

47

CUTTINGS REGARDING  
FIRE BRIGADE

SANDGATE FIRE BRIGADE  
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NOVEMBER 1977

# Sandgate Fire Brigade.

1859.

The expenses attending this Undertaking are entirely dependent upon voluntary aid.

The Contributions, amounting to £5-0-0 have been expended in making the Engine Appliances more efficient.

It is estimated that the Annual Expenses will not exceed £10-0-0 This, it is hoped, will be readily subscribed by the Gentry and Tradesmen.

The services of the Brigade have been cheer-  
cheerfully given when required; and, should an emer-  
gency arise, the Inhabitants may rely on their exertions  
to mitigate the suffering and loss from Fire.

You are hereby respectfully and earnestly  
solicited to assist in this good cause.

J. HODGSON, Treasurer.

W. PLEDGE, Chairman.

Mr. WEST will have the pleasure of waiting upon you in  
the course of a few days, to receive such aid as you  
may deem the Institution merits; and which aid  
will be faithfully appropriated to the object for  
which it is solicited.

J. p 63

1859

Mr. Walton remarked that they had had another warning lately of the inefficiency of the means possessed by the town for extinguishing fire. On the occasion of the recent fire at Devonshire terrace, no one could at first find the key of the fire engine house, then something was in the way and the engine could not be got out, and when got out it was useless. He believed the town just now was more interested in this than in any other public question.—The Chairman agreed that it was causing a great deal of anxiety, and he noticed that the arrangements which had been made for exercising and testing the engine were not acted upon. The same neglect had occurred in the case of the life boat, the crew of which was to exercise once a month, but that had dropped off.—The Deputy Clerk suggested that the Local Board should take the matter in hand themselves.—Mr. Walton believed that Mr. Tingle and Mr. Hodgson, who had the management of the fire-engine, were much dis-  
couraged that the Local Board had not assisted them in certain applications they had made.—Eventually it was arranged that Mr. Clark should see Mr. Hodgson upon the matter.

7. Oct 1877

1877

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So  
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by Chemists.

93, BROADWAY,  
SANDGATE,

FEBRUARY 1st, 1882.

*Slip*

It has long been felt that Sandgate should possess an efficient Fire Engine with suitable modern appliances for extinguishing fire and saving life. Several efforts have at intervals been made towards this end. A generous offer of "fifty pounds" having just been made by James Morris Esq., the Committee now appeal to the Inhabitants of the Neighbourhood to raise an additional sum of £150 to carry out the undertaking.

The Committee consists of the Chairman and members of the S. L. B. Ho. Bd. and the undermentioned gentlemen Messrs. Abernethy,

Bateman,  
Bissender, John,  
Gibby,  
Hopkins,  
Hill,  
Kennett,  
Kidd, n.,  
Taylor,  
Watts,  
White,  
Whiting,

Subscriptions may be paid to the above Committee, myself, or the Treasurers, Messrs. Jenner & Co., Bankers.

Yours truly,

Henry Thomas Samson,

SECRETARY.

1882

New engine delivered August, 1882. See Folkestone & Hythe Gazette of September 16th, 1953.

SANDGATE FIRE BRIGADE.—A meeting was called last Saturday by Captain A. Keeler, in connection with the Fire Brigade. After an inspection and some explanation of the new fire engine and escape, the captain pointed out to those present, the object of the meeting, which was to elect a lieutenant and eight members, making 10 in all, including himself. The following gentlemen were then elected: Messrs. W. B. Kennett (lieutenant), Harris, Franklin, Hillsden, Rosen, McLachlan, Bushell, E. Keeler, and Harrison. Messrs. Harrison, Ledger, and Rogers not being present, and one more member being required to complete the complement, Harrison was elected unanimously. Ledger and Rogers were then proposed by Mr. Kennett as candidates for the office of supernumeraries, to be ballotted for at the next meeting. The Captain proposed that Mr. Harris should take the office of No. 1 *pro tem.*, he having had more experience in fire brigades than those present. Mr. McLachlan seconded this, which was carried. After an hour's practice with the engine and escape, the first meeting was brought to a satisfactory close. Messrs. Fynnore and Franklin, of the committee, were present during the practice.



SANDGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

PRINTED IN PINK INK ON A SMALL  
SLIP OF PAPER  
UNDATED.

FOR EARLY FORM OF "FLAG DAY"?

for Flamp  
Source: Family, Sea Legs, Sea and Blood discov  
man with confidence resea  
good Charles Woodruff-Pearson Blood Airframe. Sol  
everywhere by Cheolists.

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Sandwich Volunteer Fire Brigade

copy of a special print on mount - printed

"W. W. Jones Broadway, Studio, Sandwich."

the property of Sandwich News Club.

Made 20" (over) long.

A. S. Ladd.

1882

RULES

AND

REGULATIONS

OF THE

SANDGATE

Volunteer Fire Brigade.

(Established 12th October, 1882).

SANDGATE:

PRINTED BY STACE AND SON, HIGH STREET.

SANDGATE:

PRINTED BY STACE AND SON, HIGH STREET.

for Pimp.  
Scurvy, scum, man, Legs, Skin and Blood Disca-  
sion, man with Confidence Poon  
and Charles W. M. P. A. M. Blood Mirrak. Su  
everywhere by Chemists.

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gardeners to send his boy pull the fire-  
bell on one occasion; the members know  
it should be with the workman. "a  
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1/6 HYTHE SANDGATE ECHO 8.11.1884  
col. 2, FOOT.

RULES  
 AND  
 REGULATIONS  
 OF THE  
 SANDGATE  
 Volunteer Fire Brigade.

(ESTABLISHED 12TH OCTOBER, 1882).

SANDGATE:  
 PRINTED BY STACE AND SON, HIGH STREET.



(ENBROOK)  
 THE HYTHE & SANDGATE ECHO 8.11.1884  
 col. 2, FOOT.

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# Sandgate Volunteer Fire Brigade.

## RULES.

1.—That this Brigade be called the "Sandgate Volunteer Fire Brigade."

2.—That the Brigade shall consist of a President, Vice-Presidents, Committee, Treasurer, Secretary, a Captain, Lieutenant, and such number of Firemen as may be determined upon from time to time.

3.—That the financial affairs of the Brigade shall be conducted by a Committee consisting of four Subscribers, three members of the Brigade, a Treasurer, and a Secretary; and that such Committee, together with the Treasurer and Secretary, retire annually, but be eligible for re-election at the General Meeting of the Brigade to be held in October in each year. Officers ex-officio members of the Committee.

4.—That the engine, apparatus, and other property of the Brigade shall be vested in and belong to the Committee for the time being, failing which the property shall become and be vested in the Sandgate Local Board in trust for the town.

5.—The Secretary is to keep the minutes and such records of the Brigade as may be necessary, give all requisite notices, solicit and receive subscriptions, paying them to the Treasurer, and attend the Annual and General Meeting.

6.—The Treasurer shall receive and pay all monies, prepare and submit a statement of accounts at every annual meeting, such account shall be previously audited by two members of the S. L. B., and a copy of the same shall be delivered to the Board annually.

7.—That in cases of insubordination the Captain shall have power to dismiss the offender or offenders.

8.—Any member desirous of leaving the Brigade shall give to the Captain at least fourteen days' notice, and shall deliver up to him, in good condition, all articles belonging to the Brigade; and any member changing his place of residence must give notice to that effect within three days, or pay a fine of 2s 6d.

*President:*

THE LORD PELHAM.

*Vice-Presidents:*

THE EARL OF RADNOR. | GENERAL HANKEY.

SIR F. S. REILLY, K.C.M.G.

*Hon. Captain:*

C. NICKALLS, Esq.

*Captain:*

A. KEELER.

*Lieutenant:*

W. B. KENNETT.

*Committee:*

MR. JENNER, Chairman.

MR. BATEMAN.

Fireman HARRIS.

MR. FRANCIS.

Fireman HULLSDON.

MR. FRANKLIN.

Fireman McLACHLAN.

*Hon. Treasurer:*

MR. R. J. FENMORE.

*Hon. Secretary:*

MR. H. T. SAMSON.

High Street,  
Sandgate.

at THE SANDGATE ECHO 8.11.1884  
col. 2, FOOT.

for Fine!  
Society. Scary, bad Legs, Skin and Blood disor-  
ders of all kinds, we can with confidence recom-  
mend Charles Young's FARRAR'S BLOOD PURIFIER. Sold  
everywhere by Chemists.

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for Pimp  
Security, Iron Legs, Skin and Blood  
all kinds, we can with confidence recom  
and Charles F. Young, Frank Brown, Mirrumb, Sol  
every part by Chebunt.

receive a copy of all rules and instructions. Any alterations of rules must be subject to the approval of the Committee.

17.—Any member neglecting or refusing to attend at a fire without giving to the Captain a satisfactory reason for his absence, shall be liable to be fined a sum not exceeding 10s., or dismissed from the Brigade.

18.—That all members salute their superior officers upon taking orders from them.

19.—The amount of subscriptions received by this Brigade being insufficient to maintain the engines and Brigade in a state of efficiency, the members can only give their services on condition that the person or persons sending for the engine hold themselves responsible for the undermentioned charges.

FOR MANUAL ENGINE.		£	s.	d.
Use of Engine to Non-Subscribers	...	2	0	0
Subscriptions to Pumpers	...	2	0	0
Wages to Firemen not required	...	2	0	0
Stores of Brigade, covering all expense excepting horses and extra labour, first hour	...	2	0	0
Every succeeding hour	...	0	10	0
Pumpers: First hour	...	0	1	0
Every succeeding hour	...	0	0	6
Use of Horses	...	1	1	0
Refreshments for Pumpers, extra.	...			

DISCIPLINE.

Every man must obey, without a moment's hesitation, all orders he may receive from his superiors in the Brigade.

Should he receive an order from any other person he is strictly forbidden to obey it, but if it appears of sufficient importance, he may request permission of the chief officer or senior present to act on it.

On arriving at the scene of fire the senior officer present takes immediate command, and on him rests the entire responsibility of controlling and directing the firemen until the arrival of some one of his superior officers, to

9.—That a member not having attended four monthly drills, one of which must be a water drill, during the year preceding each annual meeting, without giving the Captain sufficient reason for absentsing himself, shall be considered to have resigned.

10.—That the Brigade meet for practice and testing the working order of the engine as often as the Captain may think necessary. Any member leaving a fire or place of drill without the permission of the Captain or officer in command, shall be fined 1s. for each offence.

11.—In case of a fire out of town, the engine shall not leave the engine house without an officer, but when in the town as soon as four firemen are present.

12.—The members of the Brigade shall be unpaid, but in the case of fire may send in claim for compensation for loss of time or clothes.

13.—That special meetings of the Committee can be called by the Captain or three members of the Brigade, three days' notice being given to the Secretary, and the object for calling such meeting stated therein.

14.—The Captain shall have power to nominate as many supernumeraries as he may think desirable, but no new member of the Brigade shall be elected until he has served as a supernumerary for such a length of time as the Captain may think sufficient to make him eligible; he shall then be proposed, seconded, and elected by ballot at one of the regular meetings of the Brigade. Two black balls in five shall exclude anyone from being a member.

15.—The uniform will be provided by the Committee, and shall be deemed the property of the Brigade, and is only to be worn by permission of the Captain. Every member is expected to keep his uniform clean and in good repair.

