the Council so appointed shall hold office only until the next following Annual General Meeting, and shall then be eligible for re-election, but shall not be taken into account in determining the members of the Council who are to retire by rotation at such meeting.

45. The Company may by ordinary resolution appoint another person in place of a member of the Council removed from office under the immediately preceding Article. Without prejudice to the powers of the Council under Article 44 the Company in General Meeting may appoint any person to be a member of the Council either to fill a casual vacancy or as an additional member of the Council. The person appointed to fill such a vacancy shall be subject to retirement at the same time as if he had become a member of the Council on the day on which the member of the Council in whose place he is appointed was last elected a member of the Council.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL

46. The members of the Council may meet together for the despatch of business, adjourn, and otherwise regulate their meetings, as they think fit. Questions arising at any meeting shall be decided by a majority of votes. In the case of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote. A member of the Council may, and the secretary on the requisition of a member of the Council shall, at any time summon a meeting of the Council. It shall not be necessary to give notice of a meeting of Council to any member of the Council for the time being absent from the United Kingdom.

47. The quorum necessary for the transaction of the business of the Council may be fixed by the Council, and unless so fixed shall be two.

48. The continuing members of the Council may act notwithstanding any vacancy in their body, but, if and so long as their number is reduced below the number fixed by or pursuant to the Articles of the Company as the necessary quorum of members of the Council, the continuing member or members of the Council may act for the purpose of increasing the number of members of the Council to that number, or of summoning a General Meeting of the Company, but for no other purpose.

49. The Council may elect a chairman of their meetings and determine the period for which he is to hold office; but, if no such chairman is elected, or if at any meeting the chairman is not present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the same, the members of the Council present may choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.

50. The Council may delegate any of their powers to committees consisting of such member or members of their body as they think fit; any committee so formed shall in the exercise of the powers so delegated conform to any regulations that may be imposed on it by the Council, and all acts and proceedings of such committees shall be reported to the Council as soon as possible.

51. A committee may elect a chairman of its meetings; if no such chairman is elected, or if at any meeting the chairman is not present within five minutes after the time appointed for holding the same, the members present may choose one of their number to be chairman of the meeting.

52. A committee may meet and adjourn as it thinks proper. Questions arising at any meeting shall be determined by a majority of votes of the members present, and in the case of an equality of votes the chairman shall have a second or casting vote.

53. All acts done by any meeting of the Council or of a committee of the Council, or by any person acting as a member of the Council, shall notwithstanding that it be afterwards discovered that there was some defect in the appointment of any such member of the Council or person acting as aforesaid, or that they or any of them were disqualified, be as valid as if every such person had been duly appointed and was qualified to be a member of the Council.

54. A resolution in writing, signed by all the members of the Council for the time being entitled to receive notice of a meeting of the Council, shall be as valid and effectual as if it had been passed at a meeting of the Council duly convened and held.

SECRETARY

55. Subject to Section 21(5) of the Companies Act, 1976 the secretary shall be appointed by the Council for such term, at such remuneration and upon such conditions as they may think fit; and any secretary so appointed may be removed by them.

56. A provision of the Act or these Articles requiring or authorising a thing to be done by or to a member of the Council and the secretary shall not be satisfied by its being done by or to the same person acting both as member of the Council and as, or in place of, the secretary.

THE SEAL

57. The Council shall provide for the safe custody of the seal, which shall only be used by the authority of the Council or of a committee of the Council authorised by the Council in that behalf, and every instrument to which the seal shall be affixed shall be signed by a member of the Council and shall be countersigned by the secretary or by a second member of the Council or by some other person appointed by the Council for the purpose.

ACCOUNTS

58. The Council shall cause accounting records to be kept in accordance with Section 12 of the Companies Act 1976.

59. The accounting records shall be kept at the registered office of the Company or, subject to Sections 12(6) and (7) of the Companies Act 1976, at such other place or places as the Council thinks fit, and shall always be open to the inspection of the officers of the Company.

60. The Council shall from time to time determine whether and to what extent and at what times and places and under what conditions or regulations the accounts and books of the Company or any of them shall be open to the inspection of members not being members of the Council, and no member (not being a member of the Council) shall have any right of inspecting any account or book or document of the Company except as conferred by statute or authorised by the Council or by the Company in General Meeting.

61. The Council shall from time to time in accordance with Sections 150 and 157 of the Act, and Sections 1, 6 and 7 of the Companies Act 1976, cause to be prepared and to be laid before the Company in General Meeting such profit and loss accounts, balance sheets, group accounts (if any) and reports as are referred to in those sections.

62. A copy of every balance sheet (including every document required by law to be annexed thereto) which is to be laid before the Company in General Meeting, together with a copy of the auditor's report, and Council's report, shall not less than

twenty-one days before the date of the meeting be sent to every member of, and every holder of debentures of, the Company. Provided that this Article shall not require a copy of those documents to be sent to any person of whose address the Company is not aware or to more than one of the joint holders of any debentures.

AUDIT

63. Auditors shall be appointed and their duties regulated in accordance with Section 161 of the Act, Sections 14 and 23A of the Companies Act 1967, Sections 13 to 18 of the Companies Act 1976 and Sections 7 and 12 of the Companies Act 1981.

NOTICES

64. A notice may be given by the Company to any member either personally or by sending it by post to him or to his registered address, or (if he has no registered address within the United Kingdom) to the address, if any, within the United Kingdom supplied by him to the Company for the giving of notice to him. Where a notice is sent by post, service of the notice shall be deemed to be effected by properly addressing, prepaying and posting a letter containing the notice, and to have been effected in the case of a notice of a meeting at the expiration of 24 hours after the letter containing the same is posted, and in any other case at the time at which the letter would be delivered in the ordinary course of post.

65. Notice of every general meeting shall be given in any manner hereinbefore authorised to:-

(a) every member except those members who (having no registered address within the United Kingdom) have not supplied to the Company an address within the United Kingdom for the giving of notices to them;

(b) every person being a legal personal representative or a trustee in bankruptcy of a member where the member but for his death or bankruptcy would be entitled to receive notice of the meeting; and

(c) the auditor for the time being of the Company.

No other person shall be entitled to receive notices of General Meetings.

