

THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF THE

# THE SANDGATE SOCIETY

Affiliated to:—  
Kent Federation of Amenity Societies  
Committee for the Preservation of Rural Kent  
The Civic Trust

Please reply to: .117 Sandgate High Street, Kent CT20 3BZ

Hon. Treasurer

Chairman

Hon. Secretary

County Estates Officer and Valuer  
Kent County Council, Springfield  
Maidstone, ME14 2LL

26 August 1982

Dear Sir, OLD FIRE STATION (51 Sandgate High Street)

We are authorized by the Sandgate Society to make an offer to purchase the above site at the price of £ 15,350 (Fifteen thousand three hundred and fifty pounds) subject to contract and subject to our receipt of satisfactory specifications concerning the property.

In view of the fact that this property is not being sold with full vacant possession at the rear -- an area that is at present bringing KCC a rent of 35p per sq ft -- and bearing in mind that any future use of this Listed Building is severely restricted in that the frontage cannot be altered in any way, nor the fire doors replaced by shop windows or otherwise, and also bearing in mind that it lacks modern services, we, the Steering Committee, have been advised that we are making a very fair offer, as current market values go.

This offer, subject to contract, is being made on the understanding that the closing date for receipt of offers remains 31.8.82. If that situation were to change, we should be obliged if you would let us know so that the Society may have time for further consideration.

The Steering Committee is of the opinion that it would have been better if there had been discussions between the Sandgate Society and Whitbreads, with a view to co-operation over the purchase and use of the site, but our approaches to Whitbreads have not met with any positive response.

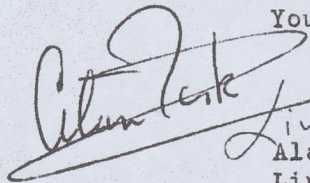
This unique Listed Building, which will celebrate its centenary next year, has always been of service to the community -- as Volunteer Fire Station local Reading Room, Local Board of Health Offices, HQ for Sandgate Urban District Council, storage shed, public toilets and, latterly, as HQ for the Sandgate Society. The Library services on the upper floor occupied less than one third of the total area at the time the property was transferred to KCC in April 1974, possibly by some administrative oversight.

In response to local feeling, and with the encouragement of our local Shepway Councillors, the Civic Trust and others, we the Steering Committee are hereby endeavouring to keep this Listed building and cherished landmark at the service of the Community, both as a Heritage Centre and as a permanent home for the Sandgate Society which has done so much for the village.



If KCC are willing to meet the needs of Sandgate and accept our offer, a Charitable Trust Ltd will be formed to hold the building for educational and other purposes, in perpetuity for Sandgate. In the interim, a Limited Company (Socialview Ltd) is being set up to receive the property in the event our offer is accepted.

Yours very truly



Linda E. René-Martin.

Alan Fisk M.Sc., Ph.D. (for Steering Committee)  
Linda E. René-Martin (Sandgate Society)



Feb. 2016

TOP SECRET FAILURE

It was World War II, April 1944 and prior to the D-Day landings on the Omaha and Utah beaches in Normandy. Around Slapton Sands in Devon, American forces were carrying out land and seaborne exercises among then top-secret Tiger which met with a massive and devastating end.

Slapton Sands near Start Point in Devon fell within the Portland Sub-Command stretching east to St. Albans Head in Dorset. I was among the WRNS on watch in the Plotting Room Portland Naval Base where all surface movements, friendly or otherwise, were displayed on the Plotting Table and all reports either land-based or radah, were logged. Anything else, with no pre-signal, was suspect.

Totally unknown to Portland HQ, exercise Tiger had begun. In the lee of the land it was rounding Lyme Bay eastwards. No escorts to a string of barges loaded with hundreds of men and live ammunition as it transpired, too late. In the lee of the land the movement failed to come within radah range – 'wave clutter' it seemed, and it was too dark for the look-outs to note. Our only patrol vessels (as I remember) were to the east of Portland Bill yet the German E-Boats probably based in the Channel Islands, knew their targets. It was no random raid.

Log book before me, earphones on and pencil in hand two tracks were radah-reported heading due North till all Hell broke loose. Look-outs reporting huge explosions and flames, while shore batteries remained silent. More I cannot recall. Officers and ratings were stunned. The logbooks were scooped up and sent to Admiralty.

With daybreak the morning watch arrived with reports of chaos on the causeway between Wyke and Portland Naval Base --- transports bringing bodies to Portland Naval Hospital and to the mainland, and scenes of floating debris everywhere. Left in total ignorance of Exercise Tiger, Portland Naval HQ could only help to clear up the remains. Together with the nightwatch I was bussed back to Weymouth quarters, to breakfast and to close my eyes and sleep it off. I couldn't.

I shrank from entering the Plotting Room again. The futility of death beyond the call of conflict, was too sickening. I felt like becoming a conscientious objector but too much was at stake.

Many years later, around the early 60's I was working in Shell Chemical Co, while scanning the provincial press a report in a Dorset paper caught my eye. A group of people led by an American Admiral boated into Lyme Bay to scatter thirteen red roses.

Linda René-Martin



Article for 'Oldie'

22.04.09

①

D-DA-Y in the Plotting Room, Portland -- and after; A Wren's Eye View

D-DAY 6 June 1944 - the enormous build up to it and all that followed was, I need not say, an unforgettable turning point in world history. Masterminded by the Allies with the utmost thoroughness, ingenuity, top secrecy and at great personal sacrifice, it led to the defeat of the greatest evil that could have overwhelmed the world, west to east.

Many readers will have lived through those times as certainly their parents before them. A spate of historical data now released, books, films, features, and nerve-wracking, heart-rending docudramas have brought it all home. For me, personally, they have stirred long-dormant and unspoken memories. The little I can add stems from a very minor role as a Wren Plotter in the Operations Room, Portland Naval Base at the heart of the sub-command stretching from Start Point, Devon to St. Alban's Head, Dorset, and north of the Channel Islands and lair of deadly U-boats and E-boats.

How had I come to be there? Like so many of my generation, I had left the simple comforts and privacy of home-life such as it was through the London blitz and black-out - I had left for the rigours and discipline of service life -- marching, wheeling, saluting, air-raid muster, polishing floors and scrubbing latrines, hair off collar and picking up naval jargon and slang. In our denim togs and regulation underwear, we were truly broken in.

My intake only had vacancies for galley 'slaves' or radio mechanics, neither quite my thing. Never mind my GSC honours in maths, geography etc. I set out to flunk the examinations and was rewarded with a posting as a Plotter instead - one of seven hundred hopefuls and the envy of all. Then all kitted out and with my indispensable bike, I was posted to Pompeii - 'quite fit - any complaints - next please' then onwards to Portland, Dorset, with billets in Regency Weymouth and HMS Boscawen proudly ribboned on my pill-box cap.

A year later, 1944, in an atmosphere of censored letters and top secrecy no one could fail to sense that the war was reaching a climax but when, how, where, we could only guess. For weeks as we bussed across the narrow causeway between Weymouth and Portland we watched the enormous build up of



armaments parked along- side -- tanks, armoured vehicles, anti-aircraft guns - the only wonder being that the Germans had not bombed it all to blazes. But enemy forces were more concentrated in the Pas de Calais region or the Mediterranean beaches near Cavalaire.

The lovely sweep of Weymouth Bay – the English Naples – became choc-a-bloc with destroyers, frigates, corvettes, minesweepers and uncountable landing craft infantry (LCI's) and landing craft tanks and artillery (LCT's). Predominantly, Portland was an American naval base, harbouring the battleship Arkansas and the cruiser Tuscaloosa, all under the command of Rear Admiral Kirk USN and destined to cover the Normandy landings code-named Utah and Omaha near the mouth of the Orne. as we now know. Sword, Juno and Gold under Portsmouth command were more to the east under Portsmouth command.

Then, in the early days of June 1944, we were left in no doubt. A seemingly endless stream of men in battle dress, loaded to the gills, headed through Weymouth waiting to embark. It seemed a total travesty to be playing off-duty tennis on the Greenhill courts, knowing that at least a third of those men - sons, husbands, brothers and boy-friends could not survive the amphibious assault on the morrow. The sight is etched in my memory. War is a terrible thing.

Time hung heavy. It was all unbearably tense, above all for Churchill, Eisenhower and Allied Command at Portsmouth. Unexpectedly for early June the wind got up, the waves got up. It had to be NOW or NEVER. Any delay would play into the hands of the enemy, a second attempt could fail. Meanwhile, in the Common Room, the padre was bashing out mournful tunes from Chopin on a tinny old piano; I made a light-hearted Will in verse; I had only a week's pay to leave if anything.

It was double summer time. The last rays were fading over the pastoral peaceful Dorset landscape. How well Hardy described it, implying the indifference of nature to the sufferings of man.

Empty was the causeway as we headed for nightwatch. Empty was the bay of shipping. Then, just as we were descending the bus, there was a deafening roar as a vast airborne armada converged over Portland, briefly flashing their red-green recognition signals before zooming into total darkness. We now know they were the British 6th Division and the US 82nd and 101st US Divisions,



bomber, transport planes, gliders heading for the first onslaught on Utah and Omaha beaches. They had taken off from 22 airfields including the closest Tarrant Rushton. In the midst of that almighty roar, Admiral Swabey scrambled up the stairs from the Operations Room, flung his cap in the air and said 'We're off'. Conscious that the future of the free world now hung in the balance. The 'longest day' had begun.

We Wrens settled down to night watch round an almost empty Plotting table not knowing-what the day would bring. Only water boat Turtle chugged across the Harbour. Silence as never before. All was out of radar range; radio signals all shut down, Strategically, statistically, logistically we knew little. While all hell was unleashed across the Channel, while Mulberry and bits of old battleships were sunk to make harbours and pier heads -- all we could do was make cocoa. There was little to say.

Solid news was slow to arrive as we came off duty next morning; not till midday were the first landings officially confirmed. For the moment OVERLORD was succeeding with the help of the French resistance in the background. The first ships to return brought the wounded and the dying. Then came the prisoners of war, many sucked into Hitlerian ambitions, and now squatting in grassy compounds, their uniforms like a grey-green blight upon a cabbage. No matter who, war is a terrible thing.

Many months of bitter battle were to follow in Europe before early May 1945 , when Hitler committed suicide and Germany surrendered. In our case, the Admiral took it from a U-boat commander in mid-channel, in his launch manned by Wrens -- women no less -- to the Germans' surprise. Meanwhile, the Far East bitter bloody strife went on.