16.—Each member on joining shall subscribe his name to the Rules and regulations of the Brigade in a book kept by the Secretary for that purpose, in proof of his willingness to submit to all such rules and regulations as may be subsequently made by the Committee. He will

and as Lord Salisbury's gardener to send his boy pull the fire-bell on one occasion; the members knew which caused so much dispute; had it not been for that the fatal race would have been

one had the pleasure of hearing their leading members of the Government, and what we were pleased to call the Opposition; he was





**VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.**

On Wednesday last, C. Nichols, Esq., the Honorary Capt. of the Sandgate Brigade and Captain of the Bromley Brigade, paid Sandgate a visit with seven of his men for the purpose of going through a series of drills with the Home team, which was under the command of Captain Keeler and Lieutenant Kennett. The Bromley men arrived in Sandgate about 10 a.m. and being very anxious to see the town, and enjoy a stroll on the beach, an hour or two was given them for so doing before commencing their drills, which took place at 3 o'clock in a field kindly lent for the occasion, by Mr. Golden. Some smart drilling on both sides, which lasted nearly three hours was given. The Bromley Brigade were entertained by that of Sandgate to a spread, provided by Mr. Rigen, at the Alexandra Hotel. Captain Nichols spoke in high terms of the Sandgate Brigade for the manner in which they had gone through their drills. The chairman of the committee was present at the practice, and with the Brigade thoroughly appreciated Captain Nichols's instructions. The captain of the Bromley team kindly lent Captain Keeler the use of four lengths of his leather hose for the purpose of a competition, in which the Sandgate Brigade take part in next week at Sandwich. Mr. Buech took command of the team upon their return to Bromley, Captain Nichols returning the next day. 25. 10. 1883.

On Wednesday last C. Nickels, Esq., the Honorary Captain of the above Brigade, and Captain of the Bromley Brigade, paid Sandgate a visit with 7 of his men for the purpose of going through a series of drills with the home team, who were under the command of Captain Keeler and Lieut. Kennett. The Bromley men arrived in Sandgate about 10 a.m. The drills took place at three o'clock in a field lent for the occasion by Mr Golden, some smart drilling on both sides ensued, which lasted nearly three hours. The Bromley Brigade were entertained by the Sandgate Brigade to a spread provided by Mr Rigen, of the Alexandra Hotel. Captain Nickels spoke in high terms of the Sandgate Brigade for the manner in which they had gone through their drills. The Chairman and the Committee were present at the practice, and, with the Brigade, thoroughly appreciated Captain Nickels' instruction. The Captain of the Bromley team very kindly lent Captain Keeler the use of four lengths of his leather hose for the purpose of a competition in which the Sandgate Brigade take part in next week. 25 Aug 1883

1883

As a style ornament and warranted safe for Pimples, Scoury, Bad Legs, Skin and Blood, we are of all kinds, we can with confidence recommend CLARKE'S WOUND-PAIN-RELEASING MIXTURE. Sold every where by Chemists.

The Fire Brigade turned out promptly on Tuesday night shortly after twelve, in answer to a call stating that there was an extensive fire at Hythe. The men were at the station in seven or eight minutes all being present except one, who was away from Sandgate. The engine was taken to a place just beyond Sandgate Station, where it was found the fire actually was a clover stack, belonging to Mr. Usher being in flames, on a high bank behind the railway. Water was too far away for the brigade to do anything, although had another brigade came at the first, onset the combined hose would probably have enabled the men to save half the clover. Finding the stack doomed they came away, after staying about an hour and a half. The Hythe brigade came after, and went away without being able to do anything. The Sandgate men got home at three on Wednesday morning, and on the afternoon of the same day went to Mr. Brockman's residence at Beachborough to test the water supply and the utility of the fire-escape in taking persons out of the windows of the mansion. The respected owner watched the proceedings, and was so well pleased with the smartness of the brigade that he promised to become a yearly subscriber to the funds. 1884

**SANDGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.**

On Tuesday last, the members of the above brigade paraded in uniform, and marched through the town with the engine, to take possession of the new engine house, which has been supplied for their use by the kindness of a lady in this town. The building is a pretty piece of work, and is well worthy of a visit to any visiting the town. It was designed and built by Mr. Waddle. After the members had partaken of a good substantial supper the usual loyal toasts were given by the chairman (Captain Keeler) and "Success to the Brigade." Miss Reilly's health was drunk with enthusiasm, and several capital songs were rendered by Firemen Bushell, Harrison, McLachlan, Whing and Harris during the evening. The brigade have now been established over eighteen months, and although they have not yet had a call, we are pleased to say they are in most efficient form, and when the time comes we feel sure they will not be found wanting. The brigade have received liberal support from their President, Lord Pelham, the resident gentry and tradespeople, and also from Sir E. Watkin. Further contributions would be gratefully received by their secretary, as the brigade are in want of a few more lengths of hose and several minor appliances. The brigade will visit Underhill and Beachborough on Monday next, at 7 and 8 p.m., for the purpose of inspecting the water supplies, in order to ascertain where the hose may be best fixed in the case of fire occurring in those districts. 20. 6. 84.

24th JUNE

1884

inquired by the members of Parliament. He sat three two or three hours one evening and had the pleasure of hearing their leading members of the Government, and what we were pleased to call the Opposition, he was

The Fire Brigade.—The fire brigade was out on Monday evening practising in Lord Pelham's grounds. The hose was tested to see if it would carry a stream of water to the mansion, but it was found that nearly 500 feet more in length would be required for that purpose. There is a splendid supply of water at this part of Sandgate from the Folkestone Waterworks, and the state of affairs delicately placed before his lordship might result in the fund for the additional hose being materially assisted. 26. 7. 84

TESTING THE FIRE BRIGADE.—Last Friday the smartness of the fire brigade was put to a test. It had been arranged that Lord Pelham should summon them at some time during the week, and at 9 p.m. on Friday the call was given. Within three minutes the firemen were assembled, in seven minutes the horses were harnessed to the fire engine with the escape behind, and in three minutes more they were in Lord Pelham's grounds. The brigade mustered full, under Capt. Keeler and Lieut. Kennett, and the performance must be regarded as a very satisfactory one. 6. Sept 1884

597.

10"X8" PHOTO APPARENTLY TAKEN IN GROUNDS OF LORD PELHAM (BENBROOK) AT HYTHE & SANDGATE ECHO 8.11.1884 COL. 2, FOOT.

in the Army was like that of the servant in civil life; and as Lord Salisbury said it should be with the workman "a bell on one occasion; the members knew



On Wednesday night about 11.30 as two young men named C. Philpott and J. Lee were coming up the High Street they were startled to see flames issuing from the door way of Dr. Howard's House, with great presence of mind they succeeded in checking the flames until 11.30 when assistance arriving the flames were extinguished. On examination it was found that the lamp over the door, getting over-heated set the wood-work blazing. Great credit is due to the young men, for had it not been for the timely assistance a serious conflagration would doubtless have been the result as both Dr. Howard's House and Beach Rocks adjoining are of wood. 20. 12. 84

84

THE FIRE BRIGADE.—The members of the Fire Brigade have been undergoing a series of extra drill, in preparation for the competition at Margate on October 7th. 1885

85

SUPPER TO FIREMEN.—On Tuesday evening the members of the Volunteer Fire Brigade were entertained by their Lieutenant (Mr. W. B. Kennet) at supper, at his residence, where a most enjoyable evening was spent by the men. 20. 12. 1886

86

ALARM OF FIRE.—About 1.30 mid-day on Good Friday an alarm was raised that the Vicarage was on fire. The brigade were quickly on the scene, and it was found that the fire was not so serious as anticipated, it being nothing more than a quantity of furze alight in front of the Rev. E. M. Evans' residence. 1. 8. 86

86

*Jan 24 1886*  
FIRE AT SANDGATE.

Some damage was done on Tuesday afternoon by fire at two small cottages behind Prospect-place, Sandgate, and occupied one by Mr. Goodburn, and the other by Mr. Moore. The fire, which was fortunately subdued before it could gain any hold on the buildings, was caused through the proximity of a beam to one of the kitchen flues.

86

1, PROSPECT PLACE = 30, ESPANNADE.  
2 do = 31 do  
3 do = 32 do

THE HYTHE AND SANDGATE FIRE BRIGADES.

Our forefathers of the most primitive times, when bricks and mortar were not so freely used as now, had the sense to take, on the principle that self-preservation is the first law of nature, the most careful precautions against fire. Thus in several parishes in rural England, the earliest of vestry documents show that provision was made for the alarm, often a rapid pull of one of the church bells, to be sounded on the outburst of a fire. Others were commissioned to douse the endangered building with water, some told off to rescue property and life and to provide shelter for those the devouring element had rendered homeless. Of course with the advance of time, improvements were made in the mode of repressing fires, until most parishes had their fire engines or know a not distant locality where they could find one. Dickens, in his "Sketches by Boz," gives an amusing description of the practising of the parish engine, wherein the beadle of the parish waxes so warm with enthusiasm that he pumps over himself, consequently catching a cold, which despatched him to that world where fire-engines are not required. It is gratifying for the inhabitants of Hythe and Sandgate to know that the efficient fire brigades which they possess are always in readiness for action. In Sandgate the engine can be seen in its house, "as clean as a new pin," by the pedestrian as he passes through the Broadway, imparting a sense of security which is amongst the most charming experiences of human life. When we consider that several of the houses in Sandgate groan under the burden of years, and are largely constructed of wood boarding, one can easily imagine how rapidly flames would spread, especially when fanned by a brisk breeze, were they not instantaneously checked. Sandgatonians, however, can retire to rest with the confidence of a child in their volunteer defenders. As soon as the alarm is given, a number of stalwart young and active men will be on the scene, and if human energy and, we believe, bravery, can subdue nature's fiercest element and rescue endangered life, we think the Sandgate Fire Brigade will achieve that result. In Hythe the inhabitants may feel equally confident in their Fire Brigade, commanded by Capt. Cobb. The annual dinner of the brigade, which was held last week, proved how enthusiastic these guardians of the safety of the town can be for the credit of their volunteer service. But a tone of sadness encroached into the assembly, and although but a monotone, should arouse the attention of the inhabitants. Mr. Ashdown, the Secretary, said they required more support, and Mr. West wanted to turn the Jubilee year, as far as its local observance went, into an occasion, as he pathetically said, for "sending round the hat." The Secretary plaintively alluded to the lack of interest shown by the Corporation in not attending to witness their practises. Nay; rather let the brigade convert their absence into an eloquent compliment. The Mayor, the Town Clerk, and the Corporation feel the town so secure in the hands of these "Knights of the Order of the Flame" that they consider they have no need to overlook drills which they know will be perfectly performed. Let it, however, be brought home to the inhabitants that the brigade needs more pecuniary help, in order more carefully to protect the ancient borough from having gaps made on its hillside and on its plain by man's most relentless foe, and we are sure that the energetic Secretary need only, in his canvass for support, knock and the door will be readily opened unto him, and the genial Mr. West, who has promised to accompany the Secretary in his canvass, need only to ask and to receive. 29. 1. 87

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5th

87



Kennett.

Every cordiality was extended to the toast, Lieut. GOATER was the first to respond. He said the reputation of our Army did not rest upon the achievements of a day or a year, but of centuries. (Hear, hear.) The Army, as they saw it in England at the present time, and for some years past, was not the Army that they saw in the great dependencies across the seas. It was there that we had the real British Army, with our 70,000 of

**MATURED AND WELL-SEASONED TROOPS.**

At home the Army was, to a certain extent, the cradle and nursery. As soon as a man was sufficiently trained he was transferred to the service battalions. That fact was well brought home a short time ago, when the Boer prisoners were first brought to India. It was rather amazing to see the effect that our Army in India had upon them. They, of course, imagined that every British soldier had gone to the front, and they were greatly surprised to find such an Army in India, composed entirely of the finished article. The Army at home was in a sort of state of transition, and re-organisation from top to bottom was the order of the day. They would hope that from the reconstruction of the War Office, and the greatly improved changes, a better Army would be evolved, which would attain a state of thorough efficiency. (Applause.)