RULES OR BYE LAWS

66. The Council may from time to time make such Rules or Bye Laws as they may deem necessary or expedient or convenient for the proper conduct and management of the Company and for the purposes of prescribing the classes of and conditions of membership, and in particular but without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing, they may by such Rules or Bye Laws regulate:-

(i) The admission and classification of members of the Company, and the rights and privileges of such members, and the conditions of membership and the terms on which members may

resign or have their membership terminated and the entrance fees, subscriptions and other fees or payments to be made by members.

(ii) The conduct of members of the Company in relation to one another, and to the Company's servants.

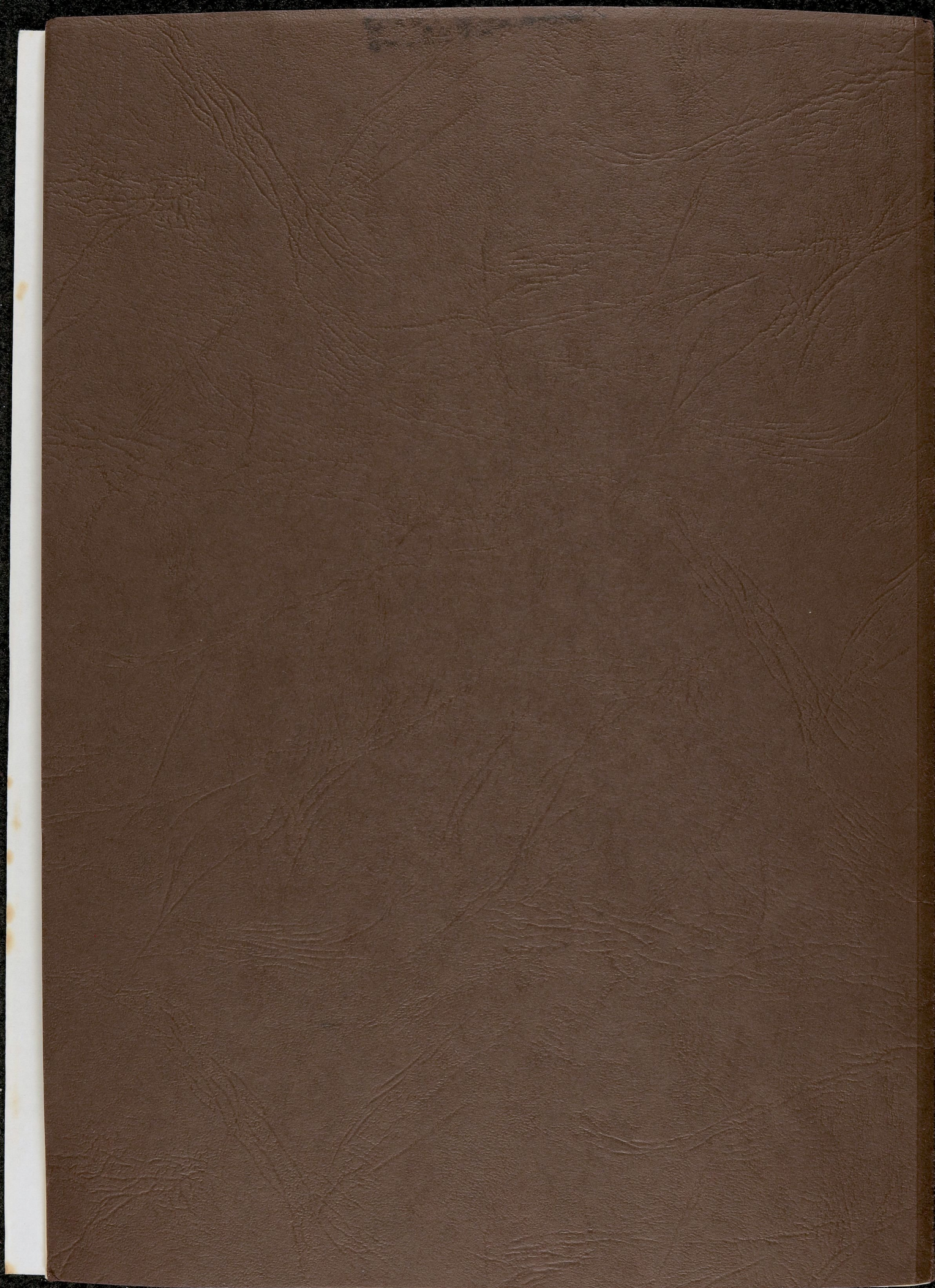
(iii) The setting aside of the whole or any part or parts of the Company's premises at any particular time or times or for any particular purpose or purposes.

(iv) The procedure at general meetings and meetings of the Council and committees of the Council in so far as such procedure is not regulated by these presents.

(v) And, generally, all such matters as are commonly the subject matter of Company rules.

The Company in General Meeting shall have power to alter or repeal the Rules or Bye Laws and to make additions thereto and the Council shall adopt such means as they deem sufficient to bring to the notice of members of the Company all such Rules or Bye Laws, which so long as they shall be in force, shall be binding on all members of the Company. Provided, nevertheless, that no Rule or Bye Law shall be inconsistent with, or shall affect or repeal anything contained in, the Memorandum or Articles of Association of the Company.

67. The provisions of Clause 7 of the Memorandum of Association relating to the winding up or dissolution of the Association shall have effect and be observed as if the same were repeated in these Articles.



G. C. Edmunds Esq.

14/a

Sandgate Soc. Steering Committee Nov. 1982.

G.N.T.

Transport Studies Society

14-c

FUTURE OF THE OLD FIRE STATION

A subject uppermost in many minds is the Old Fire Station. This Listed building has always meant a lot to Sandgate people -- in particular to members and visitors of the Sandgate Society who, until recently, made good use of the formerly disused engine room. Like a good omen the Sandgate Society sign still hangs outside.

Of course you are impatient to know how plans to acquire the Fire Station and plans for its future are progressing. But anyone who has ever had to purchase a house or flat and do it over, will know how long these matters take.

Memories are short. However, it is only 4 months since the Sandgate Society called an Extraordinary General Meeting. About 40 people were present and all were keen that the building should be preserved for Sandgate use. At the suggestion of two local councillors who were also present, it was decided to send a deputation to Kent County Council who were literally on the verge of putting this 'surplus building' up for sale by closed tender to the highest bidder. The rest of the story is known to you. A Steering Committee was set up, and a Company -- Socialview Ltd -- was purchased at very short notice to negotiate for the building. The time was 'NOW or NEVER'.