A farewell dance was thrown before the Portland plot closed down and some of us were posted to new duties at the Fleet Air Arm station at Yeovilton. Midday, and messing in the stately manor at Queen Camel, a groan went up when the news came through that Churchill had lost the General election. Labour was in.



I cycled-back-to-billets at Rimpton Rectory. The cedars stood-still. The acrid scent of elder flower hung in the air. All was summer silence except for the hum of bees. Cooks, cleaners, galley 'slaves' were relaxing around the huge old kitchen table when I told them the news. They seized on everything at hand -- carving knives, forks, choppers, fire irons were borne aloft as they marched round the table chanting 'Now we'll get our own back, now we'll get our own back' in a chorus of regional accents. Understandably, a new era had begun.

We must never forget the threat nor the sacrifice in the name of precious democracy, I thought, when two years ago at the age of 86, I marched for the first time down Whitehall with the dwindling numbers of veterans, while families lining the kerb clapped their hands, and Big Ben tolled for all.

One last memory of those critical times. As we sat round the Plotting table one Wren said 'what tales we'll have to tell our grandchildren'. 'Oh! said another 'they wont be interested'. Some are, some aren't, we know.

Linda Rene'-Martin ©

(formerly leading Wren Ritson).

24<sup>th</sup> April, 2009



125-48-  
H

THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT



*Ministry of Housing and Local Government*

Our Ref: IG1/Q/153:

Whitehall, London SW1

01-930 4300 ext. 316:

28th October, 1971.

Dear Mrs. René-Martin,

Thank you for your letter of 20th October.

*P/10-14-5?*

I fully understand the view which you take of this matter, but equally I trust that you appreciate the Department's position. Although the Department are of the view that the drainage works needed to help to stabilise the cliff can properly be carried out under the Coast Protection Act 1949 and that they would attract grant-aid, there is no immediate need to carry out these works for the purpose of saving the sea-wall. That would be a long-term benefit. The principal reason for doing the works now rather than later would be to safeguard the properties from the effects of further earth movements. This is why the council have sought contributions from property owners. Were it not for the danger to the private properties, there would be no suggestion that coast protection works were needed now.

In this situation the Department would not be justified in advising the Folkestone Borough Council that their duties as a coast protection authority required them to carry out the works as a matter of urgency, or in suggesting to them that they should abandon the claims for contributions which they have evidently decided to be appropriate in the circumstances. We have, as you know, advised that the council may, if they think fit, properly use their powers under the Coast Protection Act 1949, to carry out the works now, and that if they do so an Exchequer contribution will be made towards the cost. It must now remain a matter for the council themselves to decide how they should proceed, and whether to claim contributions from property owners. The Department would have a further locus only if it appeared that the coast protection interest was likely to suffer; and there is no sign of that at present.

Yours very truly,

*R. G. Adams*

(R. G. ADAMS)

Mrs. Rene-Martin,  
Flat J,  
4 Oxford and Cambridge Mansions,  
Old Marylebone Road,  
LONDON, N.W.1.



FAX TO 962-0017

Coast Cottage  
149 Sandgate High Street  
Near Folkestone, Kent CT20 3DA  
Tel: (0303) 40360.

28 February 1990

FOR PUBLICATION

To The Editor, "The Independent"

Dear Sir,

COASTAL FOLLY

Your front-page picture (27 Feb) of the sea flooding the A259 trunk road along Sandgate Esplanade, shows how exposed this coastline is to the elements. And it is ironic that while the government helps to bale out Towyn, the Secretary of State for the Environment is ready to promote coast erosion by approving a harbour/marina/ high density housing development between Sandgate and Hythe, in what he admits is a "highly sensitive area". A private Harbour Bill, however, has yet to make its way through Parliament.

Has the Secretary of State never heard of the Royal Commission's Report on Coast Erosion, a five-year study of the UK coastline 1907-1911? Its conclusions underline how groynes, piers, jetties and harbours can impede the littoral drift of sand or shingle, set up new wave patterns and currents, cause beach starvation and expose seawalls to even greater pressure from storm-tides.

In this era of marina mania, it will not be the developers but the local victims and hard-pressed local authorities who will ultimately bear the brunt and cost of these environmental follies.

Yours sincerely

Linda René-Martin  
(MRS L. RENÉ-MARTIN)



FAX 01-962-0017

Coast Cottage  
149 Sandgate High St  
Nr. Folkestone, Kent CT20 3DA

FOR PUBLICATION

The Editor  
'The Independent'

6 March 1990. (Tel 0303-40360)

Dear Sir,

COASTAL STRATEGY AND COSTS

Professor Holmes, in his efforts (6 March) to correlate the periodicity of storms and the design of coastal defences, fails to take account of the third governing factor, that of <sup>coast erosion consequent on</sup> natural attrition or of poor and piecemeal beach management evident on various coasts of Britain.

For 60 years or so, I have watched the changing beach levels along the Sandgate shoreline (Kent) and have seen the sea defences breached from end to end. Notwithstanding the new seawall with extended apron built in 1953, the storms of 1981, 1983, 1984 and now, 1990, have breached, undermined or overtopped it, with heavy flooding along the A259 trunk road, the High Street and residential property. The 1987 hurricane fortunately coincided with low tide.

It further stands to reason that capital investment based on statistical forecasts <sup>alone</sup> will be utterly negated so long as local authorities and the Department of the Environment continue to permit marina developments (such as the Port of the Marina/housing project) which will impede the littoral drift, lead to beach starvation and further expose sea defences to a depth and volume of water they ~~are~~ <sup>cannot</sup> be calculated to withstand.

Yours sincerely

Linda René-Martin



Feb. 2016

TOP SECRET FAILURE

It was World War II, April 1944 and prior to the D-Day landings on the Omaha and Utah beaches in Normandy. Around Slapton Sands in Devon, American forces were carrying out land and seaborne exercises among then top-secret Tiger which met with a massive and devastating end.

Slapton Sands near Start Point in Devon fell within the Portland Sub-Command stretching east to St. Albans Head in Dorset. I was among the WRNS on watch in the Plotting Room Portland Naval Base where all surface movements, friendly or otherwise, were displayed on the Plotting Table and all reports either land-based or radah, were logged. Anything else, with no pre-signal, was suspect.

Totally unknown to Portland HQ, exercise Tiger had begun. In the lee of the land it was rounding Lyme Bay eastwards. No escorts to a string of barges loaded with hundreds of men and live ammunition as it transpired, too late. In the lee of the land the movement failed to come within radah range – 'wave clutter' it seemed, and it was too dark for the look-outs to note. Our only patrol vessels (as I remember) were to the east of Portland Bill yet the German E-Boats probably based in the Channel Islands, knew their targets. It was no random raid.

Log book before me, earphones on and pencil in hand two tracks were radah-reported heading due North till all Hell broke loose. Look-outs reporting huge explosions and flames, while shore batteries remained silent. More I cannot recall. Officers and ratings were stunned. The logbooks were scooped up and sent to Admiralty.

With daybreak the morning watch arrived with reports of chaos on the causeway between Wyke and Portland Naval Base --- transports bringing bodies to Portland Naval Hospital and to the mainland, and scenes of floating debris everywhere. Left in total ignorance of Exercise Tiger, Portland Naval HQ could only help to clear up the remains. Together with the nightwatch I was bussed back to Weymouth quarters, to breakfast and to close my eyes and sleep it off. I couldn't.

I shrank from entering the Plotting Room again. The futility of death beyond the call of conflict, was too sickening. I felt like becoming a conscientious objector but too much was at stake.

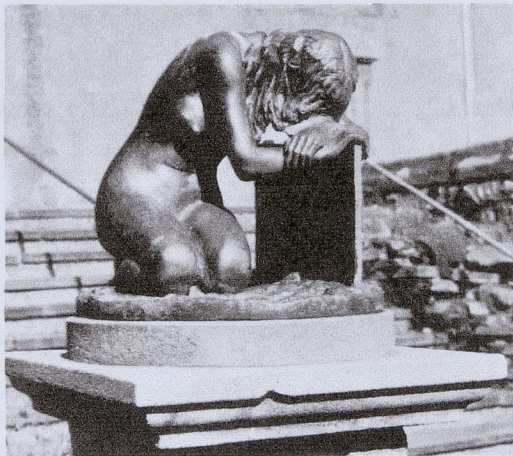
Many years later, around the early 60's I was working in Shell Chemical Co, while scanning the provincial press a report in a Dorset paper caught my eye. A group of people led by an American Admiral boated into Lyme Bay to scatter thirteen red roses.

Linda René-Martin

Leading Wren RITSON



# The Sandgate Society Greet you 50 years on



The words are taken from the old clock in Chester Cathedral:

When I was a child I laughed and wept  
Time crept  
When as a youth I dreamed and talked  
Time walked  
When I became a full grown man  
Time ran  
And later as I older grew  
Time flew  
Soon I shall find while travelling on  
Time gone  
Will Christ have saved my soul by then  
Amen?

*This statue once stood on a sundial by the steps to St Paul's Church, in memory of Digby Kenelm (Kt). It suffered badly from vandalism and is now in safekeeping. A copy in resin will replace it when funds allow. Contributions welcome.*

## Forever Sandgate

Here, ceaseless Enbrook meets a timeless sea,  
Near Castle, Church and Ilex tree  
And Wilberforce and HG Wells  
Live deep in village memory.  
A VC, too, among the dead  
Is writ on stone with pain and pride.  
Progress, now, among us dwells  
As Saga spells prosperity.