Captain KENNETT suitably replied on behalf of the Auxiliary Forces, and expressed the hope that if they were called upon the Volunteers would not be found deficient. (Hear, hear.)

The next toast was "The Sandgate Urban District Council," which was ably submitted by the Rev. A. WILSON. The rev. gentleman said it had been his privilege to know a little of the late Chairman (Councillor O. H. Smith), and he was startled to find, when he came back from a holiday, that that gentleman no longer held that office. They had entrusted the welfare of the town to the gentlemen, some of whom were there that night, and they all knew how effectively the Councillors had endeavoured to serve the visitors to the town, for everyone who came to Sandgate was charmed with the character of the town. He hoped that under the present Chairmanship there would be a little more prosperity for the townspeople as a whole.

Lieut.-Colonel FYNMORE, in reply, said he would take the opportunity of saying how well the Council had worked together during the last three years, under the chairmanship of Councillor O. H. Smith. By his ability and energy they had made some great progress with the local government. They had only to look at the way

**THE TOWN WAS LIGHTED,**

and that they had made a start with what had been an eyesore and drawback at the west end of the town,—the sea wall—and they would find out what they had done under Councillor Smith. (Applause.) He was afraid that he was poaching on the Mayor of Folkestone's preserves, because he was occupying the chair in Councillor Peden's district. The speaker had the greatest regard for the Mayor of Folkestone, and those who were associated with him, and he would not for one minute attempt to encroach. That brought him to a point very prominent with all the inhabitants of Sandgate. It was rather awkward to think that that night they, with the Fire Brigade, and various institutions of Sandgate, could not say that all Sandgate was Sandgate. But there need be no ill-feeling over that. That was a point that would never be settled without an Act of Parliament, which should be obtained by some amicable means, or the result would be expensive, and, for Sandgate, unsuccessful. The speaker also referred to the sea wall. He thought that it was rather strange that the County Council would not pay for a groove which had saved them hundreds of pounds as the result of the saving it had effected to the road. Soon that point would be completed, and they would be free from the danger of being cut off by road from their neighbours. (Applause.)

Lieut.-Colonel FYNMORE next gave "The Sandgate Volunteer Fire Brigade." It was a fact, he said, that Volunteers might never be called upon for services, but they could never tell how soon the fire brigade might be called upon to, go into action. Fortunately had occurred, but had they not had such an efficient brigade, the outbreaks might have meant disaster. They all felt assured that whenever the brigade were needed, they would be ready to cope with any difficulties. The toast was drunk with musical honours.

Captain JACOB, replying, expressed pleasure at the attendance of so many military and Volunteer officers, and members of the Council. This was the 22nd year of the Brigade's establishment, and the Chairman had taken a great interest in the Brigade since its formation, in which he was one of the prime movers. They were but a small brigade, but were ready always to do their duty in the interests of the town. One of 1882, and he still took a very active interest in the Brigade. After thanking the subscribers for their past support, Capt. Jacob McLachlan a little gift from the subscribers as a token of their appreciation of his long service.

The CHAIRMAN then complimented Engineer McLachlan on his long period of service, and handed over to him

A MARBLED CLOCK.

bearing the following inscription:—"Presented to Engineer H. J. McLachlan, by the subscribers to the Sandgate Volunteer Fire Brigade, on his having completed 21 years' service in the Brigade, as a mark of their esteem and appreciation of his services, was then drunk with much enthusiasm and musical honours."

Engineer McLACHLAN suitably replied. Other toasts were "Kindred Fire Brigades," proposed by Councillor Smith, and responded to by Capt. Ashdown (Hythe), and Mr. F. D. Mackenzie (Folkestone), and "The

**FIRE BRIGADE DINNER.**

**PRESENTATION TO ENGINEER McLACHLAN.**

The annual dinner of the Sandgate Urban District Fire Brigade was held at the Norfolk Hotel, on Thursday evening, and was a great success. The dress uniforms of officers from the Shorecliffe Camp blended admirably with the evening dresses, and the tasteful decorations of the spacious dining-room. Lieut.-Colonel R. J. Fynmore, V.D., J.P., presided, and there were also present—Capt. Rupert (18th Hussars), Capt. W. B. Kennett (1st Cinque Ports Royal Garrison Artillery Volunteers), Lieut. S. G. Goater (Inspector of Army Schools), Lieut. T. Wordley (Army Service Corps), Lieuts. Messenge and S. L. Weston (1st Cinque Ports Royal Garrison Artillery Volunteers), Capt. C. H. Jacobs (Captain Sandgate Fire Brigade), Capt. J. Ashdown (Captain Hythe Fire Brigade), Mr. F. D. Mackenzie (representing Folkestone Fire Brigade), Lieut. E. T. Keeler (Sandgate Fire Brigade), Rev. A. Wilson, Councillors Huntley (Vice-Chairman of the Sandgate Urban District Council), O. H. Smith, Sillsbourne, and P. Greenstreet (Cheriton), Sergt.-Major Boyden (A.S.C.), Messrs. Tauxe, H. R. Martingell, T. Keeler, G. Lack, C. J. Buss, W. S. Carter, G. Boyd, A. Swindon, H. D. Kenward, T. Woodman, W. Treacher, G. Ward, G. Ledger, Engineer McLachlan, Firemen Peerless, Lee, Moore, etc.

An excellent repast was prepared by Mr. E. T. Keeler, and was heartily enjoyed.

The CHAIRMAN, in proposing "The King," observed that they in that neighbourhood had often had His Majesty with them in his official capacity, and he believed that it was at Shorecliffe that the King received for the first time the royal salute as a Colonel. Thus, to a certain extent, they felt that His Majesty was associated with them in that district. (Applause.)

The toast was enthusiastically received. Councillor HUNTLEY next gave "The Imperial Forces," which he described as a very popular toast, especially so in that district, where they saw a great deal of one of the great inducements which now were offered to soldiers on their enlistment in the way of remuneration, barrack accommodation, and comfort. As to the Volunteers, perhaps there was cause for a great deal of dissatisfaction, but it was to be hoped that

ALL WOULD BE WELL with them soon. He would couple with the toast the names of Lieut. Goater and Capt.

Officers and Committee," submitted by Jacob, and "The Subscribers." An excellent musical programme carried out, the contributors to which were Councillor P. Greenstreet, Lieut. Goater, Messrs. Lack, Edgar Berte, etc. 27. 5.

**FALSE ALARM OF FIRE**—About half-past eight on Tuesday evening the fire-bell at the Engine House was rung by a messenger from the camp, who stated that there was a fire at Folkestone. The local volunteer fire brigade soon assembled and proceeded to Folkestone with their engines, but, after getting nearly as far as the Junction Station, it was found that the alarm was false, what was taken as a fire being the glare of the fire at the cement works, which showed somewhat brilliantly against the dull sky. 23. 6. 07

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**VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE**—The annual meeting of this Brigade was held last week. The balance sheet presented showed that the receipts amounted to £33 8s. 11d., including £33 7s. subscriptions, and a total expenditure of £33 13s. 2d., leaving a balance in hand of £3 15s. 8d.—The officers and committee were elected as follows:—Earl Chichester, president; Earl Radnor, Sir E. Watkin, Bart., M.P., and Mr. F. D. Brocksman, J.P., vice-presidents; Mr. C. Nickalls, hon. captain; Mr. W. B. Kennett, captain; Mr. J. Tuck, lieutenant; committee, Messrs. W. M. Jenner (chairman), R. J. Fynmore (treasurer), Franklin (secretary), Saxton, Riley, McLauchlan, J. Perles, and E. Koeler.—It was decided that the whole of the Brigade should take part in the coming Lord Mayor's Show in London.—It is reported that Capt. Kennett and Lieut. Tuck will meet the French officers from Paris on their landing at Dover, and proceed with them to London. 2. 11. 1894

RULES STATES "NOCTURBER."

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SEE FIVE GATE 2200  
16. 9. 1903

**SANDGATE FIREMEN AT PARIS.**

The English contingent of Firemen who took part in the International Congress held in Paris last week was accompanied by Captain Kennett and Lieutenant Tuck, of the Sandgate Fire Brigade. The experience of the reception they received, the sights they witnessed, and the pleasant associations of the visit, in Calais and Paris, made a great impression upon their minds. The invitations they received to dine and lunch with the officers of the Foreign Brigades were so numerous, that they were continually in and out of telegraph offices, thankfully declining numbers of them. Boxes at the best of the theatres were placed at the disposal of the officers, who, on entering in uniform were greeted by uprising audiences, singing the National Anthem and shouts of "Vive le Sapeur Pompier Anglerterre." They received with the other officers gold medals from the President of the Republic to whom they were personally presented, in commemoration of their visit, and a flattering distinction was made with the English officers, who were selected on the committee of the French Fire Association, an honour which will be accompanied by an enamelled medal in the place of the one which they now possess. 7. 9. 07

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**SANDGATE.**

MR. J. LUCK has been appointed Lieutenant of the Volunteer Fire Brigade.

The Quarterly Practice of the lifeboat crew took place on Friday. The "Meyer de Rothschild" was launched, and the usual tactics were gone through.

July 20  
1894

**FIRE BRIGADE**—On Boxing night the members of the local Volunteer Fire Brigade were entertained at the Engine House by Lieut. J. Tuck at a substantial supper, when they spent a very enjoyable evening in toast and harmony. The Engine House was very prettily decorated for the occasion. 26. 12. 07

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The following protest has been lodged against the decision in the Fire Brigade Competition:—

Borough Engineer's Office,  
Folkestone,  
29th August, 1889.

W. H. Harrison, Esq.,  
Hon. Secretary,  
Folkestone Tournament.

Dear Sir,—On behalf of the Folkestone Fire Brigade, I beg to lodge an objection to the first prize, in the competition of yesterday, being awarded to the Sandgate Brigade, on the following grounds, viz.:

The Sandgate Brigade were disqualified, as the men commenced pumping before the third length of hose was connected, whilst the water had actually entered the third length before the branch was fixed. Another thing I wish to point out, and that is the very unwise action of the Committee in appointing Mr. Harris as Judge, seeing that he was six years connected with the Sandgate Brigade. I may add, in conclusion, that the decision has given great dissatisfaction to many of the outside public, and trust you will have the matter referred to a competent and uninterested person.

I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,  
A. W. CONQUEST,  
Captain of Folkestone Fire Brigade.

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**SANDGATE FIRE BRIGADE**—On Tuesday evening the Sandgate Fire Brigade drove into Folkestone on their engine, which was drawn by two spanking horses. Engine and equipments looked, as Dr. Alston would say, "as fresh as paint," and the men had a very cordial reception. 27. 3. 90

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**SANDGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.**

**PRESENTATION, TO THE CAPTAIN.**

After drill on Tuesday last, the Captain of the Fire Brigade, Mr. W. H. Jacob, was presented by the firemen with a handsome silver-mounted walking stick. Engineer McLauchlan, in making the presentation, said the members wished to thank the Captain for the interest he took in the Brigade, especially with reference to the work he had done in connection with the recent fire at the Alhambra. Captain Jacob thanked the members for their kindness in giving him that most unexpected present. He was particularly struck with their good feeling, and he should value the gift as a memento very much indeed. He assured them that whatever service he had rendered was given most willingly, and as long as he was connected with the Brigade, he should always look after the welfare of the members, and the best interests of the town. The inscription on the band was "Presented to Captain W. H. Jacob by the members of the Sandgate Fire Brigade, January, 1905."