It is only two months since the Lands Use Committee of Kent County Council met (on 10 September) and accepted our offer* -- and that of Whitbreads for the rear bottle store in which they had a special interest.

The legal formalities are now in the hands of Mr Arthur Gadd, a solicitor well-known to older members of the Sandgate Society from the days he stayed in Sandgate and did much to help the Society. Now, our most urgent need is to obtain permission to form a separate charitable body -- to be known as the SANDGATE HERITAGE TRUST. At this point, and only at this point, can we launch a widespread appeal for funds for, under charitable status, gifts and covenants will then be worth a good deal more. ALL THIS TAKES TIME.

Looking into the future, the Steering Committee foresees the setting up of a Heritage Centre, like many in towns and villages throughout the country. Within the framework of this centre there would be a permanent home for the Sandgate Society. The very charming upstairs Reading Room, the hub of social life in Victorian times, could be a Local History Room and provide a comfortable area for Group Meetings, and activities of a social and educational nature. All ideas welcome!

The Steering Committee will try to answer any questions put to them in writing.

*PRICE Following legal advice, we understand that we should not disclose the purchase price until Contracts have been exchanged.

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SECRETARY'S ANNUAL REPORT 1981/1982

In presenting the 20th Annual Report of the Sandgate Society, the paramount interest is that of the future of the present Library/Old Fire Station Building. In the 15th year of the Society, through the efforts of our then Chairman, Mrs. R.E. Greenwall, the Society entered into temporary possession of the Old Fire Station premises as a H.Q. and small museum. During this past year letters have passed sporadically between Maidstone and Sandgate in an effort to keep this little centrepiece of the district dedicated in some way to the people of Sandgate. Not only is the Fire Station historically interesting - above, the Library is housed in the former Council Chamber of Sandgate Urban District Council - a room of handsome proportions and elegance.

The Society has pleaded for an exception to be made to the harsh economic ruling that the premises must be sold for as much financially as can be obtained, but to no avail. However this is a listed building and the Society will resist any effort to change its character and appearance. The 'tenancy-at-will' ends on 30 April next but it is possible that the Society could remain in the Centre until such time as the new Library on the James Morris Site is finished and open.

Following the decision that the Kent County Council could not grant the Society a concessionary rent, the Estates Officer and Valuer raised the annual rent in July last year to £354.

All is not black however, and the County Librarian has indicated that space will be granted in the new Library for the display of some of the Society's treasures, and that from time to time a more detailed and extensive Sandgate Exhibition could be arranged. The Library also offered assistance in the treatment of exhibits against decay.

Mr. Vorley and the Helpers have soldiered on, manning the Centre, in good weather and bad, and we are deeply grateful to them for this constant and loyal service. Mrs. Chaplin has continued as Archivist, and her work will be seen to be extremely valuable when exhibitions are arranged. She has completed the script of a Sandgate 'Walkabout' and it is hoped to have this published before very long. There has been some encouragement from the Kent County Council with regard to printing.

Mr. Todd has added greatly to the comfort of the Centre by providing an electric fire, and repairing another.

There has been a steady trickle of visitors to the Centre, some from overseas, and quite a number prove to have had former associations with Sandgate.

The membership now totals 332.

At the suggestion of the Vicar there is now a SANDGATE DIARY, and a Notice about this is displayed in the Fire Station window. We would welcome the

inscription of any forthcoming event in the district, and Mr. Dawe, the Folkestone Librarian has already offered to have this kept in the new Library in due course.

We have received with interest and gratitude various items for the Archives - Quite recently two items relating to the Beach Rocks Convalescent Home came in - we hope to research this in detail and would be glad of any information - pictures etc.

Fund raising has been limited to the Jumble Sale organised by Mrs. Dixon, a Coffee morning, and Raffles held at the monthly social meetings. We are indeed grateful to those members of the Committee who have organised these, and to all who have helped. We would be very grateful if some of our members and friends would run a small event to swell the funds.

CHICHESTER MEMORIAL HALL. With the position at the Centre in doubt, the Society feels that there will be no 'office' from which to make bookings for the Hall, and therefore notice has been given, withdrawing this service which the Society has given entirely without charge to Shepway for the past 3½ years. In the Hall itself, alterations are going ahead with a dressing room on the main hall level, constructed by the Men's Club with material provided by Shepway District Council. There will also be a small dressing room made available on the Club level with access to the stage. This is not a particularly satisfactory solution, but with good will on the part of the Club and of the Hirers, it should be a workable one. Much remains to be done to the Hall in the way of decoration and provision of stage facilities, and improvement to the floor. Mr. and Mrs. Smith continue to look after the Hall with cheerful efficiency.

THE CLOCK. Quite suddenly, so it seemed, after casting around for the last few pounds, work commenced in the early Summer, and blessed by reasonable weather, Mr. Paul Dennis completed the renovation within three weeks, and in June. One of the surprises of this work was the beautiful enamelling and gilding of the Royal Arms, found under coatings of salt and dirt during the restoration.

THE CONSERVATION AREAS ADVISORY COMMITTEE on which the Society is well represented, finished the work for which it was constituted, but remains in being, and its report will prove of interest.

* * *

Members of the Society attended a seminar on the Channel Tunnel at the Motel Burstin in the early autumn, and a conference on "Crumbling Kent" at Leeds Castle.

We consult with Hythe Civic Society and the New Folkestone Society on matters of joint interest - building and development planning applications, and sewage are two of the subjects which concern us all.

A disappointment this year was the failure to gain support for a Christmas Lights display. This of course is not a Society venture, but it has always had our strong support.

A most enjoyable outing was held in May for a specially conducted tour of the stained glass at Canterbury Cathedral - this followed Mr. Frank Cole's fascinating talk during the preceding season. Not many members came, but those who did were unanimous in their appreciation of this rare opportunity, and we are especially grateful to Mr. Vorley for shepherding and transporting the party.

COMMITTEE WORK continued from month to month. All members have worked very hard in their respective spheres and it would be invidious to single out any particular member, although I would like to make an exception, for in addition to dealing so ably with Trees and Footpaths, Mrs. Fisk also continues to analyse the Shepway District Council Minutes. I cannot stress sufficiently how useful this work is, as all sorts of happenings, great and small, are tucked away in these pages - we are very grateful to her. At long last we have found someone to take on the job of Press and Public Relations, and we wish Mrs. Haigh well and ask all members to give her their support.