Martellos echo times gone by,  
Pebbles murmur with the tide  
Clear we hear the seagulls cry.  
Dawn and sunset paint the sky –  
But creeping concrete, loss of green  
Eat into our well-loved scene  
Hard as we defy.  
Though wind and waves are rarely still  
Sandgate survives and ever will

## What is Sandgate all about

Happy, we note the scene without  
What is Sandgate all about?  
Brick, ragstone, stucco as we pass  
And avant-gardish steel and glass  
Ship-lap sides and slated roof  
'Gainst salty seawinds weatherproof  
Sandgate a-whizz with bikes and jetskis  
Pubs on tap with beer and whiskies  
Sandgatte folk and Bleriot  
Enjoy its haunts and curios  
Coastal traffic speeds along  
Sadly, horse and tram long gone  
Oh deary me: but cheery me  
When blessed with woods and sky and sea  
Here's the Sandgate we love well  
Sometimes Heaven, sometimes hell  
Please forgive my doggerel

*Linda René-Martin, Founding Member 1962  
Coast Cottage, Sandgate*



# The Sandgate Society

The Old Fire Station  
51 High Street, Sandgate,  
Kent CT20 3AH  
email: sandgatesociety@uk2.net

Reply to:

Mrs J Potts – Secretary  
Edenvale 1B Byllan Road River Dover CT17 0QL  
Tel: 01304 826386

Mrs L Rene-Martin  
Coast Cottage  
149 Sandgate High Street  
Folkestone  
CT20 3DA

1 April 2003

Dear Linda

Thank you for your memo dated 18 March, which was read out at the committee meeting on 27 March.

The committee likes the idea of planting at Military Green, but fears that the practicalities of it are prohibitive. i.e. Who would pay for and carry out the initial work and who would maintain the area? \*

The committee did not agree with your comments about the Chairman's report and all agreed that it had been a good meeting. It was noted however that the general consensus on the evening was that members would have liked a printed copy of the report and the previous year's minutes and this will be borne in mind next year.

Regarding planning matters, the committee was of the opinion that with so much to report at the AGM a full report of the year's applications would take too long and all planning matters are fully reported in the monthly minutes for members to check if they wish.

Thank you for the kind comments about the notepaper.

Yours sincerely

*Jeannette*

Secretary

\* Note maintained by Shepway,  
Mr. McCreedy Parks & Gardens  
Expense negligible



To the Chairman, The Sandgate Society for Committee Meeting 20 March 2003

Date 18 March 2003

From Mrs L. Rene-Martin

Subject: Military Green

In the interests of adding a 'continental style vibrancy' to the village is it not time to enhance the Green with colourful plants such as Hollyhocks, or Hydrangeas as many people have advocated? Now is the time for plantings.

Subject Annual Report

I did not want to 'rock the boat' at the AGM but I felt that the Chairman's report was deficient in many ways.

1. In regard to the Jubilee Celebrations it failed to give due emphasis to the very many bodies, societies, traders etc, who jointly combined through 'The Sandgate Jubilee Committee' to make that celebratory weekend such a wonderful success. Especially I would single out the work of Ruth Dixon and her helpers. The money donated by the Society was, of course, to that Committee along with help from others.

2 Planning Matters: One of the prime functions of the Society, for which it was formed 40 years ago, relates to planning matters, new developments as they affect our special environment.

I would have welcomed a break-down to show how many such applications were received; how many were considered; how many attracted objections or amendments; and with what results. This should be basic practice with any amenity or civic society and I can point to the St. John's Wood Society (London) to which I belong.

I fully realise that our Chairman is a very busy man professionally speaking. With all due respects, however, there is another member of Committee who should be qualified to give him much more support, on this vital issue.

- - - - -

Thank you for the supply of Sandgate Society notepaper for my official correspondence relative to the forthcoming Public Inquiry Shepway District Plan. It is very pleasing in its simplicity.

*Linda Rene-Martin*  
Linda Rene-Martin

MRS L. RENE-MARTIN  
COAST COTTAGE  
143 SANDGATE HIGH STREET  
NEAR FOLKESTONE  
KENT CT20 3DA



# The Sandgate Society

Reply to:

Ho 11  
The Old Fire Station  
51 High Street, Sandgate,  
Kent CT20 3AH  
email: sandgatesociety@uk2.net

Mrs L. René-Martin  
Coast Cottage, Sandgate, CT20 3DA

23.04.03.

## SHEPWAY DISTRICT LOCAL PLAN REVIEW – Public Local Inquiry

### Objector:

No. 724      Mrs Linda René-Martin, founding member of The Sandgate Society 1962  
(Membership approx. 440)

Author: "SANDGATE - Rise and Progress of a Village" (1998)  
"SANDGATE - Byways and Landmarks" – Tourist Folder 2002

Policy No.      HO 11

1. In Sandgate it is widely recognised, that already there is a critical shortage of residential parking space.
2. The only two public car parks, adjacent to Wilberforce Road and Martello Terrace are inadequate and no more sites are available. Visitors often cannot find space and this also affects trade.
3. This policy recognises that sub-division of properties in Wilberforce Road and The Crescent, Sandgate, could increase the present pressure on off-street parking. We agree.
4. To this list, we request the addition of:
  - a. Castle Road and
  - b. Radnor Cliff Crescent

NOTE: Since December 2001, new development is already taking place in Gough Road.  
(no longer relevant).

Witness statement  
attached





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*

From Coast Cottage  
149 Sandgate High Street.  
17 July 1984

Dear Muriel,

\*

A letter postmarked dear old 'Dorch' -- whoever could it be I wondered? Then I opened it to find your most generous donation, coupled with ~~your~~ appreciation for our efforts, and a most attractive offer of help. Thank you, on behalf of the Trust, for all three!

A poetry and prose reading in your voice would fill the old Reading Room (both audience and acoustic-wise) most beautifully. Actually, after two years of uphill slog, I rather intend to take a back seat for a bit, helping where I can. I'd love to help organise your reading whenever you think you'll be around for a while -- maybe in the Xmas season. Let's talk about it when you next come down.

All the best to you and Irene, and many many thanks again for your generosity and interest.

Yours

*Linda*

*The dinner netted  
£265 for the Fund!*

PROPRIETORS: Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd., (1645228)  
REGISTERED OFFICE: 82 Sandgate High Street, Kent, CT20 3BX  
U. K. Charity Reg. No. 287281.

\* A tea-time haunt in my  
WRNS starved days.



**WHEN evening falls on crest hung walls, Don't barbeque  
the baron on his beach we do beseech.**

**Beware dear folk, a gust of smoke**

**A juicy whiff may cause a tiff.**

**Beware the cannons ready on his roof**

**What castle ancient rights doth he invoke**

**What proof is there that Sandgate folk may not have fun**

**Without reproof ?**

**We do beseech the only non-dom pebble on the beech.**

**L. Rene Martin, Sandgate**



## D-DAY REMEMBERED

A Wrens eye view from the Plotting Room, Portland

---

Zoom. Wave after wave of bombers, airborne troops, parachute regiments and gliders in tow topped the peaceful Dorset hills and coastline in the last rays of double summer time. Briefly flashing their red-green recognition signals, they were heading for enemy occupied France. Operation OVERLORD had started.

The zoom could be heard in the Operations Room deep below ground. Admiral Swabey scrambled up the stairs, flung his braided cap in the air and cried ~~we are~~ 'we're off'.

The climax to years of Allied planning in top secrecy, utmost ingenuity and detail had just begun. At great personal sacrifice the onslaught was aimed to defeat the greatest evil that could have overwhelmed the world, west to east. ~~We knew.~~ Freedom, justice, democracy was at stake, we knew.

But the wind had got up, the waves had got up, as we had cause to see. It was a now or never top decision to give the signal to go.

In our case it was directed to the Omaha and Utah beaches for Portland was an U.S. Naval Base with battleships Arkansas and Tuscaloosa and a mighty amphibious force lying in wait.

For a handful of WRNS plotters, bussed across the causeway, on night watch, all we could do was sit around an empty plotting table as empty as Weymouth Bay since the armada had sailed. Cues at the idle, radar and radio signals shut down. Only water boat Turtle chugged across the harbour,



nothing left to fill.

In the tense silence came no word of the hell that was raging in the dark and bloody beyond. All we could do was wonder and wait and make cocoa. The "longest day" had begun.

© Linda René-Martin.  
(formerly Leading Wren Ritson  
H.M.S. Boscawen) now 93  $\frac{1}{2}$  yrs old.



Mrs. L. René-Martin, Coast Cottage, 149 Sandgate High Street, Folkestone, Kent.

---

LINDA RENÉ-MARTIN first came in 1932 to Sandgate, where her Grandfather had bought a Coastguard Cottage, and she has great memories of the pre-war Sandgate of her youth. When war came, her natural choice of service was the Navy, serving as a Leading-wren Plotter in the Operations room at Portland and tracked the D-Day armada in that area.

After the war, her interest in fine printing was encouraged by Oliver Simon at the Curwen Press, and later at Chatto Windus, noted for its fine book production. After a tragically short marriage to a Frenchman, she was left a widow, but stayed on in France to work for United Nations Children's Fund. Since her return to England in 1957, she has worked for HMSO; as Production Editor of Shell Aviation News, and is now Production Manager in the Scientific Publications Dept. of The Zoological Society of London.

Mrs. René-Martin spends as much time in Sandgate as a working life permits, and has taken a very close interest in local affairs affecting the well-being and character of Sandgate. She has also uncovered much vital information concerning Encombe.

She is still a keen tennis player, and used to play as a junior in the Folkestone and Hythe tennis tournaments, and also belonged to the old Hythe Golf Club.



16

Mrs Rene Martin  
The old Coastguard Station  
Sandgate

Barry Feldman  
Woodworks Designs  
Providence Chapel  
Mill Lane Easry  
CT13 0JS  
01304-611395

Monday, 05 October 2009

**ESTIMATE**

For making H G Wells Bench in hard wood

Materials 10 cubic Feet of seasoned hardwood @ £40.00 a cube.	£400.00
Finnish	£100.00
Labour	£2000.00

**TOTAL    £2,500**

Engraving as specified		
H G Wells Resident of Sandgate <del>1809</del> <sup>1898-1909</sup> <del>1818</del>		
Metal work for legs sighting and fitting		
	by Quin →	£225
	Hollick	£300
	Separate payment	
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b><u>£3025</u></b>

Terms 50% in advance and 50% on completion.

Cheques made payable to Barry Feldman



## NEWS EXTRA

NEW MEMBERS: We welcome Lynda Taylor, Matthew Johnson, Mr. & Mrs. Dartnall, and Mr. D. P. Fuller.

DEATHS: We regret to record the deaths of Miss Laura Williams and Councillor Kelland Bowden, who was an indefatigable supporter of Sandgate. It is with regret that we record the death, in the Royal Victoria Hospital on 8th November, of our dear Molly Hornsby. She will be sorely missed. For many years she gave great support to the Sandgate Society, of which she was Vice-Chairman. Her creative skills produced the delightful lecture posters which were so admired. Despite her suffering she was determined to draw her final poster for the meeting on the 14th November. (G.C.E.).