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by "six man drill." The men had to travel on their engines across the field, loose their horses, unlimber, and get a jet of water through the nozzle of the hose. Mr. W. Harris, ground manager to the tournament, was judge, and his decision gave a good deal of dissatisfaction to the Folkestone men, who claim to have won the first prize. The times were: Sandgate, 1m. 14.1.5th sec.; Birchington, 1m. 16sec.; and Folkestone, 1m. 18sec. Up to the moment when pumping began Folkestone was considerably the quicker, but they were nearly 10sec. in getting the water through. The Sandgate men attached the first length of hose and began to pump, screwing on the second and third just as the water entered the first length, and saved a lot of time. 27. 11. 07

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Fire Brigade Competition. Prizes £7 and £4. There were three entries—Folkestone, Sandgate, and Birchington, and the competition was decided

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# Diary

stone Town F.C. from time to time and as an old goalkeeper he considers the local club have a good 'un in this season's new-comer Sale.

## GOOD NEWS

Opportunities for training for swimmers in Folkestone during the coming winter is among the week's good news.

Mr. Sam Rockett, manager of the Folkestone Bathing Pool, is behind this venture, and he tells me that workmen are now getting the rock pool at the Marina, Lower Sandgate Road, ready for opening on Sunday, September 27th.

Already Mr. Rockett has arranged for three swimming clubs, Folkestone, Dover and Folkestone Pool, to use the pool on different nights.

Students of the Police Training College at Sandgate will also make use of the facilities, and Mr. Rockett expects that a number of schools will do the same.

"The Marina people are spending a lot of money on the pool and I am hoping their enterprise will be well supported," Mr. Rockett told me.

"Everybody I have spoken to has wished the venture every success, and I believe it will provide a real need in a town which is swim-minded."

## IT GOT AWAY

A really big fish got away at Seabrook on Saturday afternoon, I hear.

A local angler was fishing from the beach near Battery Point when he got a terrific bite.

Suddenly, as he played the fish, a bass, nearly three feet long according to the angler, leapt out of the water and over a breakwater.

The fisherman's rod snapped in two and the fish got away. But maybe it is still about ready to give some other angler the chance to say: "It was the biggest fish I have ever had on my line, but it got away!"

## SANDGATE FIRE BRIGADE

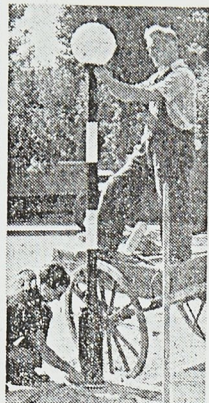
Not so long ago I came across some interesting facts about

Sandgate's volunteer fire brigade, which was established nearly 100 years ago.

Its inception apparently took place in 1859 when a leaflet was issued to the good people of Sandgate stating that "should an emergency arise, the inhabitants may rely on the Brigade's exertions to mitigate the suffering and loss from fire."

Later on, according to a chronicler, a committee was formed to raise sufficient money to buy a new fire engine, the donors including Lord and Lady Pelham of Enbrook.

The money was soon collected and in August, 1862, the new engine was driven in triumph



Beacons at Zebra crossings in Folkestone are now being wired for light at nights. Here are Corporation workmen preparing one of the beacons.

through the town to its temporary quarters in what is now the Royal Kent Hotel garage.

## FIRE ENGINE HOUSE

A year later, the Misses Reilly, the new owners of Encombe, built the Fire Engine House. The occasion was celebrated with a parade in uniform and after the engine had been safely installed in its new quarters there was "a substantial supper."

The brigade had an international reputation, too, and

when the captain (Mr. W. B. Kennett) and his lieutenant (Mr. Tuck) attended the International Congress in Paris (1889) they were received by the French President, who presented them with gold medals.

They were also 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 Pompier d'Angleterre."

## LORD MAYOR'S SHOW

In November of the same year Captain Kennett was Chief of Staff in the Lord Mayor's Show. Lieut. Tuck acted as aide-de-camp and six other members took part.

On New Year's Eve, 1899/90, the Brigade attended the Watch Night Service at Sandgate Church and wore their new brass helmets for the first time.

In 1891 Captain Kennett and Lieut. Tuck were amongst those presented to the German Kaiser at the Crystal Palace.

Two years later Captain Kennett and Lieut. W. H. Jacob were the only English representatives at the annual Congress of the Belgian Federation of Sapeurs Pompiers at Ghent. Representatives of the Brigade were at a similar festival at Lyons in 1894.

## AND IN CONCLUSION—

FOLKESTONE HARBOUR will be closed to the public for two months from September 28th while works are going on there, but British Railways have kindly given Folkestone Sea Angling Association permission to use the pier for their annual festival competitions on November 21st, 22nd and 23rd.

TO MARK Coronation year, the Rector of St. Martin's Church, Cheriton, is asking the parishioners to make a special Thanksgiving Gift at harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday, September 27th so that the church can be redecorated.

PLANNING well ahead, Folkestone Round Tablers have fixed their annual dinner and dance for Friday, March 19th, next at the Queen's Hotel, but on Friday, October 23rd, they are holding a dance at the Majestic Hotel to help the Mayor's Coal Fund.

TOWNSMAN.

KENTISH FIRE BRIGADES AT WINDSOR.—A great demonstration by volunteer fire brigades took place at Windsor on Thursday last. Nearly 100 engines and 1,000 firemen attended, amongst those from Kent were the Canterbury Cathedral Fire Brigade, the Herne Bay Brigade, the Margate Brigade and the Wingham Brigade. The Cathedral Brigade was under the command of Lieutenant G. H. DeLasaux. Captain J. W. Robinson, commanded the Wingham, and the Herne Bay Brigade under the direction of Lieutenant Wachter. Each fireman was presented with a commemorative medal.

CONCERT.—A very successful concert in aid of the funds of the Sandgate Volunteer Fire Brigade was given in the Gymnasium, Shorecliffe Camp, on Wednesday. There was a large audience present, and numerous encores were given. The following were the performers:—Miss Minnie Kirtou, Miss Maycock, Miss Lonsley, the Rev. H. Russell Wakefield, Capt. Newbury, Lieut. Harris, Lieut. Trevor, Lieut. McLeod, and Messrs. Hunt, Most, Grover, and Lengley. The band of the Lincolnshire Regiment also assisted.

UNDATED

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**LORD MAYOR'S SHOW**

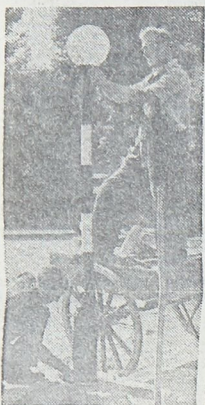
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Bacons at Zebra crossings in Folkestone are now being wired for light at nights. Here are Corporation workmen preparing one of the beacons.

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A year later, the Messrs. Bently, the new owners of Encombe, built the Fire Engine House. The occasion was celebrated with a parade in uniform and after the engine had been safely installed in its new quarters there was "a substantial supper."

The brigade had an international reputation, too, and

**Fire Brigade.**

359.

attending this Undertaking are voluntary aid.

ions, amounting to £8, making the Engine Appliances

d that the Annual Expenses

with not exceed 2000. This, it is hoped, will be readily subscribed by the Gentry and Tradesmen.

The services of the Brigade have been cheerfully given when required; and, should an emergency arise, the inhabitants may rely on their exertions to mitigate the suffering and loss from fire.

You are hereby respectfully and earnestly solicited to assist in this good cause.

J. HODGSON, Treasurer.

W. PLEDGE, Chairman.

Mr. Warr will have the pleasure of waiting upon you in the course of a few days, to receive such aid as you may deem the Institution merits; and which aid will be faithfully appropriated to the object for which it is solicited.

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**SANDGATE FIRE BRIGADE**  
Not so long ago I came across some interesting facts about

1953

"DIARY"

Folkestone & Hythe Gazette, Wednesday, Sept. 16th, 1953 5

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## Sandgate Fire Brigade.

1859.

The expenses attending this Undertaking are entirely dependent upon voluntary aid.

The Contributions, amounting to £8,000 have been expended in making the Engine Appliances more efficient.

It is estimated that the Annual Expenses will not exceed £10,000. This, it is hoped, will be readily subscribed by the Gentry and Tradesmen.

The services of the Brigade have been cheerfully given when required; and, should an emergency arise, the Inhabitants may rely on their exertions to mitigate the suffering and loss from Fire.

You are hereby respectfully and earnestly solicited to assist in this good cause.

J. HODGSON, Treasurer.

W. PLEDGE, Chairman.

Mr. West will have the pleasure of waiting upon you in the course of a few days, to receive such aid as you may deem the Institution merits; and which aid will be faithfully appropriated to the object for which it is solicited.

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# DUPLICATES

On Wednesday last C. Nickels, Esq., the Honorary Captain of the above Brigade, and Captain of the Bromley Brigade, paid Sandgate a visit with 7 of his men for the purpose of going through a series of drills with the home team, who were under the command of Captain Keeler and Lieut. Kennett. The Bromley men arrived in Sandgate about 10 a.m. The drills took place at three o'clock in a field lent for the occasion by Mr Golden, some smart drilling on both sides ensued, which lasted nearly three hours. The Bromley Brigade were entertained by the Sandgate Brigade to a spread provided by Mr Rignen, of the Alexandra Hotel. Captain Nickels spoke in high terms of the Sandgate Brigade for the manner in which they had gone through their drills. The Chairman and the Committee were present at the practice, and, with the Brigade, thoroughly appreciated Captain Nickels' instruction. The Captain of the Bromley team very kindly lent Captain Keeler the use of four lengths of his leather hose for the purpose of a competition in which the Sandgate Brigade take part in next week. *25 Aug 1883*

THE FIRE BRIGADE turned out promptly on Tuesday night shortly after twelve, in answer to a call stating that there was an extensive fire at Hythe. The men were at the station in seven or eight minutes all being present except one, who was away from Sandgate. The engine was taken to a place just beyond Sandgate Station, where it was found the fire actually was a clover stack, belonging to Mr. Usher being in flames, on a high bank behind the railway. Water was too far away for the brigade to do anything, although had another brigade came at the first onset the combined hose would probably have enabled the men to save half the clover. Finding the stack doomed they came away, after staying about an hour and a half. The Hythe brigade came after, and went away without being able to do anything. The Sandgate men got home at three on Wednesday morning, and on the afternoon of the same day went to Mr. Brockman's residence at Beachborough to test the water supply and the utility of the fire-escape in taking persons out of the windows of the mansion. The respected owner watched the proceedings, and was so well pleased with the smartness of the brigade that he promised to become a yearly subscriber to the funds. *1884*

*June 24<sup>th</sup> 1880*  
**FIRE AT SANDGATE.**

Some damage was done on Tuesday afternoon by fire at two small cottages behind Prospect-place, Sandgate, and occupied one by Mr. Goodburn, and the other by Mr. Moore. The fire, which was fortunately subdued before it could gain any hold on the buildings, was caused through the proximity of a beam to one of the kitchen flues.