THE SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS will follow this general one, and so I will conclude with the sincerest of thanks to the President, Chairman and Committee for their help during the year.

M. L. Lachlan, March, 1982.

PLANNING

R. A. JOYCE, dip.Arch.R.I.B.A. Chairman.

The Sub-committee has continued to make periodic visits to Ross House, to inspect the plans register, and thirty or so planning applications have been looked at this year. The annual level of development remains about the same in Sandgate, with the economic climate having the inevitable consequence of curtailing some of the activity of builders and developers.

Apart from a noticeable trend towards conversions of larger properties into flats, or the ever-present changes of use from residential property to shops one or two more dramatic applications have been noted: principally, the James Morris site, which is now well underway as a new Branch Library and eight old persons flats, a new scheme for the completion of Rayners Beach Club Site, a part refurbishment and part new scheme for 29-33 High Street (corner of Granville Road East), and just lately, a scheme for the Woodford Hotel site (next Melzone).

The Rodney Court site makes its seasonal appearance, but of all these long-awaited schemes, only the Branch Library is underway.

After a long period of sad neglect, the John Moore Court block has been acquired by new owners, and the work being undertaken at the moment must be considered as a great improvement.

We continue, from time to time, to enter into a kind of verbal rugby scrum with the officers of the planning department, on matters of planning principle, and policy, but rarely make headway: we can just hope that the degree of mutual respect mingled with distrust between both parties, will maintain a good working relationship. Fortunately, there is a climate within the council committees, favouring tighter controls in planning matters.

The Society is well represented on the Sandgate CAAC (Conservation area advisory Committee), and I stand as Vice-Chairman of that body.

Although with the completion of its initial brief from Shepway District Council, this Committee went into a kind of hibernation, just recently, it has been revived by popular pressure, to deal with two quite exciting prospective developments in Sandgate.

Firstly a plan has been drawn up by the committee, for the enhancement of the Castle, and to develop a proper setting for this National Monument. Support has been very poor for this scheme, which depends very largely on co-operation between District Authorities, and the residents, but especially the owners of the Castle. The scheme has, temporarily, been 'put on ice'.

The second development being discussed by this Committee, is the possible comprehensive restoration of Wellington Terrace. Some press publicity has been given to this scheme, and the Committee has met recently to discuss ways and means of getting it 'off the ground', and it is hoped that by April, there may be moves in this direction.

This concludes a brief resume of the work of the sub-committee, and I should like to record my grateful thanks to Mr Freeman who has accompanied me on almost every trip to the Council Offices, and also to Mr Bryant Junior and other members of the committee for occasional support at other times.

TREES AND FOOTPATHS

H. I. FISK, Chairman.

In our 1981 report we were pleased to be able to announce that the Council was to plant 16 trees in ENCOMBE WOODS, the hillside area that forms such an attractive backcloth to Sandgate. Not only were these trees planted at the end of 1981, but there has also been great activity in the green places in the High Street.

WILBERFORCE GREEN has had quite a face lift. The grass area has been modified to allow for additional planting of shrubs, and these now include various varieties of Hebes, White Buddleia, and Escallonia. As for the trees, the one donated by the Society for the Silver Jubilee has flourished: the mountain ash, donated to commemorate the Year of the Child did not survive, but has now been replaced, and two extra trees have been planted. This development will do much to hide the neighbouring bare walls and, with the colourful garden planted by one of our members

along the north side, should make the GREEN most attractive.

A row of Leylandii cypress has been planted along the north side of MILITARY GREEN, and this in time will hide the rather ugly fence. Another improvement in the High Street is at the corner of VICARAGE ROAD and LISTER WAY, where a grassy slope has replaced a mass of unsightly undergrowth and diseased trees and opened up a pleasant view.

We are most grateful to members who draw our attention to matters that affect our natural environment, but sometimes fears proved to be unfounded, and that work being done is necessary for thinning-out saplings, or removing dead or diseased trees. But, watchfulness is invaluable as shown by a recent incident in Encombe where prompt action resulted in the stopping of a clearance of undergrowth and trees which could well have affected the stability of the hillside.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Rollinson, the Council's Tree Officer, for his continuing helpfulness and interest in Sandgate. MAY WE REMIND YOU that, if anyone would like to donate a tree, shrub, or plants, the Parks Department will be prepared to advise, purchase, plant and look after the gift, and even replace it if it succumbs to Sandgate's weather.

THE PROGRESS OF THE SO-CALLED "STORM-PATH" between Encombe and Wilberforce Road has been slower than anticipated. Most of the land required was generously donated transferred to the Council but a section was found to be a private right-of-way. An alternative route for the path was considered which involved an extension into Council land in the Wilberforce Road car-park. Again, a small piece of land of unknown ownership was a problem, but this has now been compulsorily purchased by the Council and the project is to go ahead, being fairly high in the list of priorities listed by the Works Committee for 1982/1983.

DURING the past months more work has been carried out on the flights of steps in the Riviera area. This includes the erection of a few concrete steps at the top of the flight leading from the Riviera to the Lower Sandgate Road, and the provision of a sturdy hand-rail for the flight up to Radnor Cliff Crescent. These are valuable improvements, making for easier and safer use, particularly for the less agile among us.

PROGRAMME REPORT

M. HORNSBY, Chairman

We hope that Members have enjoyed the programmes given in the past year. Attendance has been good in spite of the very bad weather we have often had to endure, and we should like to pay tribute to all of you who have braved the cold and the rain.

In April we had Mrs Criddle from the Family History Society and it seemed that her talk and the material she displayed aroused considerable interest among the audience. The Cheese and Wine Party was as good as usual, I think. A programme alteration had to be made in June. Instead of Potted People we had the very lively reminiscences of Mrs Elizabeth Evans in Those were the Days. After the summer break Mrs Maureen Shaw talked on Sources of Local History and once again there was some interesting material for the audience to examine in the interval.

Another programme change had to be made in October when regretfully we had to forgo the Magic Lantern Slides of Old Margate, but were compensated with slides, commentary and music depicting the Kentish Stour, provided by Mr. Davis. In the chill of November George Perkin cheered us up with a selection of good British architecture, past and present. It was pleasant to see architects beginning to grasp what the poor old 'man in the street' had known all along. The topic for December was Windmills, presented in all their variety, and sometimes nostalgically by Mr Burnham.