### CONGRATULATIONS TO:

1. Howard Godfrey on his return to the antique business in Sandgate High Street as a neighbour to the Old Fire Station.
2. Traders and residents who are improving the appearance of Sandgate with renovations, decorations, and attractive window displays.
3. Mr. & Mrs. R. West of the Clarendon Inn on Brewer's Hill for winning the second prize for the best-kept pub in the Folkestone area in the Mayor's Civic Pride Award scheme.
4. The McGregor family for the reconstruction of the historic Fleur-de-Lys (latterly the Saga Sports Club) to provide a picture gallery (local artists come forward!) and the Boleyn Restaurant.
5. Eric Maddison and Jessie van Dongen for the trouble they and their associates are taking to ensure that the interests of Sandgate residents are paramount in the arrangements proposed for the Chichester Hall to acquire the status of a Village Hall.

### TOWN MAYOR OF FOLKESTONE'S CIVIC PRIDE AWARD 1990

The Shield for the restoration of a site/building, sponsored by the Sandgate Society, was won by the Old "White's of Kent" Store Conservatory Design Centre.

### SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

Subscriptions for next year are due on 1st January 1991. Please pay them without waiting for any further reminder. Rates are: Single: £3.50 Couple: £5.00 Family: £5.50.

### OLD FIRE STATION

Coffee and biscuits are available in the Old Fire Station on Saturday mornings from 10.30 to 12.30. There is also a selection of paper-back and hard-cover books for sale. Further contributions of books are welcome. On 1st December there will be a special service of cream scones with fruit. Please make a note in your calendar of this date.

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Your Chairman, Geoffrey Edmunds, and your Committee wish you a Happy Christmas and Good Health and Prosperity in 1991.



### ARCHIVES

We are gradually piecing together the parts which make the Sandgate jigsaw. Work continues, albeit at a slow pace, in sorting and recording the Society's archives.

Over the past year a number of items have been donated to the Society, including Architect's drawings of recent renovation projects, and some interesting photographs taken during restoration work on Sandgate Castle. I would like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to kind benefactors and to appeal to any of you who may have items relating to Sandgate, past or present, to consider donating these to the Society where they will be cherished and kept safely for all to enjoy.

Mr. Paul Smith,  
6 Wellington Terrace, The Esplanade, Sandgate.

### REPORT OF PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE TO A.G.M. 14.3.90.

I re-read my report to this Annual General Meeting last year, and have to say that the pressure on time which I reported then, has certainly not abated. However, the number of planning applications which we have inspected this year has appeared to have reduced. I say appeared, because among the problems which we are experiencing on the P.S.C. is keeping the record of applications up-to-date. And that is an appeal for assistance, yet again!

At the time of last year's A.G.M., the details for Enbrook House, (Saga site), had not been finalised, although since then, not only have the details been approved, but the access has been installed, and Kent House has been converted, and the houses are on the market. We hear that Wimpey (the developer) has pulled off the site, but have no definite details of this. In today's depressed housing climate, that is not really surprising.

The planning embargo resulting from the land stabilisation scheme at Encombe is still having its effect, and no plans have been inspected for that end of our area.

\* Major plans which have been approved lately are the redevelopment of the Amoco filling station site, and the Old Chapel site in Wilberforce Road, both of which are unlikely to proceed in the foreseeable future, also because of the current market.

We are in correspondence with the planning office regarding "permitted development" in Conservation Areas, and regarding control of illuminated signs, which seem to be proliferating, some without consent.

I have recently received a copy of the Folkestone/Hythe Local Plan draft and this will be studied closely at our next Committee Meeting.

I would be pleased to answer any questions on planning matters, after the meeting, and particularly to talk to anyone with an interest in helping the essential work of the sub-committee, currently just John Cutmore and myself.

Roger A. Joyce, Dip.Arch. R.I.B.A.  
Stowting Court Barn,  
Stowting,  
Ashford, Kent.

Roger Joyce the designer of BOTH



AGM

9 March 2000

The Sandgate Society's AGM - To Whom It May Concern

=====

Immediately following the AGM I wrote some notes about the proceedings as follows. This was before Roy Brightman arrived on my doorstep with a letter of resignation and files about current Society issues:

1. It proved to be a very unhappy meeting, threatening the rest of the year with dissension. Some members would have liked a more familiar style of meeting, with reports being given on run-of-the-mill issues like footpaths, tree preservation and development projects, followed by named proposers and seconders of motions to adopt the report and accounts. This however was unimportant against what followed. Initially I felt honoured to be elected President - a procedure which was break with precedent for the Society, and one I had long advocated. What happened immediately after made me doubt the wisdom of such changes.

2. The Chairmanship: It was unfortunate that my praise of the past year's achievements, and especially of the Chairman's personal achievements, should have then encouraged him to tell the meeting that he thought the Society should be run like a business with (I forget the exact words) a Managing Director, and then ask the meeting for a mandate to continue in the same way. This was particularly unfortunate when the downside of the past year has been very abrasive Committee meetings, culminating I am told in the Chairman walking out of the last Committee meeting before it ended. He also appeared to be asking the AGM to re-elect him as Chairman, when constitutionally it is for the first Committee meeting after the AGM to elect their Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer.

[See attached]

As I said above, I have always favoured the members electing a properly nominated Chairman rather than leaving it to the Committee - whose long-standing members have usually agreed in advance among themselves on who the Chairman should be, having identified someone who was willing to take the job on. But to have the retiring Chairman seeking "a mandate" which he could then wave over the heads of the new Committee to appeared to me likely to make consensus decisions by the Committee quite impossible and lay the foundations for a continuation of abrasive meetings. Hence my intervention to that effect which appeared to win support from apprehensive Committee members.

3. The Saga Licences. The strength of feeling of those members living around the Saga grounds came as a surprise to those of us living further away. These members had suffered from the noise of past Saga events in the new Pavilion, and clearly had reasons for objection that the rest of us had to recognise by opposing Saga's desire for a blanket licence allowing them to stage whatever events they wish. Personally I regretted that there was little or no recognition of the benefits Saga has brought to Sandgate from a cultural



and social point of view, and especially of the facilities and support Saga has provided for the Society. In this case it must be said that the Chairman handled a difficult situation superbly well. Clearly Saga is much bigger than the Society, and if the two are to live at loggerheads, there is not much doubt about who will win!

3. It was unfortunate that of Sandgate's three Shepway Councillors, only Cllr Boot, the newest of them, was able to attend. Members' past campaigns for a stricter speed limit through Sandgate, coupled with the need to find solutions to the problem of what to do about the proposed cycle track, were brushed aside by Mr Boot, who has lived in Sandgate, he said, for about one year. He himself said he wished to drive along Sandgate Esplanade at 30 mph, and that was that. He also projected what seems to be the newly-formed official view - which happily coincides with reducing costs - that beach-grading was best not done too often. This conflicts with past assurances that there is a special fund allocated for regular beach grading, to ensure that the effects of the past expensive dowelling and beach replenishment are not frittered away.

On the long and difficult issue of the small car park on land promised by Saga, he hinted that something was happening, but it was "sub judice" - in other words, Sandgate residents would be informed when something was decided, not kept in the picture about possibilities as in the past.

Finally there was the surprise news (to some of us at any rate) that local "wardens" are to be appointed by Shepway, with vague powers to impose fines on car parkers - the money thus raised to be used for even vaguer purposes. Control of jet-skiers was mentioned. Removal of some yellow lines was suggested, the resulting additional parking to act as "traffic calming" by increasing car congestion. A good idea, but likely to clash with the duties of the new wardens by inhibiting their fund-raising potential.

My impression of our new Councillor was that he has little knowledge of local issues and ambitions, and is not likely to be very sympathetic or helpful about them.

**THE CHAIRMAN'S RESIGNATION** I had already written these notes when Roy arrived on my doorstep next morning with a letter of resignation (copy attached) and current files, which I was reluctant to accept.

Undoubtedly the Society will be much poorer for his loss, but it may well mean that its affairs can now be conducted in a less contentious atmosphere. At the moment, inevitably, I would gladly join Roy in a disappearing act and wish I had been on holiday last night. But as a reluctant President I will do what I can to help.



NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Your voting number is \_\_\_\_\_

Your Polling Station is \_\_\_\_\_

BJ.1 Kent House, Grimston Avenue Entrance  
 BJ.2 Chichester Hall, Sandgate High Street.

BJ.3 St. George's Hall, Audley Road, Folkestone  
 BJ.4 All Soul's School, Stanley Road, Cheriton

**MAY 7<sup>th</sup>**  
 8 am-9pm

# SANDGATE UNITE

## VOTE RENÉ-MARTIN

### INDEPENDENT

My grandfather came to live on the Coastguard 38 years ago. I have known Sandgate since childhood, and have seen the village undergo many changes — not always for the best. Through many crises, such as Landslip in 1893, the shattered sea defences in 1948 and 1952, the proposed 10-storey monstrosity on the site of the Royal Kent Hotel in 1962, earth movement in 1966, Sandgate people have always stood together and worked for their common good.

Formerly an Urban District Council, in 1934 Sandgate was swallowed up in the Borough of Folkestone. Since then we have become Folkestone's forgotten colony, paying our rates but receiving little bonus in return. We have been brushed aside for too long, and our three Ward Representatives are committed to a Party instead of to a village and its new suburbs.

The Sandgate Society\* has chosen me to be the Independent Candidate knowing that I can devote the necessary time, and that I have the interests and welfare of Sandgate people at heart. **I know I may count on your support.**

#### 1. Sandgate is a village-not just a ward

Our common interest is that Sandgate should prosper while retaining its unique village character, and with it the kind and friendly atmosphere that that draws us all to Sandgate.

The village deserves all consideration in European Conservation Year, as in any other year, to protect it from ruthless exploitation and bad planning. Good development, on the lines of the 1963 Tweddell Report, is welcome.

#### 2. Sandgate's fight against erosion

Sandgate is constantly exposed to a) Erosion by the sea; also the threat of sewage pollution. b) Erosion by earth movement and inadequate land drainage. c) Erosion by neglect. d) Erosion from noise and vibration of heavy thru' traffic. e) Erosion by land speculators and by irresponsible planning decisions. I live in Sandgate and know the facts

#### 3. Sandgate needs vigilance

The Sandgate Society, formed 8 years ago, has never relaxed its vigilance where local amenities and environment are concerned. It has proved an effective pressure group at Council level (and at Whitehall level) in matters of urgency such as earth movement in West Sandgate. As a prime mover in this campaign I uncovered much vital information and was the first to contact our Conservative M.P.