**SANDGATE.**

MR. J. LUCK has been appointed Lieutenant of the Volunteer Fire Brigade. THE Quarterly Practice of the lifeboat crew took place on Friday. The "Meyer de Rothschild" was launched, and the usual tactics were gone through.

**VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.**

On Wednesday last, C. Nichols, Esq., the Honorary Capt. of the Sandgate Brigade and Captain of the Bromley Brigade, paid Sandgate a visit with seven of his men for the purpose of going through a series of drills with the Home team, which was under the command of Captain Keeler and Lieutenant Kennett. The Bromley men arrived in Sandgate about 10 a.m. and being very anxious to see the town, and enjoy a stroll on the beach, an hour or two was given them for so doing before commencing their drills, which took place at 3 o'clock in a field kindly lent for the occasion, by Mr. Golden. Some smart drilling on both sides, which lasted nearly three hours was given. The Bromley Brigade were entertained by that of Sandgate to a spread, provided by Mr. Rignen at the Alexandra Hotel. Captain Nichols spoke in high terms of the Sandgate Brigade for the manner in which they had gone through their drills. The chairman of the committee was present at the practice, and with the Brigade thoroughly appreciated Captain Nichols' instructions. The captain of the Bromley team kindly lent Captain Keeler the use of four lengths of his leather hose for the purpose of a competition, in which the Sandgate Brigade take part in next week at Sandwich. Mr. Bauch took command of the team upon their return to Bromley, Captain Nichols returning the next day. *25. 8. 1883.*

THE FIRE BRIGADE.—The fire brigade was out on Monday evening practising in Lord Pelham's grounds. The hose was tested to see if it would carry a stream of water to the mansion, but it was found that nearly 500 feet more in length would be required for that purpose. There is a splendid supply of water at this part of Sandgate from the Folkestone Waterworks, and the state of affairs delicately placed before his Lordship might result in the fund for the additional hose being materially assisted. *26. 7. 84*

THE FIRE BRIGADE.—The members of the Fire Brigade have been undergoing a series of extra drills, in preparation for the competition at Margate on October 7th. *1885*

VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.—The annual meeting of this Brigade was held last week. The balance sheet presented showed that the receipts amounted to £35 8s 11d., including £25 7s. subscriptions, and a total expenditure of £29 13s. 2d., leaving a balance in hand of £5 15s. 9d.—The officers and committee were elected as follows:—Earl Chichester, president; Earl Rodney, Sir E. Watkin, Bart., M.P., and Mr. F. D. Brockman, J.P., vice-presidents; Mr. C. Nickels, hon. captain; Mr. W. B. Kennett, captain; Mr. J. Tuck, lieutenant; committee, Messrs. W. M. Jenner (chairman), R. J. Fynmore (treasurer), Frankin (secretary), Samson, Kiley, McLaehlan, W. Peers, and E. Keeler.—It was decided that the whole of the Brigade should take part in the coming Lord Mayor's Show in London.—It is reported that Capt. Kennett and Lieut. Tuck will meet the French officers from Paris on their landing at Dover, and proceed with them to London. *2. 11. 1889*

*July 20  
1889*

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# Sandgate People

September 1995

The Newsletter of The Sandgate Society

Issue No.47

## Tributes to Ruby Estelle Greenwall our founder and President

**L**inda Rene-Martin writes:

She was a remarkable and somewhat formidable woman, without whose dedication and foresight Sandgate would have lost its essential character and identity and be very different today.

Ruby Greenwall's love of Sandgate stemmed from pre-war, when she, her husband Boris and young son Anthony used to rent a Coastguard cottage during the school holidays. As a neighbour I know how much her family enjoyed the seaside life and the Sandgate air, which was beneficial for Boris, a veteran gassed in World War 1. After World War II Ruby and Boris established themselves more firmly in Sandgate, taking over the former premises of Huntley's, a military boot-maker, and setting up a tasteful stationers and gift shop.

Before that Ruby carried on her father's antique shop in Highgate, and from 1947 to the mid-sixties was a JP in North London. As time went by she transferred her choice stock of antiques to premises adjacent to the gift shop - now the Sandgate Antiques Centre owned by Jonathan Greenwall. Apart from the long-established Nordens' this was the only other antique shop in Sandgate. Then Ruby encouraged Freeman and Lloyd to set up their fine antique furniture shop in the High Street, and gradually others followed.

*(Continued on page 5)*



*The Sandgate Society official headquarters since 1977 thanks to the Initiative of Ruby Estelle Greenwall*

### Our Vice President writes:

The Sandgate Society was formed in 1962 mainly through the efforts of Mrs Greenwall, with the object of saving the Royal Kent Hotel from being destroyed. A number of local residents who shared Mrs Greenwall's strong opposition to the plan to destroy this lovely old coaching inn came forward to join the Society and take up the fight. I was one of them and became the Society's first Secretary with Mrs Greenwall as Chairman. Sadly we failed to save the Royal Kent, but a strong local amenity society had been formed, which during its 33 years' existence has done much in the interest of Sandgate.

Mrs Greenwall was a strong-willed lady who liked to have her own way and usually succeeded in getting it. Although well-respected by all of us on the Committee I must say we hesitated to oppose her except for very good reason. Sandgate meant everything to her, and she was tireless in her efforts for its good and tackling anything she considered to be to its detriment.

DENNIS VORLEY  
Vice President



***Most members will  
already have heard  
of the death of our  
President,  
Mrs Ruby Estelle  
Greenwall, aged 89.  
As founder, chairman  
and life president, her  
story was also that of  
the Society; so we  
bring with two tributes  
to her.***

### inside...

• The Victory Celebrations - a letter from Derek St Clair  
From the Chairman / The Programme  
Sandgate's Shops, Beach 'Nourishment', Vandalism  
Membership & Questionnaire

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# The Victory Celebrations - a letter:

**D**erek St Clair writes:

At the age of about three I arrived, still in a pushchair, at 127 High Street, Sandgate, with my mother and father and 9 years old sister Joyce. My father, Captain F C G St Clair, RN, had been a victim of the "Geddes Axe" whereby huge cuts in the economy in 1922 had resulted in servicemen in particular being arbitrarily retired. The armed forces were far too numerous for peacetime after World War 1 and, along with thousands of industrial workers had to be scaled down drastically.

With difficulty, since there were so many unemployed chasing too few jobs, my father managed to be accepted as HM Coastguard Inspector for south east England. With this job went the residence in Sandgate rather grandly called "Admiralty House" at No. 127. His office was the last of a row of small coastguard cottages near the memorial to Sir John Moore (1761-1809), who was British commander in the Peninsular War.

Next to our house was a small building which housed life saving apparatus in the form of a large cart fully equipped with breeches buoys, miles of rope in oblong boxes, very big rockets to which rope was attached and fired over the ship in distress so as to rescue the shipwrecked mariners. This vehicle was hitched on to a lorry and towed to the nearest point on the coast to the wrecked ship.

Before the advent of sophisticated navigational aids such as radar there were frequent wrecks off the coast of Dungeness. My father and his coastguards were kept quite busy. Often cargoes were washed up on the beach by our house - cargoes such as boxes of white shirts and Huntley & Palmer's large square tins of assorted biscuits - alas no longer available these days in the shops. Once there were many cases of apricot brandy for the taking! I remember too a load of motor car tyres which floated by, and we children got

one shilling per tyre as salvage money. Most winters saw very heavy seas, and we had to have wooden shutters to protect the windows facing the sea from being smashed by the tons of shingle which were thrown up. In summertime we had a raft attached to an empty oil drum and anchored to a block of concrete. What fun we had swimming out to this raft when the tide was up! We also had our own lobster pot which we visited weekly to see what we had caught.

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***So many members and visitors came to the June meeting to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War that there was insufficient time for everyone to have their say.***

***One such contribution has been sent to the Newsletter by Mrs Jeannette Champion, of James Morris Court, who recently received an evocative letter from Mr Derek St Claire, now living at Godalming, Surrey. It paints such a vivid picture of what life was like in those days that we give it almost in full.***

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My mother, of Irish extraction, was fond of horse-racing. In 1930 she backed "Blenheim" the Aga Khan's Derby winner. I think all Sandgate had a flutter on it, as there was a strong tip for the horse from a well-informed resident. My mother won £250 (about £10,000 today) and straight away went out and bought my sister an Austin Seven from Martin Walters for £90.

Alas, the following March my father died suddenly of a heart attack, which came as a great shock to many hundreds of people from Folkestone and district. The funeral service in Sandgate Parish Church was attended by representatives of Legion branches from all over the country; and the funeral cortege stretched the length of the High Street.

I well remember the cinema in Sandgate when silent films were shown. The manager's son was a friend and I used to get free seats in the best part of the cinema - the balcony. A Mrs Lawton, who lived opposite, was the piano accompanist. Her son John joined the Royal Navy and became Chief Gunnery Instructor to the Fleet.

The highlight of the year as far as I was concerned was the "Cheerful Sparrows Fete" which took place on Sandgate Hill, moving later to Cherriton Road. My father was very active with this function which was a charity collecting money for the Victoria Hospital in Folkestone. There was always a tombola with tickets at half-a-crown with fantastic prizes. Martin Walter donated a car, while one year the first prize was a house on the Dover Road, to this day called "Tombola House".

After my father died my mother was befriended by a Mrs Phillipson who lived in a beautiful house called "Encombe" and we lived for a while in the thatched lodge at the entrance to the driveway. Built into the wall a few yards from this lodge was a special place for changing into bathing clothes which we used as changing on the beach was forbidden in those days. I spent many days at Encombe as playmate to the two adopted daughters of Mrs Phillipson - Betty and Barbara.

Goldsack and Holderness in Sandgate High Street were well-known car repairers as well as suppliers of accumulators for the early and rather primitive wirelesses of those days. Col-

(Continued on page 3)



## Derek St Clair's letter continued .....

(Continued from page 2)

man's were our grocers and Mr Colman himself, in his best suit and bowler hat, would call on my mother at Christmas

time and present her with a big tin of biscuits.

Opposite Admiralty House was a small sweetshop run by white-bearded Mr Jordan, who would kindly see me across the road to catch the bus to school in Folkestone. The bus fare was one penny which dropped me off at Grimstone Avenue, from where I had



to walk to Feltonfleet School run by Mr Counsell. This school was obliterated by a landmine in World War 11.

Among my contemporary pupils were the actors David Tomlinson and Michael Bentine. Often I would walk home to save the penny to spend on Mr Jordan's gobstoppers.

My father used to run the annual sportsday in Sandgate Parade when there was a greasy pole, a greasy pig to chase, and three-legged races. One year the two girls in this type of race came a cropper on the tarmac and one badly injured her kneecap and had to be fetched by ambulance. Once a neighbour who lived on the seafront rang my father to report that she had seen a boy dive off the breakwater and as far as she could ascertain had never surfaced. My father and two coast-guard officers, all trained in life-saving, rushed round and used a rowing boat to search the area. Eventually the poor boy was pulled up on the end of a grapnel, but although my father spent hours trying to revive him, it

was to no avail. It appeared that he had broken his neck when diving. The memory of this is indelible, and I have always been wary of the sea since.

After having danced the night away at the Leas Cliff Hall my sister would often take me to Seabrook to the "Black Cottage" which sold delicious bacon and eggs after the pubs had closed. This was a very popular venue for the young folk of the 30's.