The New Year opened somewhat ominously with Spending Cuts in Shepway, but the subject was treated quite cheerfully by Trevor Greening and Richard McCarthy. Our final programme was one which we have been looking forward to for some time - a talk on the Infantry Junior Leaders. Major Rose from Shorncliffe first talked of his own experiences, then with the aid of slides, gave detailed statistical information about the work at Shorncliffe and finally showed a splendid film illustrating the life and training of the young recruits.

I need hardly say how much our splendid coffee makers contribute to the pleasure of these monthly meetings when a good old gossip gets going, and we can have a flutter on the raffle, organised with regular efficiency by our faithful committee members.

TREES AND FOOTPATHS

H. FISK
~~Chairman of sub-committee~~ - Mrs. H. Fisk.

IN our 1981 report we were pleased to be able to announce that the Council was to plant 16 trees in ENCOMBE WOODS, the hillside area that forms such an attractive backcloth to Sandgate. Not only were these trees planted at the end of 1981, but there has also been great activity in the green places in the High Street. WILBERFORCE GREEN has had quite a face lift. The grass area has been modified to allow for additional planting of shrubs, and these now include various varieties of Hebes, White Buddleia, and Escallonia. As for the trees, the one donated by the Society for the Silver Jubilee has flourished: the mountain ash, donated to commemorate the Year of the Child did not survive, but has now been replaced, and two extra trees have been planted. This development will do much to to hide the neighbouring bare walls and, with the colourful garden planted by one of our members along the north side, should make the GREEN most attractive.

A row of Leylandii cypress has been planted along the north side of MILITARY GREEN, and this in time will hide the rather ugly fence. Another improvement in the High Street is at the corner of VICARAGE ROAD and LISTER WAY, where a grassy slope has replaced a mass of unsightly undergrowth and diseased trees and opened up a pleasant view.

We are most grateful to members who draw our attention to matters that affect our natural environment, but ~~we~~ sometimes fears ^{proved} to be unfounded, and that work being done is necessary for thinning-out saplings, or removing dead or diseased trees. But, watchfulness is invaluable as shown by a recent incident in Encombe where prompt action resulted in the stopping of a ~~prohibited~~ clearance of undergrowth and trees which could well have affected the stability of the hillside.

Special thanks are due to Mr. Rollinson, the Council's Tree Officer, for his continuing helpfulness and interest in Sandgate. MAY WE REMIND YOU that, if anyone would like to donate a tree, shrub, or plants, the Parks Department will be prepared to advise, purchase, plant and look after the gift, and even replace it if it succumbs to Sandgate's weather.

THE PROGRESS/OF THE SO-CALLED "STORM-PATH" between Encombe and Wilberforce Road has been slower than anticipated. Most of the land required was generously donated transferred to the Council but a section was found to be a private right-of-way ~~whose owners were not prepared to allow its use by the public~~. An alternative route for the path was considered which involved an extension into Council land in the Wilberforce Road car-park. Again, a small piece of land of unknown ownership was a problem, but this has now been compulsorily purchased by the Council and the project is ~~now~~ to go ahead, being ^{fairly} high in the list of priorities listed by the Works Committee for 1982/1983.

TREES AND FOOTPATHS

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SDC SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL

To: FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES SUB-COMMITTEE - 21ST JULY, 1982

Subject: THE OLD FIRE STATION, SANDGATE, FOLKESTONE

By: THE SECRETARY AND SOLICITOR

The Sandgate Society, which occupies accommodation at the above premises under Licence from the Kent County Council, has been given notice to quit and the property is shortly to be offered for sale. The Sandgate Society has had a meeting with the Chairman of the Land Supply Sub-Committee of the County Council and the Chief Estates and Valuation Officer. They have been informed that the marketing of the property has been delayed until the end of July to enable the Society to make efforts in order to raise sufficient money to make a bid. It is not known what price the County will deem acceptable and since the property has not been advertised for disposal on the open market; its value has not been put to the test. However, at a recent meeting of the Sandgate Society, at which the possibility of purchase was discussed, a substantial sum was offered by way of interest-free loans by members.

The Sandgate Society has approached the District Council and requested that consideration be given to providing financial assistance or to acquire the property direct and lease it to the Society.

At present, the Society only occupies part of the ground floor the building, and part of the store is used by the adjoining public house for the storage of bottles. The Society has indicated that if the building were purchased by the District Council or by them with the District Council's assistance, they would like to see the building used for the following activities.

1. As accommodation for the Society's offices
2. The provision of a Heritage Centre either for Sandgate alone or for a greater area
3. Leasing off part to the adjoining public house
4. As an alternative to the Heritage Centre and depending upon the need for income to service the purchase and/or maintenance, the leasing of the first floor of the premises as commercial offices, subject to any necessary consents.

The Society makes the point that it is a significant building which should be used for local purposes.

There is no financial provision in the Council's estimates to purchase this property, nor for direct assistance to the Society to enable them to purchase. There are grants available, under the control of the Development Committee, to assist with the maintenance of Listed Buildings. If the Council wish to provide assistance in connection with the purchase, special provision would need to be made by this Sub-Committee to enable this to be done.



County Estates Officer & Valuer: J. R. HOYLE, F.R.I.C.S.

Mrs. M. L. Lachlan,
Honorary Secretary,
The Sandgate Society,
Albion Cottage,
Sandgate,
Nr. Folkestone,
Kent.

Tel: Maidstone (0622) 671411

Extension: 2969.

Ask for: Mr. Couchman.

Our ref: E/SH/70/4. (74/6).

Your ref:

Date: 29th July, 1982.

Chief Executive
of the County Council
W. U. Jackson

Dear Madam,

SHEPWAY DISTRICT:
SANDGATE FORMER BRANCH LIBRARY (FIRE STATION),
51 HIGH STREET, SANDGATE.

Thank you for your letter of 26th July, 1982 and I note that although your Society is making progress they are not yet in a position to make an offer for the property but that you hope to be able to before the end of August. I have received a similar request from Messrs. Whitbread Fremlins Limited and also representations on your Society's behalf from Mr. Thompson of Shepway District Council. In the circumstances, I am prepared to extend the deadline for receipt of offers to 31st August, 1982 and I am also prepared to agree that the Society may remain in the premises on a "caretaking" basis until the 31st August, 1982 in regard to the formal Notice already served on the Society and already extended by my letter of 25th June, 1982, and the Council would now expect the Society to have vacated the premises by not later than the 31st August, 1982.