Sandgate needs vigilance over rates expenditure. Are the priorities right?

#### 4. Sandgate needs prosperity

Sandgate is a haven for boatmen, fishermen and the family seeking a quiet seaside holiday. Sandgate is very much a part of Folkestone's attractions. The village should also forge closer links with its new suburbs, and not lose trade to distant supermarkets.

#### 5. Sandgate needs REAL representation

Local affairs should be above Party Politics and sectional interest. Sandgate's far-flung ward, from Shorncliffe in the north to the Leas on the east, is represented collectively by 3 councillors. Make sure ONE at least has long associations with Sandgate and will uphold **everyone's** interests — particularly those who are ISOLATED from village life in Golden Valley and over the Camp

#### 6. SANDGATE NEEDS RENÉ-MARTIN



Sponsors: Sir Dudley Bowater Bt. of Encombe and Mr. John H. Kingham of Sandgate Dairies.

**Linda RENÉ-MARTIN**  
 cares about  
**SANDGATE**  
 will listen to  
**SANDGATE**  
 will speak for  
**SANDGATE**

**Linda RENÉ-MARTIN** (widow) born 1920: Family resident on Coastguard since 1932. War service as Leading Wren Plotter on Portland; worked as Information Officer for UNICEF in Paris, and for UN 11th General Assembly, New York. First woman to join HMSO's design team. Later became Production Editor Shell Aviation News; now Production Manager for Scientific Publications, The Zoological Society of London. **Interests:** Kent countryside, music, cooking, travel. **Sports:** squash, tennis, swimming.

\*Affiliated to The Civic Trust, The Committee for the Preservation of Rural Kent and Kent Federation of Amenities Societies.



## SANDGATE UNITE

VOTE RENE-MARTIN ON 7th MAY

THE SANDGATE SOCIETY CHOICE OF INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE

SPONSORS : Sir Dudley Bowater, Bt. of Encombe and  
John H. Kingham, Sandgate Dairies

Linda RENE-MARTIN (widow) born 1920: Family resident on Coastguard since 1932. War Service as Leading Wren Plotter in Portland Operations Room. Worked as Information Officer for United Nations Children's Fund in Paris and for United Nations 11th General Assembly in New York. In 1957 was the first woman to join HMSO's design section, redesigning Government Publications. Later became Production Editor Shell Aviation News; now Production Manager, Scientific Publications, The Zoological Society of London. Interests : Kent countryside, reading, cooking, travel. Sports: Squash tennis swimming.

My grandfather came to live on Coastguard 38 years ago. I have known Sandgate since childhood and have seen the village undergo many changes - not always for the best. Through many crises, such as landslip in 1893, the shattered sea defences in 1948 and 1952, the proposed 10-storey monstrosity on the site of the Royal Kent Hotel in 1962, earth movement in 1966, Sandgate people have always stuck together and worked for their common good.

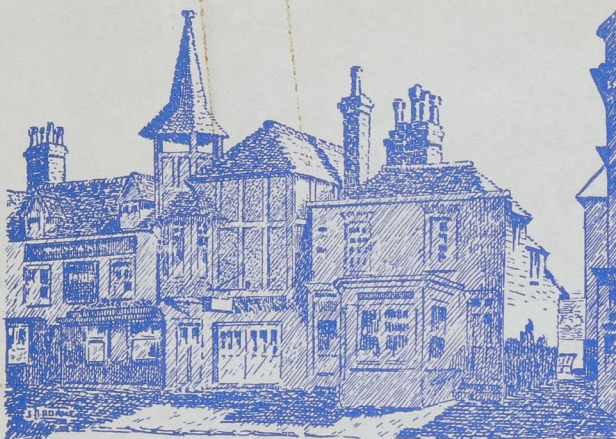
Formerly an Urban District Council, in 1934 Sandgate was swallowed up in the Borough of Folkestone. Since then we have become Folkestone's forgotten colony, paying our rates but receiving little bonus in return. We have been brushed aside for too long and our three Ward Representatives on the council are committed to a Party instead of to a village and its new suburbs.

The Sandgate Society\* has chosen me to be the Independent Candidate knowing that I can devote the necessary time and that I have the interests and welfare of Sandgate people at heart. I know I may count on your support.

\* affiliated to the Civic Trust, the Committee for the Preservation of Rural Kent, and Kent Federation of Amenity Societies.

Published by the SANDGATE SOCIETY





# THE SANDGATE SOCIETY

*Affiliated to:—*

*Kent Federation of Amenity Societies  
Committee for the Preservation of Rural Kent  
The Civic Trust*

---

Hon. Treasurer

Mr. A.C. Penfold

Chairman

Mrs. R.E. Greenwall.

Hon. Secretary

Mrs. M.L. Lachlan

## FOR INFORMATION

PRESENTATION OF BENCH, corner of Wilberforce Road/Sandgate High Street,  
by MRS. LINDA RENE-MARTIN, to SANDGATE, at 12 noon, on FRIDAY,  
4th JULY, 1975, European Architectural Heritage Year; officers of  
SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL WILL FORMALLY ACCEPT THIS GIFT,  
arrangements having been made by the AMENITIES OFFICER, MR. D. THOMAS.

-----

### MRS. LINDA RENE-MARTIN - biographical notes:

Family resident in Sandgate since 1932.  
War Service as Leading Wren Plotter on Portland.  
Worked as Information Officer for UNICEF in Paris, and for  
UN 11th General Assembly, New York.  
First woman to join HMSO's design team.  
Later became Production Editor, Shell Aviation News.  
Later, Production Manager for Scientific Publications, The Zoological  
Society of London.  
Keenly interested in Kent countryside, music, cooking, travel.  
Contributor to the Daily Telegraph, Country Life, Kent Life and other  
publications.  
Recently prepared and gave Talk on Letters from Sandgate, 1790-1830,  
to fascinated audience of the Sandgate Society and guests.  
Now married to Dr. Jack Grobstein, medical practitioner, and living  
in New York, U.S.



# BOROUGH COUNCIL ELECTION

BOROUGH OF FOLKESTONE

SANDGATE WARD

Day of Poll Seventh May 1970

## DECLARATION OF SECRECY.

I SOLEMNLY PROMISE AND DECLARE, that I will not at this Election for the Sandgate Ward of the Municipal Borough of Folkestone do anything forbidden by sub-sections (1), (2), (3) and (6) of Section 53 of the Representation of the People Act, 1949, which have been read to me.

(Signed) Linda Estelle Renee-Martin

Taken before me this 2nd day of May, 1970

(Signed) Joe Moneff

*Returning Officer or Justice of the Peace.*

NOTE.—The provisions must be read to the Declarant before making the Declaration.

## REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE ACT, 1949.

Section 53, sub-sections (1), (2), (3) and (6).

- (1) The following persons, that is to say—
- (a) every returning officer and every presiding officer or clerk attending at a polling station ;
  - (b) every candidate or election agent or polling agent so attending ;
- shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not, except for some purpose authorised by law, communicate to any person before the poll is closed any information as to—
- (i) the name of any elector or proxy for an elector who has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station ;
  - (ii) the number on the register of electors of any elector who, or whose proxy, has or has not applied for a ballot paper or voted at a polling station ; or
  - (iii) the official mark.
- (2) Every person attending at the counting of the votes shall maintain and aid in maintaining the secrecy of voting and shall not—
- (a) ascertain or attempt to ascertain at the counting of the votes the number on the back of any ballot paper ;
  - (b) communicate any information obtained at the counting of the votes as to the candidate for whom any vote is given on any particular ballot paper.
- (3) No person whosoever shall—
- (a) interfere with or attempt to interfere with a voter when recording his vote ;
  - (b) otherwise obtain or attempt to obtain in a polling station information as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted ;
  - (c) communicate at any time to any person any information obtained in a polling station as to the candidate for whom a voter in that station is about to vote or has voted, or as to the number on the back of the ballot paper given to a voter at that station ;
  - (d) directly or indirectly induce a voter to display his ballot paper after he has marked it so as to make known to any person the name of the candidate for whom he has or has not voted.
- (6) If any person acts in contravention of this section he shall be liable on summary conviction to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months.



4 November 2007

The Editor, Letters Page  
The Folkestone Herald  
Westcliffe Terrace, Folkestone

Dear Letters Editor

SANDGATE PRINCIPALITY

Apparently the harworking Sandgate Parish Council intends to publish a Bulletin to be entitled The Principality which may also raise us a notch or two in the 'food chain' in Chairman's Boot's vocabulary.

My thoughts are appended, before it is too late.

With thanks for your usual consideration

Yours sincerely

(Mrs) Linda Rene-Martin

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

We Sandgate folk enjoy a joke

The title Principality

A coat of arms might boost our charms

A Prince could spell totality

But read the book, it's called The Prince

A work by Machiavelli

Freedom's a fate that lies in wait

Steer clear of whimsicality

The nickname's just a jest at best

Let Freedom be our watchword

May Sandgate ever win each test

With faith in factuality

L. Rene-Martin

Coast Cottage, Sandgate



S.T. Lusted  
67 Chesterton Road,  
Spondon,  
DERBY  
DE21 7EP

☎ 01332 673488

13th June 1999.

Mrs. Linda René-Martin,  
Coast Cottage,  
Sandgate, Kent.  
CT20 3DA

Dear Linda,

07  
Congratulations on your publication of "Rise and Progress of a Village" which I had sent to me soon after release. Although I cannot claim great knowledge of Sandgate, I was born there, in the nursing home below the Beavan, brought into the world by Doctor "Jacko" Bradbury on 17th June 1928. My parents were married at St. Paul's 17th October 1925, and lived for a while in Seymour Villas, before moving to Seabrook. My wife and I did live in Benenden Cottage, Castle Road for a couple of years, but my memories of Sandgate are mostly connected with my maternal grandparents, by the name of Cantwell. They lived at Corunna No. 66 High Street. This was part of the old Siddons Brewery. My grandfather died when I was young but I do remember him. He was the son of one of the military tailors who moved into the district when the Shorncliffe Camp was in its heyday. He appears on the 1881 census living at 4 Granville Road (sic) as apprentice (13) to his father. After his death my grandmother moved to 116 High Street, at the bottom of Wilberforce Road, but during the war, she moved in with my parents and family in Morehall.