In about 1929 there occurred a minimal wave after teatime. The sky went mauve, the wind dropped and all was still. Suddenly, far out to sea, a huge wave arose and rushed towards the shore at high tide. I was very frightened and my sister thought the end of the world had come. The sea water flooded our house and spilled out on to the High Street. My sister attended school on the Lower Road, Sandgate, not too far from the Castle. She and I would act as guides sometimes and spin lurid tales about dungeons and torture chambers to the horrified visitors. We got quite a few tips though, so they must have enjoyed our stories.

Another lasting memory is of the Star & Garter Home for disabled servicemen, of which my father was a Governor. There were some appallingly injured men there, some without limbs, yet who painted with their mouths as a hobby. My father organised concert parties to entertain them.

I loved Sandgate, and Folkestone too, and visit quite frequently to this day.

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### *the lasting memories of a small boy*

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But this involves disappointments, too. I'm afraid. One such disappointment is to see the Grand Hotel carved up into flats. Each year as a small boy I went to a Christmas children's party there. Conjurers, dancers and comics were laid on. Best of all though were the vanilla ice-creams in little corrugated paper cups which were freely distributed. One year I ate 25 - a record for the time!



## From the Chairman

**T**ributes to our late President appear elsewhere in this newsletter and indicate how much we are indebted to her pioneering spirit. She would appreciate the improved appearance of Sandgate. Several houses and shops have been repainted and the hanging flower baskets provided by Shepway Council and organised by our Committee Member Peter Daughters, have enhanced the general effect.

Assistance is required in the Archivist's area of activity and I shall be pleased to hear from anyone willing to help.

Many of you kindly contributed to the Chichester Memorial Hall Clock Re-

pair Appeal. My wife, who is vice-Chairman of the Committee of Trustees, has asked me to say that the first stage of work has been completed - the clock is now showing the time - but the casing has been found to be rotten and must be replaced during the next twelve months for safety reasons. This will add to the current shortfall of some £600 in the repair fund.

My best wishes go to Fred Moore, who has been missed in the village during his illness, and to you all for the autumn.

GEOFFREY EDMUNDS  
Chairman



# Sandgate's Shops

**S**andgate's shops and their keepers, about which we promised some information, are warmly mentioned elsewhere. Relative newcomers include the Hayward Galleries, replacing the much-missed "Trumpet Banner". Weekly art classes for up to 10 beginners are held down there, as well as regular day courses. Diane Webb and Richard Down have been here, just below the

vided across the road by Barbara McGregor beneath the Ann Boleyn sign.

Sandgate's most flourishing business after the antique shops is undoubtedly Olde English Pine. For ten years now Andree Martin and her assistants have been part of the local scene, industriously polishing and varnishing the furniture which attracts customers from London, Norfolk and the Home Counties. Members will have noticed that she has recently taken over the adjoining premises, now offering Olde English Oak. What was a run-down shop with a refrigerated food store at the rear has been magically converted into an Italian-style conservatory with a bright atrium, small fountain and minstrel's gallery - designed by Mrs Martin herself.

Ken Morris, who admits to being 72, is Sandgate's only surviving butcher, and one of our longest serving shopkeepers, successfully competing with the supermarkets, and still supplying some of his original customers with chops, joints and sausages. He tells us

that when he came to Sandgate in 1959 there were 5 grocers, 5 green-grocers, 2 fishmongers, 2 chemists and 2 butchers. The antique dealers, he says, did not edge out other businesses, they just took over the shops as they fell vacant.

One of the latter is the Sandgate Kebab Restaurant, closed for some weeks now. It will be missed by Shorncliffe soldiers, who were frequent late-night customers.

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## Out and about in Sandgate's High Street

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clock, for a year now, and their rare art supplies in paper and canvas attract customers from London. Their regular exhibitions of pictures, pottery and craftwork by local artists are a welcome addition to the cultural scene, complementing what is already pro-



## "Nourishing" the beach

**B**y the end of August the Dutch Ham dredging company had deposited on Sandgate's beaches 400,000 tons of pebbles dredged from Sandown Bay and Owers' Bank off the Isle of Wight, with another 1.6 million tons to come. It's rough work, and the big dredger Geopotes 14 (Geopotes 15 is in Hong Kong) has needed periods of maintenance. It's now gone off to fulfill another commitment, but should be back in a few weeks to fill in the big gap in the new beach at the bottom of Brewers' Hill. In the meantime a smaller replacement dredger, the Sliedrecht (named after the world's "dredging capital" in Holland) has been moored off Fisherman's Beach at Hythe, and the fishing boats will have to work around the thousands of tons of peb-

bles coming ashore which should soon make their life easier.

Users of the new beach will be relieved to know that Fellow International, a group of ex-army bomb disposal engineers, have surveyed the new beach in five-square metre grids to a depth of fourteen feet to check for wartime bombs, shells and other debris. They found a lot of six-inch nails, but little else. To check their work, Ham managers painted a one penny-piece white for identification purposes, threw it on the beach, and challenged the bomb disposal men to find it. In due course they returned it triumphantly to the Ham site office at Seabrook.

The Shepway notices about the beach nourishing are the latest victims of local vandals.

Damage to residents' cars on the Wilberforce Road car park has reached unacceptable levels. It is now regular, and includes setting fire to cars, and deliberately crashing them into one another. Residents forced to park there because they have no room for garages of their own deserve more protection. One theory is that the surveillance cameras in Folkestone have driven the vandals to places like Sandgate which are not monitored.

Maybe we should try to persuade our local police - who apparently know who the vandals are and tend to say there is not much they can do! - to attend a Sandgate meeting to discuss ways of combating the problem.

Dated

19<sup>5</sup> December

1928.

THE SANDGATE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

with

THE SANDGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

A G R E E M E N T

for service.

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T. L. Kendrick,  
Sandgate.



T H I S   A G R E E M E N T is made the *twelfth* day  
of *December* One thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight  
B E T W E E N THE SANDGATE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL (herein-  
after called the Council) of the one part FREDERICK GUY  
CATHCART ST. CLAIR and CHARLES EDWARD CLOKE being respect-  
ively the CHAIRMAN and SECRETARY and acting on behalf of  
the COMMITTEE of the SANDGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE  
(hereinafter called the Brigade) of the other part \_\_\_\_\_

W H E R E A S :-

The Council at a Meeting held on the Twelfth day of June  
One thousand nine hundred and twenty-eight RESOLVED to  
enter into an Agreement with the Brigade upon the terms  
hereinafter mentioned \_\_\_\_\_

N O W I T I S H E R E B Y A G R E E D as follows:-

- (1) The duties of the Brigade shall be deemed to have  
commenced on the first day of October One thousand  
nine hundred and twenty-seven \_\_\_\_\_
- (2) The duties of the Brigade shall be as follows:-
  - (a) To provide and maintain a sufficient and adequate  
Fire Brigade and provide maintain and keep in order  
a good and sufficient fire engine together with all  
hoses ladders and mechanism relating thereto and  
provide such equipment for the members of the

Brigade as is usual reasonable and necessary for the proper execution of their duty to the satisfaction of the Council \_\_\_\_\_

- (b) The Brigade shall attend all outbreaks of fire within the Sandgate Urban District when called upon promptly and expeditiously and shall use their best endeavours immediately to abate the same PROVIDED ALWAYS that nothing herein contained shall prevent the Captain of the Brigade for the time being requesting the assistance of other Brigades in the neighbourhood if he in his uncontrolled discretion shall consider such assistance to be advisable \_\_\_\_\_
- (c) The Brigade shall be at liberty to go to the assistance of other Brigades in the neighbourhood when requested \_\_\_\_\_
- (d) The Brigade shall attend such municipal functions and participate in such processions as requested by the Council \_\_\_\_\_
- (3) All matters of routine discipline and expenditure shall be dealt with by the said Committee as they in their discretion shall think fit subject to the approval of the Council in respect of any material alteration in

the constitution of the Brigade \_\_\_\_\_

- (4) The Total fee to be paid by the Council to the Brigade shall be THIRTY-NINE POUNDS (£39.) per annum payable in one sum in the month of March in every year the first of such payments to be made in the month of March One thousand nine hundred and twenty-nine
- (5) This Agreement shall be determinable by either party at their absolute discretion upon three months notice in writing being given to expire on the Thirty-first day of March in any year and such notice shall be duly given by the Council to the Brigade if the same shall be left or sent by registered post to the Secretary for the time being at his private address or shall be duly given by the Brigade to the Council if the same shall be left or sent by registered post addressed to the Council or their Clerk for the time being at the Council Offices. \_\_\_\_\_

A S W I T N E S S the Common Seal of the Sandgate Urban District Council and the hands of the said Frederick Guy Cathcart St. Clair and Charles Edward Cloke \_\_\_\_\_

THE COMMON SEAL of The Sandgate Urban District Council was hereunto affixed }  
in the presence of:- }  
\_\_\_\_\_ }  
\_\_\_\_\_ }  
\_\_\_\_\_ }

*Frederick Guy Cathcart St. Clair*

Chairman.

*T. H. Kendrick*

Clerk.



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Dated 19<sup>th</sup> December 1928.

THE SANDGATE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

with

THE SANDGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE

A G R E E M E N T

for service.

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T. L. Kendrick,  
Sandgate.

# "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 BUSTACE.  
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," - - - <i>Kuhner.</i>	FINALE (1st Act), - - - " Belisario," - - - <i>Donizetti.</i>
SELECTION, - - - " La Mascotte," - - - <i>Audran.</i>	POLKA, - - - " Les Sauterelles," - - - <i>G. Delbecq.</i>
VALSE, - - - " Visions d'Amour," <i>G. &amp; A. Dellbrück</i>	FANTASIA, - - - " Patience," - - - <i>Sullivan.</i>
SONG, - - - " St. Agnes' Eve," - - - <i>Sullivan.</i>	VALSE, - - - " Dream Faces," - - - <i>Meisler.</i>

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," - - - <i>Michaelis.</i>	GALOP, - - - " Round Oak," - - - <i>Van den Hoveel.</i>
VALSE, - - - " Happy Thoughts," - - - <i>Proud.</i>	VALSE, - - - " Jeunesse Dorée," - - - <i>Waldteufel.</i>

### 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.

STACK, PRINCE, SANDGATE AND FOLKSTONE.

old Handbill

MOUNTED ON BACK.

Built in 1883/4 Custom built as a dual fire station and reading room  
Now Sandgate Library. Late c 19. 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 Literary Institution founded
- 1859 -- Sandgate Fire Brigade started about this time
- 1877 -- Serious fire at Devonshire Terrade, 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 the 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 parade through town, take 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 contributions from  
the townsfolk needed.
- 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 the Fire Engine Room). Becomes their  
regular venue.
- 1884 -- Nov 3 Volunteer Fire Brigade holds its inaugural dinner. Sir E.W.  
Watkin MP in the Chair
- 1893 -- Following Sandgate Landslip disaster, the Misses Reilly agree to  
build additional room (now Whitbread's bottle store) at rear of  
Engine Room for the use of the Board's surveyor. Rent £ 10 p.a.
- 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
- 1974 -- Under Local Government Reorganisation 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
- 1977 -- Sandgate Society become tenants-at-will in disused engine room,  
at economic rent. Refurbish it as their headquarters
- 1982 -- Sandgate Branch Library moves to new premises on site of another  
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 group of residents and members of Sandgate Society  
to send a deputation to Kent County Council. County Estates Officer  
gives Steering Committee one month in which to make an offer at  
considered 'open market' price.
- Shepway Solicitor advises steering committee to buy shelf company  
as vehicle to acquire the property. Socialview Ltd offers £ 15,000  
but is forced to raise initial offer to £ 18, 100 in line with  
'rival bidder'.