In granting the above-mentioned extensions of time, it must be made quite clear that this is a final extension and that if no agreement can be reached for the sale of the property by 31st August, 1982, other steps will be taken to market the property.

I look forward to hearing further from you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,


County Estates Officer and Valuer.

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING - 16 June 1982.

MR. JOYCEhad been 'talked' in to perhaps having an office in the old library section, and how gradually this idea had caught hold of him. There was also the interest of the Brewery who although they had a similar 'tenancy-at-will' to the Society, were held to use the premises 'under licence'. So there were three interested parties. Mr. Joyce's agent had given a valuation of the premises.

at least } Mr. Joyce stressed the urgent necessity of the bottle Dept to the Brewers, and felt that even though it is apparently against present Brewery Policy they might try and buy the whole in order to preserve the bottle store. THE COUNCILLORS were asked about the possibility of Shepway buying the Premises, but the reply was that there is no chance whatever of such money being available.

MR. JOYCE felt that the only real grounds for a reasonable price would be an emotional one.

MRS. RENE MARTIN said that we must not forget that the Kent County Council had helped the Society very considerably, both in conservation, and in making the Centre available in the first place, and perhaps they would consider continuing their beneficent attitude.

MR. PRATT interjected that even if the Kent County Council FELT beneficent, they could NOT create a precedent, and they always have the public auditor to satisfy and to whom they must justify expenditure.

RESOLUTION that members of the Society, and Mr. Joyce, Mrs. Rene Martin and a representative of the Brewery meet Kent C.C. to see if a satisfactory purchase could be made in advance of Tenders going out. Councillor Hamer to contact Capt. W. Lawrence to see if this could be arranged.

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The Sandgate Society
Fire Station Centre
Treasurer's Report
29th May 1977

Donations Received to Centre

£ p.
114 00

Expenses: -

	£.	p.		
Rent	48	00		
M. Heron Work done re.	1 00	00		
Commercial Union Assce. }	10	00		
Additional Premium }				
Seaboard Elec: connection re.	28	14		
Speedac Press (Letters re Centre)	3	67		
Mrs M. L. Lockman (Postages)	1	55		
			221	36

Materials: -

Halletts	40	30		
"		31		
M. Collins	7	08		
F. Stone Elec. Pl. Hatched.	2	59		
L. A. Bryant	4	50		
Mecare	1	00		
			55	78

Total Expenses

£ 277 14

Deficit

£.	p.
277	14
114	00
<u>163</u>	<u>14</u>

C.D. - Frank Baxton

BLOCK

+ PHOTO OF
FIRE ENGINE.

THE SANDGATE SOCIETY

From the Chairman, Mrs.R.E.Greenwall, J.P.

To The Editor, Folkestone, Hythe & District Herald,
The Bayle, FOLKESTONE.

Dear Sir,

Your readers will be familiar with Sandgate's delightful Library building reproduced in the drawing above. This drawing is used by them ^{SANDGATE SOCIETY} as their motif at the head of their note paper and elsewhere.

The Library was it is believed given to the village by the Reillys of The Undercliff and Encombe, the upper floor to be a public reading room and the ground floor to house the volunteer fire brigade and their fire engine, of which I enclose a photograph. The Reading Room later became Sandgate's Council Chamber.

It has long been the dearest wish of the Sandgate Society that they might use this charming building as a Museum and as a Committee Room for both themselves and other local societies. I am delighted to inform you that Kent County Council, who have taken over all local libraries have now offered us the tenancy of the ground floor of Sandgate Library for these purposes. Our ^{HOPE} ~~will~~ will be to take over the whole building eventually and conserve it.

In conserving old buildings the aim must always be to find an appropriate use that will meet some or all of the cost of maintenance. I suggest that the Library is most worthy of preservation and that occupation by the Sandgate Society with lettings

(2)

to other local societies is the ideal use.

Before the premises can be brought into use there is certain preliminary work to be done. Carpets, furniture, heaters etc must be obtained and decoration must be carried out. I have written to the members of the Society asking them to make donations or offers of help in kind and in labour but feel there may be some who would wish to help although they are not members of the Society.

Donations and offers will be most gratefully received and should be sent to me at "AughrimHouse", 59, Sandgate High Street, Sandgate. The Telephone number is Folkestone 38495. Subscription Lists will be forwarded to you for publication in due course.

Yours very sincerely,

R.Estelle Greenwall, J.P.

CHAIRMAN.

The Old Fire Station.

History

- 1 1859 Inception of "Volunteer Fire Brigade". A Committee was formed to raise money for a new fire engine. Donors included Lord and Lady Pelham of Encombe.
 - 2 1882 Sufficient money was collected by the end of August.
 - 3 1883 The Misses Reilly, the new owners of Encombe, built "The Fire Engine House". The engine had been housed in "The Royal Kent Stables" (now Paul Blue hair-dressing salon).
 - 4 1884 The Members of the Brigade paraded in uniform and marched through the town with the engine to take possession of "the new engine house."
 - 5 1889 The Brigade had an international reputation when The Captain Mr. W. B. Kennett and The Lieutenant, Mr. Tuck, attended the International Congress in Paris. They were received by the French President, who presented them with gold medals. They were elected to The French Fire Association. When the officers attended a theatre in uniform the audience stopped the performance by singing "God Save The Queen" and shouting "Vive les Sapeurs Pompiers D'Angleterre".
1891. Captain Kennett and Lieutenant Tuck were amongst those presented to The German Kaiser at The Crystal Palace.

The Building Quote from local Paper 20. 6. 84

states

a) "The building is a pretty piece of work and is well worthy a visit to any visiting the town"

b) The upper square spire is situated in the N.E. corner of the building and is constructed of timber and a shingled roof.

The Bell. The bell, formerly stored in the Folkestone library, is now mounted on a platform in the Old Fire Station. It was removed from the Tower in 1945 as it was considered unsafe. The bell was formerly swung-chimed and was installed as a fire bell. The operating rope (also in the Old Fire Station) was salvaged when the bell was removed.

Additional Work of the Fire Engine.

"The Brigade will visit Underhill and Beachborough for the purpose of inspecting the water supplies in order to ascertain where the hose may best be fixed in the case of fire occurring in these districts
20. 6. 84"

"Support for the building of the Old Fire Station was given by " Their President, Lord Petham, the residents, gentry and trades people."