My father was Secretary to the Sandgate Mens' Club for many, many years, taking over from Fred Couchman, who was a printer in Sandgate High Street. He was also Secretary to the James Morris Dwellings for their last decade. He was also a clerk at Sandgate Railway Station until it closed. My mother returned to work in her late 50s at Bridgeland's grocery stores, the same shop where she had worked as a girl for Mr. Batchelor, and where one of her first tasks was to take some forgotten groceries to H. G. Wells at Spade House..

Going back further my mother's aunt Polly (? real name Mary Ellen) was in service with R. J. Fynmore and later became cook to General Hankey, a name that meant nothing to me until I read your book. My uncle George the third tailor generation, always made Miss Fynmore's winter tweed and summer serge suits.

I remember seeing a very young Kay De Vere accompanied by her father on violin, playing what must have been her first piano performance at the Sandgate cinema when I was a young boy. Her mother issued the tickets.

I am enclosing a cheque to further your good work, and hope to visit your H.Q at the old fire station on Saturday 23rd October if it is open. In the meantime will you please forward me a membership form for The Sandgate Society, and also if you can, one for the Seabrook Society, where I lived until I was nine.

*Syd Lusted*

\* now Dolphin House, No 117 High St





The Rev.  
Edward Muirhead Evans, M.A.

**V**ICAR of Ilkeston, was born in London on January 19th, 1849, and is the son of Mr. E. Pritchard Evans, of Tintern House, Primrose Hill, Regent's Park, N.W. His father is a J.P. for Middlesex, and was for many years a partner in the old banking firm of Messrs. Child and Co., Temple Bar, London. The Vicar was educated at King's College School, London, where he proceeded to the Associateship of the General Literature and Science Department of the College. He was afterwards entered at the College of Corpus Christi and B.V.M. in the University of Cambridge, where he gained the B.A. degree in 1871, coming out in theology. Three years later he received the M.A. degree. He was ordained Deacon by the Lord Bishop of Oxford, in the Parish Church of Waddesden, Bucks., where he held his first and only curacy. He took Priests' Orders at Cuddesden Parish Church in 1872, and in 1876 was presented to the living of Ratley-with-Upton, Warwickshire, by the then Lord Chancellor (Lord Cairns), on the recommendation of the present Earl of Jersey. In this parish was fought the famous battle of Edge Hill, in 1642, between the Royalists and Parliamentarians. In 1881, on the invitation of the Vicar of Folkestone, Kent, Mr. Evans accepted the charge of the larger and more important parish of Sandgate, and during his stay there restored and improved the Church, and brought the schools into excellent order. On the 1st of May, 1887, he was instituted to the living of St. Mary's, Ilkeston, on the presentation of the Duke of Rutland, K.G. Mr. Evans has left all the places he has served with some beautiful presents and testimonials from the parishioners. He was married, in 1879, to Sarah Louisa, eldest daughter of the Rev. Charles Hill, M.A., Rector of Culworth, Northamptonshire.



Rev. E. M. Evans.



BYRON !

Derek St.Clair-Stannard

My dear Linda

18.7.99

It was lovely hearing from you this morning and to read your comments about the latest Sandgate Society Newsletter. I'm afraid Reg Turnill misread my letter to Ann Nevill which she passed to him. Byron was born in a flat in Holles Street in 1788, where now John Lewis is; and the family lived there for a while. Then the household left Holles Street, destination unknown, For the next year there was no trace of them. Benita Eisler in her book goes on to say: "Then, in early August 1789, Jack Byron reappears in a rented house on (sic) the grounds of Sandgate castle, in Folkestone, Kent. From there he made brief trips to the coast of France. A longer junket across the Channel proved ill-advised; no sooner had Jack set foot on French soil than he became close to being imprisoned for debt" The poet did not come to Sandgate as Reg says, only his reprobate of a father.

Frances Byron Leigh, an expatriate general's wife was, indeed, Captain John ("Jack") Byron's sister and, therefore, the sister-in-law of Catherine Gordon Gight, the poet's mother. Frances, better known as "Fanny", had regularly supplemented Catherine's handouts with her own pin money. In September 1790, with the money<sup>he</sup> had wheedled from his wife, Jack left Britain for good, joining his sister Fanny in Valenciennes, France. The Leigh household there could not have been more congenial to the wayward brother. The general having departed, his lady consoled herself with assorted gallants found in the circles of tarts and actresses in the local theatre. Jack joined this circle too. "Between assignations with others" writes Eisler, "Jack Byron and his sister Fanny became lovers". Fanny then departed to England, living in 30 Brompton Road, much to Jack's chagrin. In 1791 he knew he was dying and wrote to his sister saying so. This time she rushed to his bedside in Valenciennes "On July 21, in the presence of two notaries, he dictated his will. He named Fanny his executrix, leaving her the £500 he still believed he would inherit from his mother. To his wife he bequeathed nothing, but to his three-year-old son, George Gordon (later Lord Byron) he left the responsibility of paying off his debts and expenses of his funeral." He died on August 2, 1791, aged 36. Byron never knew his father..

I hope this gives you a bit more to go on. It's curious, though, to know that Augusta Byron, the poet's half-sister, married a profligate Colonel Leigh. As Augusta Leigh having given birth to several children, she became Byron's mistress - or so they say. How history repeats itself with two instances of incest in the family.

I feel I must tell you that your little book. *Rise and Progress of a Village* is a great example to those considering writing similar histories of their towns and villages. I've read it very carefully and I am amazed at the amount of knowledge of Sandgate that you have acquired. It really is a revelation and is so interesting even, I guess, to those who may never have heard of the place! It is also so well produced. What can we do to boost sales? Who is the local MP? Can't we get him or her to draw attention to it on a suitable occasion so that it gets reported in the local Press? Or some other VIP may oblige.

Incidentally, do you have any information of "Connema" or Conamer" I don't know how it was spelt. It was a girl's school which my sister Joyce attended and where I was a pupil in the kindergaarten for a short while. Its location was on The Riviera off the Castle Road and was a pretty big Victorian pile. Ann sends her love.

*Derek*

The Priory, 33 Church Street, Godalming, Surrey, GU7 1EL Tel/Fax 01483 420961

P.S. Hope to visit Canterbury for crick festival week beginning Aug. 4th - 8th  
So hope to see you.

P.T.O.



"Cavenna" there was, and still is, a  
little wooden cottage which, in the 20s & 30s, used  
to be owned by the tennis professional at  
Folkestone Tennis Club in, I think, the Pleasure gardens.

It was a smuggler's den for there was an  
underground passage which was  
thrilling for children to explore. I remember it well

~



Until 1770,  
For centuries  
Sandgate was little more than an ancient stronghold and a few dwellings.  
Then in 1770, Fabian Claydon Wilson obtained leases of waste and beachy ground  
from the Earl of Radnor, and with other shipbuilders notably Phineas  
Jacobs and Stewart and Hall, began furnishing sloops and frigates to H.M.  
Navy. Their solid houses and cottages are an ornament to Sandgate today  
with their simple lines and typical Kent weatherboarding. After the  
hammering in the navy-yards, came a hammering of barracks. By 1794  
Shorncliffe Camp was established on the heights above Sandgate, and there  
new methods of infantry drill and training prepared the famous 43rd, 52nd  
and 95th regiments for feats of valour in the Peninsula Wars and at Waterloo.  
On the heels of the army came the families of rank and consequence, seeking  
in Sandgate comfortable lodgings, pleasant diversions and handsome escorts  
for their daughters.

The pressures on Sandgate in those early days were great. In addition  
to the maritime and military needs, came the medicos with their newly-  
discovered benefits of seabathing, which was quite the fashion. 'I have  
bathed four times' wrote Sarah Siddons to Lady Harcourt in August 1790 'and  
I believe I shall persevere, for Sir Lucas Pepys says my disease is entirely  
nervous', Sir Lucas being Physician Extraordinary to George III since 1777.

Other worthy sufferers, whether from nervous disorders, or complaints  
arising from debility were soon to be attracted to Sandgate with its tranquil  
air, saline breezes, and a marine plant peculiar to the neighbourhood said  
to be applied with almost unvaried success in scrofulous affections. Spring  
waters of exceptional purity flowed from the hillside.

~~xxxxxx~~ At the end of July 1812, William Wilberforce the great Evangelical  
and Slave Abolitionist reached Sandgate to find his wife Barbara his wife,  
and their six children awaiting him. It was to be the first of four long  
visits, and the road that bears his name today is as much a tribute to his  
influence on Sandgate life, as to his presence.

Those first three months at Sandgate were at times for physical and  
spiritual refreshment, a time for family life and friends, for tackling an  
enormous correspondence, for reading, meditation and the enjoyment of nature.  
His Hope of Quiet, <sup>was not to be</sup> however, ~~as~~ <sup>when</sup> wind of the impending dissolution of  
Parliament reached Sandgate that September. Wilberforce, ~~was~~ <sup>was</sup> then 53, his  
already frail health much weakened by his public and parliamentary exertions.  
After 28 years as <sup>member</sup> ~~member~~ for Hull, he announced his resignation in a spate of  
letters from Sandgate.



and in later years their efforts were very much felt in Sandgate, but not before Wilberforce had stirred matters up.

The following summer, 1813, Wilberforce was back with his family in their Sandgate quarters, and in his letter of 21 August to Lord Teignmouth (former Governor General of India) mentions improvements in the village -- 'and that partly I hope from my expostulations -- in having schools set up in the two towns adjoining, and in Sandgate and its interior village itself. What mercies we do enjoy in this land of peace and liberty'.

With the English Channel at his very feet, Wilberforce felt the contrast keenly. Tyranny still reigned on the opposite shore but the end of war was nearly in sight. News and rumour buzzed in Mr. Purday's Reading Room and Library. 'Austria has joined' Wilberforce jotted in his Sandgate Journal for 19 September 1813, 'Bonaparte crippled on both Flanks and I hope centre too .. St. Sebastien taken but with <sup>a</sup> terrible loss of men'. Closer to home, there were ominous flashes of cannon on the French coast, and the ignominious capture of a British merchantman by French privateers in full view of Folkestone Pier.