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

# Sandgate looks to its heritage

**F**lanked 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.

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 Méyer 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 landslide 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 unflinching 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.

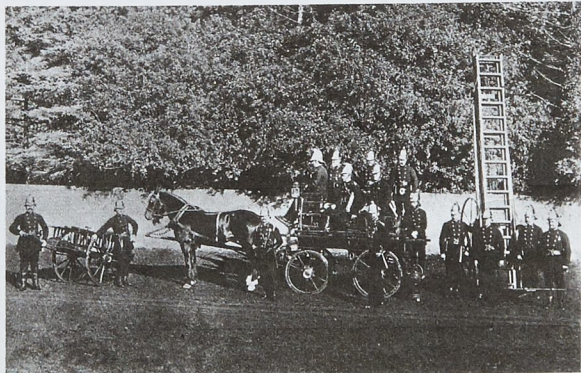
The Society's tenancy-at-will, however, was cut short. In 1982, upon removal of the upstairs branch library to new premises on the site of the former James Morris dwellings (another Sandgate benefaction), the Kent County Council gave the Society notice to quit prior to disposing of this "surplus building"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

Reference Code  
of Application ..... SH/76/1203.....TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS.  
TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING GENERAL DEVELOPMENT ORDERS, 1973 to 1974

Notification of Grant of permission to Develop Land

26 JAN 1977

To: The Sandgate Society,  
c/o Messrs. Cheney & Thorpe, ARIBA.,  
11, Theatre Street,  
Hythe,  
Kent.

TAKE NOTICE that The SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL, the district planning authority under the Town and Country Planning Acts, HAS GRANTED PERMISSION for development of land situate at 51, Sandgate High Street, Folkestone ---- and being use of ground floor as an Amenity Society Headquarters and meeting room ----

referred to in your application for permission for development dated the Tenth day of December, 1976,

SUBJECT TO THE CONDITIONS SPECIFIED hereunder:--

- (i) The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of five years beginning with the date on which this permission is granted.
- (ii) The premises shall be used for the purposes of an Amenity Society Headquarters and meeting room only by the applicants and for no other purpose.

and that the grounds for the imposition of such conditions are:--

- (i) In pursuance of Section 41 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.
- (ii) In order that any proposal for any other use may be the subject of an application which the District Planning Authority would wish to consider on its merits.

Dated this

24<sup>th</sup>

day of

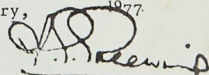
January,

1977

Address

Civic Centre,  
Folkestone.

(Signed).....



Controller of Technical and Planning Services.  
Your attention is drawn to the notes overleaf.

NOTE

This permission is confined to permission under the Town and Country Planning Acts, and the Town and Country Planning General Development Order, 1973 and does not obviate the necessity of compliance with any other enactment, bye-law, or other provision whatsoever or of obtaining from the appropriate authority or authorities any permission, consent, approval or authorisation which may be requisite.

NOTIFICATION TO APPLICANT

(1) If the applicant is aggrieved by the decision of the district planning authority to refuse permission or approval for the proposed development, or to grant permission or approval subject to conditions, he may appeal to the Secretary of State for the Environment in accordance with section 36 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971 within six months of receipt of this notice. (Appeals must be made on a form which is obtainable from the Department of the Environment **Becket House, Lambeth Palace Road, London, SW1 7BR.**)

The Secretary of State has power to allow a longer period for the giving of a notice of appeal but he will not normally be prepared to exercise this power unless there are special circumstances which excuse the delay in giving notice of appeal. The Secretary of State is not required to entertain an appeal if it appears to him that permission for the proposed development could not have been granted by the district planning authority, or could not have been so granted otherwise than subject to the conditions imposed by them, having regard to the statutory requirements (a), to the provisions of the development order, and to any directions given under the order. He does not in practice refuse to entertain appeals solely because the decision of the district planning authority was based on a direction given by him.

(2) If permission to develop land is refused or granted subject to conditions, whether by the district planning authority or by the Secretary of State for the Environment and the owner of the land claims that the land has become incapable of reasonably beneficial use in its existing state and cannot be rendered capable of reasonably beneficial use by the carrying out of any development which has been or would be permitted he may serve on the Council of the district in which the land is situated a purchase notice requiring that Council to purchase his interest in the land in accordance with the provisions of Part IX of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

(3) In certain circumstances, a claim may be made against the district planning authority for compensation, where permission is refused or granted subject to conditions by the Secretary of State on appeal or on a reference of the application to him. The circumstances in which such compensation is payable are set out in section 109 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971.

(a) The statutory requirements are those set out in section 36(7) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, namely sections 29(1), 30(1), 67 and 74 of the Act.

suit 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 motor  
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 Felham 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 Trust  
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-organization Act of 1972, the property  
is transferred to KENT COUNTY COUNCIL, responsible for Library ser  
Note Library area occupied less than one third of total property
- 1976 -- SANDGATE SOCIETY become tenants-at-will in disused engine room,  
re-furnish 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  
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 Estate  
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 £ 15,300 and subsequently raises the initial offer to  
£ 18,100 to compete with another bidder.

# 1ST. CLASS MAIL

5th December, 1977.

Harry Orford, Esq.,  
C/o. Messrs. Merryweather & Sons Ltd.,  
49, Greenwich High Road,  
London, SE10 8LH.

Dear Mr. Orford,

The Sandgate Society, whose aim is the conservation of the village of Sandgate near Folkestone in Kent, have as their "Centre" the Engine House of the old Sandgate Volunteer Fire Brigade built in 1884, a most charming little building with a shingled tower to carry the fire bell weighing some three hundred pounds. Above was a Reading Room, now the Library. The attached clipping from a sheet of the Society's note paper will give you a good idea of what it looks like.

The Society wishes to keep the original purpose of the Centre very much in the minds of the villagers and to that end Mrs. Greenwall our Chairman has asked me to do some research on the history of the Brigade and make a model of the engine. Your name was given to me by Mr. Carpenter of the Friends of Lydd who has allowed me to inspect their original engine, No. 3211 of 1890-22 man manual by Merryweather. The attached photo of the Sandgate engine suggests they were similar.

There was an appliance in Sandgate as early as 1859 and further mention in 1877 but the formal establishment of The Sandgate Volunteer Fire Brigade took place, according to its Rule Book, on 12th October, 1882, though a newspaper article of 1953 says the new engine was received in August 1882 "with ladders". A note of the time says it was "bought of SBhand Mason". The sum of £200 had been raised. Further press dates are: - "New Year's Eve 1889/90-paraded in new brass helmets" "1892-New Escape received".

I attach a rather long list of queries and we should be very grateful indeed for any answers you could give and for

(2)

any further information.

I shall be delighted to cover the cost of any photo-  
stats or other copies you may be able to supply.

Yours sincerely,

A.TODD.

QUERIES relating to equipment of Sandgate Volunteer Fire  
Brigade-1882-1904.

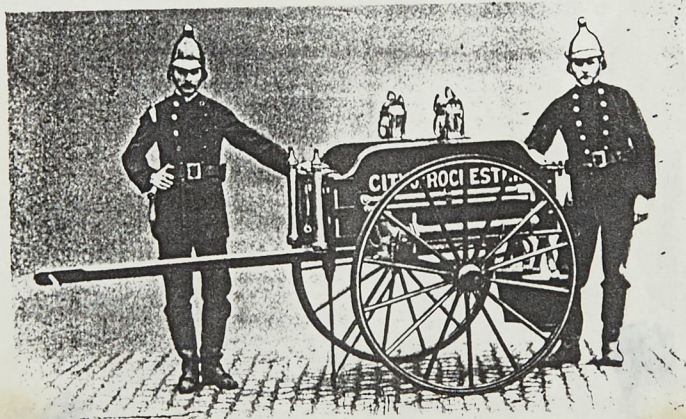
1. Is the whereabouts of the engine known?
2. Do any of the "Kit" model makers supply one of this type?
3. Details, dates and if possible photostat copies of the documents relating to the purchase of the engine and equipment.
4. Shand Mason's Serial Number of the engine.
5. The lettering put on the engine before delivery.
6. Plans or working drawings used in the making of the original engine-for record purposes and for use in making a model. If plans no longer exist, was it the same as the Lydd engine?
7. Information on how the engine and equipment functioned and how it was operated.
8. Are there any books giving such details?
9. Are there any books giving the history of the early engines and their manufacturers?
10. Was the extending escape on the right of the photograph (presumably that bought in 1892) carried on the engine, pulled behind it, or pulled on its own wheels by its own horse?
11. What was the purpose of the large iron beehive in front of the two pump cylinders? (Air cushion?)
12. Where was the engine's own cistern and how much did it
13. Output-136 gallons per minute with                    hold?  
22 men operating a one-second cycle? To 50 ft height?





A horsed hose reel, *circa* 1880. Many hose reels were hand drawn.

1938: Fire Brigades Act made Local Authorities responsible for Fire Protection. NFS setup 1941



A typical hose cart of the period 1850-1920.

## 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 hard and hardy Pelham of Kincombe.
  - 2 1882 Sufficient money was collected by the end of August
  - 3 1883 The Misses Reilly, the new owners of Kincombe built "The Fire Engine House". The engine had been housed in "The Royal Kent Garage" (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"
- 1889 The Brigade had an international reputation when the Captain Mr W. B. Kennet 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 Bennett and Lieutenant Tuck were presented to the German Kaiser at the

## Crystal Palace.

The Building Quote from The 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 with a shingled roof.

The Bell. The bell, formerly stored in the Falkstone library, is now mounted on a platform in the Old Fire Station. It was removed from the Tower early 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 concerning these districts. 20. 6. 84

N.B. Support for the building of the Old Fire Station was given by "Their President Lord Pelham, the residents, quarry and trades people".

The engine was drawn by horses.



1884

1984

Saturday 16 June 8-11pm

## CANDLE-LIGHT SUPPER

in the old Sandgate Library

with 'Audrey, Richard and friends' in

an interlude of song and verse

\* \* \* \* \*

Supper (incl. wine) £8.50 - cheques to  
Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd in aid of Restoration

Please reserve early (35 places only) to:  
Mrs. L. René-Martin, Coast Cottage,  
149 Sandgate High Street. (30360)



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.

In addition to... deary prejry resulting from lies they are said Keeley. "Tony would still be alive The trial conti

# Society attacks indefinite closure of flooded library

A PRESERVATION society has lashed out at officials over the 'indefinite closure' of a library.

After the recent downpour, Sandgate High Street was left water logged, once again, and the library severely damaged.

Now The Sandgate Society committee has had enough and has decided to make a 'vigorous' protest at the gradual decline of the library, which has been flooded three times in the last month.

Committee chairman Reginald Turnill claims he wrote to Kent County Council (KCC) a few years ago, complaining at the 'steady run-down' of the library.

He said: "Since then, its usefulness has been steadily eroded by the reduction in size and number of the book-cases and consequently the selection of books available to its users."

Mr Turnill has been dismayed at the 'near-abolition' of useful and current reference books and claims he was assured by the council that these moves 'were not a precursor to finding an excuse to shut this library completely'. Outraged Mr Turnill said: "The penetration of recent flood waters into a new building, standing on sloping ground, which should have made drainage simple, has been caused by faulty design.