[Photographs of the horse drawn engine are now in the Old Fire Station in the care of The Sandgate Society]

Folkestone Extra. 4.10.85

How long-term jobless help the community

Workers with the key to success

by JANE SULSH

A COMMUNITY working scheme for the long term jobless has had many successes since it started three years ago.

The handiwork of the Key Scheme Community Programme can be seen all over Shepway.

Workers are paid normal rates for the job at approved union rates and others have benefited from their projects.

Projects

Some of the scheme members are now working on the old fire station at Sandgate, owned by Sandgate Heritage Trust and used as headquarters for the Sandgate Society and a meeting place for a host of clubs.

Exterior decoration and painting will be followed by renovation work inside.

The programme is funded by the Man-



Men at work...Mick Jeffries, Phil Williams and Sam Smith

power Services Commission and managed by the Kent County Council.

Fifty people are now working on the scheme which covers the whole of Shepway but is not connected with a similar venture being run by the Centre for Shepway Unemployed.

Workers on the pro-

gramme have built a gallery inside the United Reform Church, Folkestone, so that it can be used for community concerts.

They are also helping improve the environment at Brockhill Country Park, Saltwood, to be opened next Spring.

They converted a Cheriton laundry into

a day centre for Age Concern and are still working on an aircraft hangar at Hawkinge for the Battle of Britain Museum.

Flats have been decorated for the elderly and disabled, gardens tended for folk who cannot manage them and a helping hand is also extended to local organisations.

Attempts are made to find all participants permanent jobs.

Proud

Peter Daly, scheme manager, said: "We think the achievements of these people, who are mostly unskilled is something to be proud of."

"Some of the work they have done is absolutely first class and very worthwhile. Although it is not permanent work it is better than being unemployed and the community is very much benefiting."

Leisure I

Goodies

History on show

SANDGATE conservationists may soon have a permanent exhibition tracing the story of their community on show to the public.

Members of the Sandgate Society estimate the cost of the project which would be

In line

A GRANT towards helping start a permanent exhibition at the Sandgate Society should be approved, councillors have agreed. Shepway District Council's Amenities Committee voted to allow £250 towards the estimated cost of £1,500.

The theme of the exhibition would be the story of Sandgate.

On display

THE Sandgate Society may soon be having a permanent exhibition telling residents and holidaymakers about the history of the village.

Such an exhibition is expected to cost about £1,500 and Shepway councillors have decided to donate £250 to the cause.

People . 6.10.85

People
30.10.85

ST.

27/4/74

Pictured below: Left, Stanton, a Cotswold village near Broadway, Worcestershire (Picture: J. ALLAN CASH); Right, the High Street at Sandgate, in Kent.



How a camera came to the aid of a Kent village

NEXT year is European Architectural Heritage Year. In Britain, it comes under the aegis of the Civic Trust, with Prince Philip as President. How can the average person help in so grand a venture?

No town or village need envy others their Gothic grandeurs and Georgian splendours; most places have a special character, market square or village green, worth preserving.

People living there have a sense of history and identity barely felt by those who govern the environment from remote council chambers.

Yet it is in Council and County Planning Offices that claims for conservation and enlightened planning need sympathetic hearing.

Sandgate, on the Kent coast, is one village that has fought and will now survive, thanks to a camera and an active local amenity society affiliated to the Civic Trust. But these alone would not have been enough without the enlightened provisions of the Civil Amenities Act of 1967.

In August 1967, the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Welsh Office (now the Department of Environment) required local authorities to designate "areas of special architectural or historical interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve and enhance."

Sandgate, which shelters in the lee of Folkestone, was more than dismayed to see the con-

By
Linda Rene-Martin

servation proposals published by Folkestone Borough in 1969. The outline areas virtually ended where the village began (save for a tiny area round the derelict castle).

Whatever charms the bulldozers had spared the village were now even more at the mercy of the developers. Sandgate's urgent plea for inclusion fell upon deaf ears and by January 1970, European Conservation Year, the Borough's proposals had reached the County Planning Office without amendment.

One door remained open. The 1967 Act, aware that local folk or societies with intimate knowledge of an area can play a vital role in assessing the need for conservation, suggested that their views should also be sought. We seized this chance to put our case to higher authority.

While towns like Tenterden and Faversham had architects and planners to present their case, we had none. With only a simple camera and forty years of affection for a village I had known since childhood, I set to work on a survey.

Half-hidden alleyways took on a new life. Half-noticed detail like the lion's head finials over the dairy, the newsagent's and the fishmonger's, took on a new aura. A wealth of typical

Kent weatherboarding, hanging tiles, wrought-iron canopies, gables, Victorian turrets, all lent significance to a jumble of style and detail, adding to the total essence.

New dimensions were added when a friend with an extensive camera outfit came to my aid. A few months later, a visual survey of the locality, west to east, took shape in a large loose-leaf album. It was prefaced by a brief history of the village, its significance as an amenity area, with an argument for conservation. To these were joined lists of buildings of varying styles and special interest, all keyed on a 25-inch to the mile map (from Stanfords, Long Acre, W.C.2.).

The Deputy County Planning Officer received it with great courtesy and perception. His expert eye took it all in, spotting much of value that I had overlooked.

Many months of negotiations and visits took place between the County, the Borough and the representatives of the Sandgate Society. Then came the verdict.

Two large areas of Sandgate are now designated for conservation. Members of the Society helped the Borough by plotting and identifying all the trees which should be protected by preservation orders, and suggesting buildings suitable for listing and grading, as well as new uses for them.

After conservation comes enhancement, and the assurance that new development will harmonise with the character of the area. In Sandgate, European Architectural Heritage Year is well under way.

Readers might like to refer to the Civic Amenities Act 1967 Circular 53/67 (7 August 1967) and Town and Country Planning (Amendment) Act 1972 Conservation, Circular 86/72 (25 August 1972). The Civic Trust is at 17 Carlton House Terrace, London, S.W.1.

STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE
SANDGATE SOCIETY

8 August 1982

County Estates Officer and Valuer
Attention Mr M.R. Couchman
Kent County Council
Springfield, Maidstone ME14 2LL

Your Ref: E/SH/70/4 (74/6).