The Library formed the hub of Sandgate life where visitors and locals mixed with easy intimacy. That summer it teemed with intellect and evangelical zeal, with Wilberforce very much to the fore and in demand by the local nobility and clergy. Although his birthday, Saturday 24 August, Wilberforce could not refuse to dine with Sir John Shaw Bt. at his fine marine residence at the west end of Sandgate, rented for a winter by Lt. Gen. Moore. In September, the Thorntons of Clapham came and went just as the equinoxials came and went; and there was much pleasant converse with members of the great Dr. Burney's family, who had made Sandgate their summer home.

Sweet granddaughter Charlotte was there to sebathe, together with her elderly husband Henry Barrett and their babes. The organist's son, Charles Burney DD. classical scholar and Chaplain to George III, was there with his wife 'Rosette'. He was much in evidence, delivering sermons at Hythe, dining with Archbishop Manners Sutton at Bishopsbourne (near Canterbury) hobnobbing with his Grace's son-in-law the Rev. James Croft, vicar of Saltwood nearby, and nursing the 'hostile gout'. His son, Charles Parr Burney and his wife Sarah had been there earlier, sketching at Saltwood.

There were other faces around, the Larkins' and the Saumarez, most likely the retired Vice-Admiral and generous patron of very many religious and educational institutions. <sup>Saumarez</sup> He was a President of the Society for the Promotion of Christian Knowledge and perhaps it was no coincidence that he was in Sandgate about the time the local schoolroom was being set up on



Sandpots still retain a certain peace  
and unsophisticated charm, but under  
modern civilization take place in recent years.



half-way in the abolition campaign, but as  
a measure that was intended  
to curb illegal slave traffic ~~and~~ <sup>and</sup> ~~between~~  
West Indian colonies.

and these  
abolition of slaves  
itself

In the years 1815/16, Wilberforce brought in the Slave Registry Bill, a half-way measure but one great step ~~forward~~ <sup>in the movement</sup> towards the total <sup>eradication</sup> abolition of the Slave Trade. It <sup>caused</sup> enormous repercussions in the Caribbean Islands, and on the fortunes of absentee estate owners in England. ~~sugar merchants on the sugar trade, and of~~ upon the fortunes of absentee estate owners in England. Under the Bill slave owners had to present a tally of existing slaves, a stock to which no new ones might be ~~added~~ or smuggled in, or howsoever added. ~~Disleading rumours & reports~~ False rumours of instant freedom had reached the West Indies, riots and burnings followed, particularly in Barbados, when liberty <sup>emancipation</sup> did not follow. come about. According to returning travellers such as 'Monk' Lewis, Jamaica was less disturbed, but ugly reports had reached the Barretts of damage to their sugar mills, at Molyne and Whitfield Penn.

has seen  
of Charlotte  
to support so  
heroically  
such a  
calamity

Berg.  
27 Aug 1816

The Barrett family were renting a cottage on Arthur Young's estate, ~~when~~ part of their overall rentrenchment, when a fifth child Arthur Charles was born on August 1816. To her letter of felicitation Aunt d'Arblay appended in cross-writing 'I long to know tidings of Jamaica and better news of poor Mr Barretts affairs. How sweet of Charlotte to support so heroically such a calamity!' The blow had fallen heavily on their chief means of support. 'Alas my dearest Charlotte' she wrote to her sister 'with what sympathy did I read the opening of your heart -- your grief -- upon a subject to you the most, & to me amongst the very most tenderly dear...' Did her concern heighten the painting of her apprehensions. Dwelling, ruminating upon evils and ill usage not only fixes them more profoundly in the mind, She could only admire the resignation and patience, so really angelic, as well as the piety against injuries and sorrows. And you, my love, as you know my deep interest, & glowing, peculiar affection for the sweet object in view, will never write without some true intelligence, such as you may safely confide to me.'

It needed all Charlotte's patience and resignation, as well as the piety against injury and sorrow to support such a blow..

It was bitterly ironic that a family so close to Wilberforce, should be among the first to <sup>deep in</sup> feel the blows <sup>suffer his rebound</sup> suffer the rebound from his policy. <sup>unexpected</sup>

sent out of, their  
find their way livelihood at stake.



The provisions of Dr Burney's will, the aftermath of war, the drop in Consols, returning soldiers, unemployed masses,

Notwithstanding the removal of the property tax<sup>in</sup> The provisions in Dr Burney's will did nothing to alleviate the financial stresses of the Broome/Barrett/Francis. The aftermath of war, the drop in Consols, unemployment among the veterans of war, the rising cost of food, bore heavily on them as they saw their incomes dwindle. in terms of real money. The Corn Laws, which protected native farmers against imports of foreign wheat, forced up bread prices. Marianne read political economy including Adam Smith, while the mobs beneath the windows of Kensington Gore, cried out for Cheap Bread.



# COUNTY OF KENT

## PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY OF FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE

### LIST OF ABSENT VOTERS

POLLING DISTRICT SANDGATE WARD, B.J.1

No. on Register	Name of Elector	Address for Ballot Paper
1	Judd, Mary A.	Flat 1, West End Lodge, Balfour Gardens, Folkestone.
44	Wilcox, Reginald J.	15 Bathurst Road, Folkestone.
78	Dell, Mary D.	24 Bodenham Road, Folkestone.
136	Blackman, Russell T.	18 Cliff Road, Folkestone.
145	Krayenbrink, Jane C.	P.
147	Steer-Watkins, Eustace F.	Martello House, Cliff Road, Folkestone.
175	Gentry, Frederick C.	5 Dixwell Road, Folkestone.
252	Udy, Susan C.	18 Ash Hill Crescent, Hatfield, Doncaster, Yorks.
264	Craddock, Annie	Flat 1, 4 Godwyn Road, Folkestone.
267	Holmes, Elsie E.S.	Flat 3, 4 Godwyn Road, Folkestone.
282	Joyner, Alice M.	Flat 2, 3 Grimston Avenue, Folkestone.
287	Barnett, Florence	Flat 1, 5 Grimston Avenue, Folkestone.
351	Willis, Derrick B.	Flat A, 27 Grimston Avenue, Folkestone.
363	Robinson, Clara	Flat A, 31 Grimston Avenue, Folkestone.
402	Pugh, Doreen E.	1, Hardwick Road, Folkestone.
436	Rigby, Mary	1 Metropole Court, The Leas, Folkestone.
454	Mason, Maurice I.	9 Metropole Court, The Leas, Folkestone.
559	Wanostrocht, Edith	14 Pelham Gardens, Folkestone.
525	Lloyd-Dodd, Alfred E.	Optrex (Overseas) Ltd., Wadsworth Road, Perivale, Middx.
599	Berridge, Noel	Leas Crag, Radnor Cliff Crescent, Folkestone.
602	Forbes-Inglis, Gladys	Leas Crag, Radnor Cliff Crescent, Folkestone.
603	Gordon Forbes, Mabel	Leas Crag, Radnor Cliff Crescent, Folkestone.
604	Hanneman, Winnifred	Leas Crag, Radnor Cliff Crescent, Folkestone.



COUNTY OF KENT  
PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY OF FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE  
LIST OF ABSENT VOTERS

POLLING DISTRICT SANDGATE WARD, B.J.1 (Continued)

No. on Register	Name of Elector	Address for Ballot Paper
605	Mackintosh, Robert J.	Leas Crag, Radnor Cliff Crescent, Folkestone.
607	Tucker, Charles	Leas Crag, Radnor Cliff Crescent, Folkestone.
613	Fuller, Edith C.	4 Balfour Court, Sandgate Road, Folkestone.
626	Mann, Arthur H.	Ground Floor, 180 Sandgate Road, Folkestone.
638	Butler, Helen E.C.	P.
708	Parsons, Joseph E.	Flat 3, 7 Turketel Road, Folkestone.
718	Chesman, Violet	13 Turketel Road, Folkestone.
735	Moroney, William E.M.	25 Turketel Road, Folkestone.
791	Stubbings, Edward L.	P.



# COUNTY OF KENT

## PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY OF FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE

### LIST OF ABSENT VOTERS

POLLING DISTRICT SANDGATE (BJ 2) (part)

No. on Register	Name of Elector	Address for Ballot Paper
218	WARD, CECIL J.	21 Chichester Road, Folkestone.
235	INNES BARRON, GERALD M.	39 Chichester Road, Folkestone.
252	SCOTT, HENRY J.	57 Chichester Road, Folkestone.
464	HAMER, CAROLINE A.	13 Enbrook Road, Folkestone.
466	HAMER, PAUL J.C.	13 Enbrook Road, Folkestone.
539	TODD, IAN A.	P.
545	BROADLEY, JOHN N.	St. Georges Cottage Hospital, Hyde Park Corner, London W.1.
648	WICKER, KATIE F.	21 Military Road, Sandgate, Folkestone.
725	SHOWLER, ANNIE B.	Flat 1, Seaview House, The Parade, Sandgate, Folkestone.
947	HOLLAND, CLARA	4 Gloster Terrace, The Esplanade, Folkestone.
993	LORD, BERTRAM	10 Wellington Terrace, Sandgate Esplanade, Folkestone.
1169	SYER, KATHLEEN M.	148 Sandgate High Street, Folkestone.
1189	NEEL, RICHARD B.	122 Sandgate High Street, Folkestone.
1210	HENNING, WALLACE	112 Sandgate High Street, Folkestone.



# COUNTY OF KENT

## PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY OF FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE

### LIST OF ABSENT VOTERS

POLLING DISTRICT SANDGATE (BJ 3) (Part)

No. on Register	Name of Elector	Address for Ballot Paper
27	WOODBIDGE, JULIAN W.	P.
91	DAVEY, FLORENCE H.	30 Bathurst Road, Folkestone.
293	MILTON, FLORENCE M.	7 Nightingale Avenue, Cambridge
335	WALTON, JOHN H.	2. Broadfield Road, Folkestone.
490	RISLEY-SETTLE, PERCY	28 Coolinge Lane, Folkestone.
781	KINLOCH, DAVID K.	P.
782	KINLOCH, IAN H.	16 Herdson Road, Folkestone.
824	BEAN, DAVID J.L.	P.
1281	LYNES, EILEEN M.	209 Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone.
1288	MORRIS, THELMA M.	215 Shorncliffe Road, Folkestone.
1615	WREN, RICHARD F.	6 Walmer Way, Coolinge Farm Estate, Folkestone.
1626	MOORE, MABEL	10 Wellfield Road, Folkestone.
1647	PULLEN, JOHN A.	Redford, 9 Welson Road, Folkestone.
1651	HENDRY, WILLIAM M.	11 Welson Road, Folkestone.
1667	ANDREW, ETHEL M.	46 Welson Road, Folkestone.
1698	FINNIMORE, BETTY K.	14 Welson Road, Folkestone.



COUNTY OF KENT

PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY OF FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE

LIST OF ABSENT VOTERS

POLLING DISTRICT

SANDGATE WARD BJ4

No. on  
Register

Name of Elector

Address for Ballot Paper

30	LEPPARD, Constance L.	6 Alma Road, Folkestone.
372	MUSSON, Eric J.	P.
490	BARTON, Olive E.	104 Royal Military Avenue, Folkestone.
500	TAPSTER, Emily E.	96 Royal Military Avenue, Folkestone.
581	HARGRAVES, Annie E.	18 Royal Military Avenue, Folkestone.



Flat J, 4 Oxford and Cambridge Mansions, Old Marylebone Road, N.W.1

TELEPHONE: 262-6320

20 October 1971

Dear Mrs.Greenwall,

From various sources I gather that the Vicar of Sandgate has taken exception to the active participation of The Sandgate Society in local affairs... a quite unwarranted intrusion on his part.

The answer to him lies, of course, in the files of the Sandgate Society and I am surprised that no-one has gently drawn the Vicar's attention to the enclosed extract I have taken from an early Newsletter. The original letter from the Folkestone and Hythe Conservative Assn. must also be on file if anybody could be bothered to look.

It is a curious kind of double-think, that it is OK for the Sandgate Society to enter a candidate only if he/she belongs to the party blessed by the Vicar himself.

Yours sincerely

*Linda René-Martin*

(Mrs.) L. René-Martin

cc. Mrs.A.Kerr,



Sandgate Society Newsletter not dated, probably end 1962, page 2

Shortly before the Folkestone Municipal Elections, a letter was received from the Folkestone and Hythe Conservative Association inviting the Society to nominate one of its members as a candidate for the vacancy on the Council (Sandgate Ward) caused by the death of Mrs. Painting. A reply was sent to the effect that from the very beginning of its formation the Sandgate Preservation Society had made it clear that it is non-political and could not, therefore, identify itself with any particular Party. The opportunity is now taken to re-affirm this policy which will be followed unswervingly.



## The Celebration of a life.....



I first made contact with Linda René-Martin by letter in 2000, writes David Cowell, to seek information about the Goose Cathedral, the long gone lifeboat station cum cafe that had been on the intersection of the coast and the Seabrook roads and immortalised in the eponymous book by local author Jocelyn Brooke. She replied in her normal prompt, business like manner and it was obvious when my wife Sue and I moved to Sandgate a few years later we would become good friends and we collaborated on many projects and shared many interests.

Linda was born on 18th September 1920 to Mother Davide and Father Mark Lion better known as Max who in the 1930s, to avoid the growing anti German feeling prevalent in this country, changed their family name from Rittenberg to Ritson. Max (1880-1965) was an Australian of German descent. A prolific author for several English magazines, he is best known as the creator of the character Dr. Xavier Wycherley, a psychologist and psychic who helped solve crimes. He wrote a total of eighteen Wycherley stories and he also wrote a series of stories about Magnum, a scientific detective, beginning with *The Mystery of the Sevenoaks Tunnel* in 1913. He was Chairman of a successful advertising agency in Covent Gardens and gave a career start to a young Charles Saatchi. Linda was active in the Company in its early days and during the bombing of London during WW2, she defied authority by passing through a live bomb cordon to retrieve documents essential to

Company, family and business.

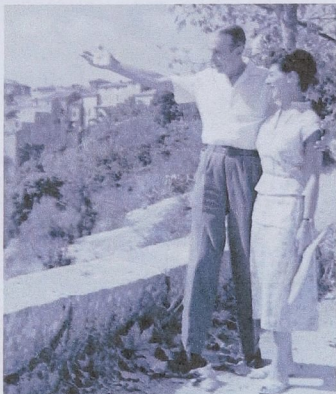
Linda's mother edited an extensive and very comprehensive series of 'How to Books' under her pre marriage family name of Minter. Beautifully laid out and illustrated they showed everything from darning socks to making cocktail dresses. While Davide was outworldy of the Victorian to Edwardian era, she wore the same well-made suits for perhaps 30 years. She also loved the avant-garde including Salvador Dali. It is easy to see the origins of Linda's life long love of literature and art. Linda religiously did the London Times Crossword puzzles in her youth which possibly explains her genius at Scrabble.

The family, including Linda's brother David who was born in 1924, lived in London, initially in Greencroft Gardens in NW6 and then in Belsize Avenue in NW3. It was at the Kingsley School in Belsize Park that Linda began her education then moved on to the South Hamstead School where her teacher was Susan Stebbing who would become the first British woman Professor of Philosophy. Linda would later say that Stebbing's classes taught them *how* to think not *what* to think although Linda's mother was less sure of these unconventional techniques and felt that *the study of Logic would make her daughter argumentative and scare off potential suitors*. Linda would often say that her Mother was half right on the matter.

In 1932 the family purchased their house in Coastguard Cottages Sandgate and so began her long, enjoyed and valued association with the village. During the war Linda served as a Leading Wren Plotter at Portland and was actively involved in D Day planning. In 2009 she gave an enthralling talk on the subject to the Sandgate Society. After the war she worked as an Information Officer for UNICEF in Paris and in 1957 for the 11th General Assembly in New York. In her early 20s she left America alone on a cargo ship bound for Greece returning to England overland. She was the first woman to join HMSO's Design Team and later became Production Editor for Shell Aviation News and then Production Manager for Scientific Publications at the Zoological Society in London. She also worked at the Curwen Press where she spoke of passing the likes of T. S. Eliot and Cyril Connolly on the stairs. At Curwen, Oliver Simon who ran the company and who was the leading British typographer and a major player on the international scene was an immensely important mentor in Linda's life and their friendship continued until his death in 1956.







Linda's first husband, René Martin was part of the French Aristocracy and they married in 1950. René, a Moroccan designer and art dealer, was commissioned by the American tobacco heiress, art collector and philanthropist Doris Duke to redesign the living room of her Honolulu estate Shangri La which, following her death, became and still is the excellent Museum of Islamic Art, Culture and Design. René was a major authority, and source, for Moroccan art. While the relationship was unfortunately short lived, it was a bitter-sweet dream-come-true. Linda had the opportunity to live in an ancient Moroccan Palace until her husband's premature death only six months after they married. Her second marriage was to Dr Jack Grobstein. Jack did his medical studies in Geneva Switzerland and had time between studying medicine to play the clarinet in a jazz band. Jack had a successful career as a psychiatrist in New York where they lived for a number of years, until they retired to Sandgate and London. They were enthusiastic tennis players and Linda still played into her late 80s. Jack sadly died in 1989. Linda retained the name René-Martin for the rest of her

life because, she told me, she liked the sound of it.

She travelled extensively but it is as a she loved that she will be best remembered. in magazines such as *Country Life* (on 1975 edition and also spoke on the same 2007 to commemorate the 200th anniversary and *Kent Life* (on the Old Fire Station in edition) and two books on the subject of hesitate to get into the fray whenever an loomed. She was a founding member of the 1983, helped set up the Sandgate Heritage Station from the clutches of developers. The Princes Parade (in defence of which she Select Committee which lasted 13 days and



stalwart defender of the village She had various articles published William Wilberforce in the May subject at the Chichester Hall in of the abolition of the slave trade) Sandgate in the October 1983 Sandgate and would never inappropriate development Sandgate Society in 1962 and, in Trust to protect the Old Fire escarpment, Encombe and attended a House of Commons was successful in stopping the

and lock-gate to the Canal) all right up until her demise.

fastidious attention to detail opponent and would often rattle could never question her she supported and the many Despite her work commitments as an independent candidate was then the Folkestone defeated she said that *it was a of Sandgate.*

pen to paper to express her subjects and often did so in the poem she wrote for the celebration:



construction of an outer harbour received her personal attention

Her incisive intellect and made her a formidable friends and foes alike but one unswerving loyalty to any cause friends she accumulated. in London, Linda stood in 1970 for the Sandgate Ward on what Council. Although narrowly *shake-up, a signal - take notice*

An avid writer, Linda would put views on a diverse range of

poetic form so it is fitting that we remember Sandgate Society's 50th birthday

Forever Sandgate

Here, ceaseless Enbrook meets a timeless sea,  
Near Castle, Church and Ilex tree  
And Wilberforce and HG Wells  
Live deep in village memory.  
A VC, too, among the dead  
Is writ on stone with pain and pride.  
Progress, now, among us dwells  
As Saga spells prosperity.

Martellos echo times gone by,  
Pebbles murmur with the tide  
Clear we hear the seagulls cry.  
Dawn and sunset paint the sky –

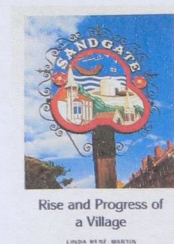
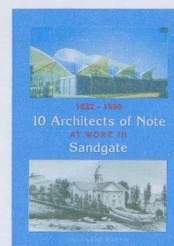
**The Sandgate Society**

Next Meeting in the Chichester Hall  
7.30pm Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2007  
The GREENWALL LECTURE:  
**Wilberforce**  
Four Summers in Sandgate

Speaker: **Linda René-Martin**  
'founder Member 1962, Activist & Researcher'  
Assisted by: **David Cowell**  
Local History Enthusiast

Refreshments available  
All welcome Non-members £2

Registered Charity No. 200457





But creeping concrete, loss of green  
Eat into our well-loved scene  
Hard as we defy.  
Though wind and waves are rarely still  
Sandgate survives and ever will

Without any doubt she had an amazing life in an era when women were at a significant disadvantage and to Linda such disadvantages were challenges to be faced and conquered.

Linda stayed at home in her beloved Coastguard Cottage until the last ten days of her life, dying on 17th August at St Margaret's Nursing Home in Hythe and is sadly missed by her brother David (Emeritus Professor of Physics at Stanford University), niece Francesca, nephews Marc, Vincent, Matthew and Peter and all members of her family of whom she was immensely proud and she spoke often of their many achievements.

The family would like to thank all those who assisted Linda during her later difficult days, especially the staff at St Margaret's Nursing Home, Ray Govier and Stuart Macintyre.

Details will be shared soon of a memorial service being arranged for Linda.