Dear Sir,

OLD FIRE STATION, SANDGATE (51 High Street)

Mrs Lachlan, Hon Secretary of the Sandgate Society thanks you for your letter of 29 July 1982 and has suggested that a reply should best come from the Steering Committee which, by resolution of the Society, has been recently set up. For your information, the purpose of this Steering Committee is to explore ways and means of acquiring the Old Fire Station (No 51 the High Street) with a view to ultimately vesting the property in an independent Charitable Trust which will, inevitably, take time to set up.

At the same time, Mrs Lachlan asks us to thank you for the extension which will allow the Sandgate Society to remain in the building on a 'caretaking' basis until 31.8.82. We note that a similar extension of time has been granted to Messrs Whitbread Fremains Ltd.

We are aware of both verbal and Press reports to the effect that they and Mr Roger Joyce have also shown some interest in the property. Contrary to anything that may have been said about a joint meeting to be arranged between the interested parties and KCC, to our regret no approach has been made to us regarding such a meeting. Presumably, this is because Mr Joyce, as he has told us, is no longer interested in the property and the meeting suggested by his agent Mr Beggs to co-ordinate his and Whitbread's interests is now in abeyance, or dropped.

Meanwhile, we understand that the Civic Trust has been in touch with Geoff King of Whitbread's. No doubt his Company is considering the whole position at a much higher level before deciding whether they are interested in the whole property or only part.

Naturally we should like to know their position before making a definite offer for the property which, as Mr R.J. Thompson (Shepway Solicitor) knows, we are now financially in a position to do.

We thank you again for your help and patience in this matter

cc. Mrs L. Lachlan

Yours truly

R.J. Thompson
Councillor Hamer

Alan Fisk, M.Sc.Ph.D (for the Sandgate Society
Steering Committee)



County Estates Officer & Valuer: J. R. HOYLE, F.R.I.C.S.

Mrs. M. L. Lachlan,
Honorary Secretary,
The Sandgate Society,
Albion Cottage,
Sandgate,
Nr. Folkestone,
Kent.

Tel: Maidstone (0622) 671411

Extension: 2969.

Ask for: Mr. Couchman.

Our ref: E/SH/70/4. (74/6).

Your ref:

Date: 29th July, 1982.

Chief Executive
of the County Council
W. U. Jackson

Dear Madam,

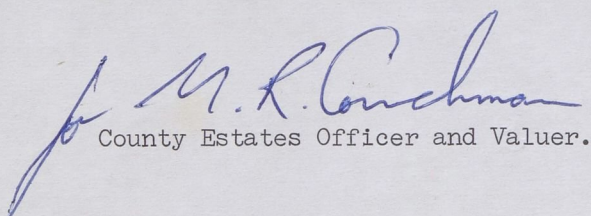
SHEPWAY DISTRICT:
SANDGATE FORMER BRANCH LIBRARY (FIRE STATION),
51 HIGH STREET, SANDGATE.

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In granting the above-mentioned extensions of time, it must be made quite clear that this is a final extension and that if no agreement can be reached for the sale of the property by 31st August, 1982, other steps will be taken to market the property.

I look forward to hearing further from you as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,


County Estates Officer and Valuer.



ORIGINAL PATRONS
* deceased.

51 SANDGATE HIGH ST. Nr FOLKESTONE, KENT, CT20 3AH

PATRONS: The Earl of Guilford, Sir John Betjeman, The Rt.Hon.William Deedes MC,DL
Lt.Col.R.F.H. Drake-Brockman, Peter J.Fynmore, Mrs R.E.Greenwall JP *
N.Courtney Lendon MA,MD, Alec McCowen OBE, Professor Dame Sheila Sherlock MD

A Comparison of the objectives of the Sandgate Society and the Sandgate Heritage Trust

The Sandgate Heritage Trust

1. "to preserve and utilise for the benefit of the townspeople of Sandgate -----and the nation at large, the Old Fire Station"
"and any other site or building of particular beauty or historical, architectural or construction interest which may exist in and around the town of Sandgate."
2. To promote the arts, science and education of the general public by fostering a wider knowledge and interest in local history, architecture and the environment."

There is then a list of things that the Trust may do in order to further these two objectives.

The Sandgate Society

1. To stimulate public interest in the village of Sandgate
2. To secure the preservation protection development and improvement of features of historic or public interest in Sandgate.
3. To promote high standards of planning and architecture in the Village.

The remit of the Heritage Trust is very specific in respect of the Old Fire Station. Our objective is its preservation and utilisation for the benefit of Sandgate people. We are further supposed to preserve any other interesting site or building in Sandgate.

The Sandgate Society, however, is concerned with preserving and protecting features of historic interest in Sandgate and to promote high standards of planning and architecture in the village. When you add to this the objective of stimulating public interest in Sandgate, their remit is very wide. Ours is more specific.

There is nothing specifically to prevent amalgamation. Indeed, we are able to become a member of, or amalgamate or co-operate with any other charitable organisation, institution, society not established for profit whose objects are wholly or in part similar to those of the Company. However, that something is not prevented legally is not necessarily a good reason for doing it!

The strongest argument against is that most societies have difficulty finding committee members able to do the necessary work to run the organization efficiently. The remit of the Sandgate Society would become very large. It is interesting also that when the Fire Station was acquired in 1983, the Sandgate Society had been in existence some 20 years and indeed had been renting the Fire Station from KCC from 1976. Yet it was not deemed appropriate to leave the running of the Trust to the Sandgate Society at that time. The reason was probably that a group of people whose primary objective was to preserve the Fire Station was considered a more effective way of doing this rather than enlarging the already wide objectives of the Sandgate Society.

Should it be considered now appropriate to amalgamate, I presume there would have to be a sub-committee specifically set up to look after the Old Fire Station. I find it hard to believe that the Sandgate Society really want to take this burden on.

Co-operation, however, is a different matter and obviously takes place already. What are the other areas where co-operation is possible?

1. Fund raising for the Fire Station. The Society has a largish membership. The Sandgate Heritage Trust only has the Council. Could one fund raising activity a year be arranged by the Society? The alternative is to charge the Society an economic rent which we don't want to do.
2. Publicity – A talk perhaps to the members about the Old Fire Station and the Reilly sisters. No doubt this has been done in the past but maybe it is time for it to be done again.
3. We have a remit to foster a wider knowledge and interest in local history. The Sandgate Society does arrange local history talks. Can we arrange a small discussion group occasionally after Sandgate Society local history talks in the Reading Room? Should we also be co-operating with the Folkestone Local History Society?
4. Should we ask the Society to include a short article about the Old Fire Station in their newsletter?