"The KCC architect or surveyors and the builders should surely be held responsible for designing the entrance in such a way that flood water is carried into it, quickly silting up the inad-

equate gutters. Nothing has been done to correct this, despite earlier flood warnings. Now it seems to us that clearing out the whole library is a precursor to depriving Sandgate, permanently, of this important facility."

The committee has demanded an improved stock of books, as soon as the flood damage has been cleaned up, with a ticketing system integrated with the Folkestone, Hythe and Cheriton libraries.

Mr Turnill added: "Parents regard the children's section as particularly important in providing them with an early introduction to the world of books. The half-hour visit of a mobile library from 5pm to 5.30pm, once a week, in an obscure car park, is of no practical use to adults or children

However, the KCC has insisted that all the books were rescued from the flood and is taking advice on the library building. Discussions are underway with Shepway District Council, which owns the building.

A KCC spokesman said: "This is very regrettable but we are currently investigating all the options for the retention of Sandgate Library.

"It is also a wider problem than simply water flooding through the door — there are also leaks in the roof of the building, which have caused problems in the past."

Any residents experiencing difficulties in returning books have been asked to call Folkestone Library on (01303) 850123 and fines on late books will not be charged.

# GET OWNS

gh quality

.....£820 inc VAT

.....£1350 inc VAT

.....£1700 inc VAT

ed, Pilkington glass,  
dles, conservatories,  
rches in UPVC or  
luminium.

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ory, base work, brick  
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rt to finish at very  
petitive prices.

### NOW ON

### 3) 835353

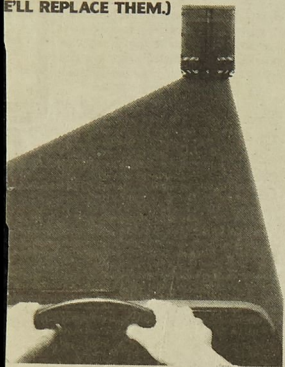
ings & weekends

## OUR UNBEATABLE GUIDE TO LOCAL

F x H. Herald: 3 July 97

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THEM FOR  
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OD THEY ARE.**

**WE'LL REPLACE THEM.)**



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# School is in Ofsted

Report by John Mitchell

**TEACHING** standards at Selsted Primary School have been praised in an official report.

Inspectors from Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, said all lessons examined were satisfactory or above — well ahead of county and national averages.

Their report on the Church of England school, established in 1871 for children of Swingfield, Wootton and Denton, also commended work with special needs pupils.

They congratulated staff for the pupils' spiritual, moral and social development, assemblies, RE work and maintenance of strong links with the local community.

Three inspectors visited the school in March and met pupils, parents, staff and governors.

The school has 71 pupils with two full-time and three part-time teachers.

Inspectors commended the effective management by head teacher Graham Truss, the commitment of all the conscientious staff and the close liaison with the governors.

The report said: "Mr Truss has a clear view of the future educational direction of the school."

Two areas of the curriculum, design technology and information technology, were identified by the inspec-

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OF THE TABLE WHEN IT COMES TO LO

Old Fire Station



Centenary Supper



# "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 31<sup>ST</sup>, 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. ROEMER, will play the following Selections:

QUADMILL, . . . " Commerce," . . . <i>Kuhner.</i>	FINAL (1st Act), . . . " Belshario," . . . <i>Donizetti.</i>
SELECTION, . . . " La Mascotte," . . . <i>Aufrau.</i>	POLKA, . . . " Les Nautonelles," . . . <i>G. Paderewski.</i>
VALSE, . . . " Visions d'Amour," <i>O. &amp; A. D. Brack.</i>	FANTASIA, . . . " Patience," . . . <i>Kullien.</i>
SONG, . . . " St. Agnes' Eve," . . . <i>Sullivan.</i>	VALSE, . . . " Dream Faces," . . . <i>Meister.</i>

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

6.30 to 7.30. THE BAND.

PROGRAMME—

" Turkish Patrol," . . . <i>Michaelis.</i>	GALOP, . . . " Round Oak," . . . <i>Van der Horst.</i>
VALSE, . . . " Happy Thoughts," . . . <i>Proud.</i>	VALSE, . . . " Jeunesse D'Or," . . . <i>Waldteufel.</i>

### 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.

STAGE, PRINTER, BARNUM AND JACKSONS.



SANDGATE VOLUNTEER FIRE BRIGADE.

CENTENARY SUPPER

16 June 1984

---

8.00 pm - Sherry in the Old Engine Room

8.30 pm - Supper in the Old Library

---

GRACE

Watercress Soup

Cold Salmon with Salad

Cheese

Sandgate Delights

Vin d'Alsace

---

The Loyal Toast

Toast to our new Deputy Town Mayor  
and local Councillor - Eric Hamer

Toast to the Centenary

---

Chairman's Welcome

Guest of Honour - Peter Fynmore

---

Audrey, Richard, Roger and Friends  
in an interlude of Song and Verse, with  
a tribute to our late patron  
Sir John Betjeman

## A FEW FACTS

At the request of the Sandgate Society, the Sandgate Heritage Trust Ltd., was formed to purchase the Old Fire Station-Library which had become surplus to the needs of the Kent County Council in 1982.

The purchase was made possible mainly through the generosity of members of the Sandgate Society and a grant of £250 from the Folkestone Charter Trustees.

## FUNDS for RESTORATION

About £10,000 for structural repairs alone are urgently needed. Statutory grants from KCC and Shepway DC will amount to approximately 20% on completion.

Support has been received from the following bodies: Kent Voluntary Services Initiatives Fund, the Lesley-David Trust, The Manifold Trust, Folkestone Mayoress's Banquet share of proceeds, The Pilgrim Trust, ICI (Dulux) and Chubb Fire Equipment.

The Sandgate Heritage Trust is a registered charity. The building has been designated of County-wide importance.

Donations to -  
Arthur Ruderman, Hon. Treasurer,  
51 High Street, Sandgate, Kent, CT20 3AH

## CENTENARY OF THE OLD FIRE STATION & READING ROOM

The Centenary of the Old Fire Station and Reading Room was celebrated by a week of successful and enjoyable events organised by a special committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Heather Richardson.

The festivities began with a Candlelight Supper on 16th June in the panelled library which had served from 1904 for 30 years as Sandgate's Council Chamber. Guest of honour Peter Fynmore, whose grandfather Lt.Col. R. J. Fynmore was 13 times Chairman of the Sandgate Local Board of Health and then the Urban District Council (until 1905) recalled the old days. Wearing the original chain of office, our newly-elected Deputy Town Mayor and local councillor Eric Hamer and Mrs. Hamer honoured us with their presence and completed the link with the past. This convivial evening ended with some rousing entertainment from members of the PHODS. Warm thanks to them, to voluntary helpers Celia Stringer and George Austin, and to all who gave donations, provisions and flowers.

The Thanksgiving Service at St. Paul's Church on the following day was conducted by the Rev. E.D. Schofield and was attended by representatives of local organisations and by members of the British Legion, Scouts, Guides, Children's Workshop and local schools, who all joined in a parade led by the band of the Folkestone Air Training Corps.

Further events included entertainment by the Nicholson Pipe Band on Granville Parade and an open evening with the Sea Cadets of T.S. Invicta and demonstrations by the Ship's Company. A well-attended Disco was held in the Chichester Hall.

The final Saturday was packed with activity. In the morning the A.T.C. Band played in Granville Road West and on Military Green. Two Fire engines took up positions on the forecourt of Riviera Court by kind permission of the residents, a modern Turntable Ladder and an old open Fire Tender of 1939 vintage which were swarmed over by the children of Sandgate. Folkestone Regatta attracted the usual crowds and a demonstration by the Sandgate Windsurfing Club was aided by the high wind which had blown up after a calm morning.

The day finished with a most enjoyable Centenary Supper in an attractively decorated Chichester Hall organised by Mr. Roger Joyce and helped by members of the Children's Workshop.

An exhibition of firefighting memorabilia on loan from the Kent Fire Brigade Museum was staged throughout the week and will be in the branch library from 25th June.

### LOLA LACHLAN MEMORIAL COMPETITION

The prizegiving for those successful in this competition took place on 23 June in the Old Reading Room, which was full to overflowing with competitors, parents and friends. Prizes were presented by Mrs. Greenwall, the winners being:-

Essays (Seniors) Joint 1st prize ... Victoria Beer, Myles Bowker,  
Wendy Petts.

Special Judges' prize ... Joseph Bleach.

Art (Juniors) First prize ... Andrew Armitage  
Joint special second prize ... Daniel File, Simon Bowker.

# Campaign launched



**APPEAL LAUNCH:** Sandgate Society members, together with the Earl of Guildford and his wife, and Councillor Claude Poll.

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to raise thousands of pounds for repairs and improvements to Sandgate's Old Fire Station.

The former voluntary fire station and reading room now belongs to the people of Sandgate.

It has been bought by a charity, the Sand-

gate Heritage Trust, from Kent County Council for £18,100.

Conservation watchdog the Sandgate Society set up a small steering group to raise money for the purchase.

And guests invited to the launch of a fund-raising campaign last Wednesday were told that response to the building buying campaign was magnificent.

Mrs Linda Rene-Martin, a member of the Sandgate Heritage Trust, said: "Sandgate is an extraordinary little place when faced with a crisis."

When the county council decided to put the station up for sale there were fears that it would fall into the hands of a private developer. But there was a surge of passion in residents.

Many of the society's members made generous gifts of money.

Dr Alan Fisk, the trust's secretary, said the charity had little left in the kitty.

Some money will be made when tax is given back on covenants and rent comes in from the Sandgate Society which is using the engine room.

The appeal to find at least £11,600 for structural repairs and another £12,400 for improvements is long term.

At the launch, support was given by one of the trust's distinguished patrons, the Earl of Guildford, a fire engine enthusiast.

He owns an old 1965 K2 engine which he uses on his farm.

Local dignitaries including the Chairman of Shepway District Council, Councillor Claude Poll, and district councillors were also at the sherry reception.

Fulkestone, H.  
& District, He

11 November

Also TVs

Coast to Coast

Nov 2 - 6 pm

## Herald

### COMMENT

AT A time when the motto seems to be Big is Best it is refreshing to see something is being done to preserve village life.

In Sandgate, villagers have not been content with just making loud noises about the fate of the old Fire Station, they have got together to do something about it.

Guided by the Sandgate Society, who have formed the Sandgate Heritage Trust, they have raised the money to buy the neglected building.

Now they hope to use it as the Society's headquarters and also provide a history room.

Money is urgently needed to carry out the repair work. Villagers have got this far and deserve support for their campaign. In a world of change it is vital to preserve little pieces of our history.

# Society fights to win back headquarters

A PASSIONATE fight is on to save one of Sandgate's cherished landmarks falling into "alien" hands.

Conservation watchdog The Sandgate Society is to be thrown out of its Old Fire Station headquarters at the end of the month, because it is up for sale.

But at a special meeting last Wednesday night its members decided they are not going to take the order to quit lying down.

The society is to pull out all stops in an attempt to save the listed High Street building "for the people of Sandgate."

It is part of the area's heritage and must not be sold to an outsider who may change the historical values of the building, they said.

Kent County Council is putting the Old Fire Station up for sale by tender because it no longer needs it as Sandgate's library.

A new one has been built on the James Morris Site, in the High Street.

The society has leased part of the Old Fire Station as a museum and headquarters since 1976. But now it has been sold to get out by Monday, June 28.

Vice-chairman, Miss Mollie Hornsby, said the group doesn't want to let it disappear from the community's grasp.

Although the society does not have the funds to buy the building, committee members have been trying to find out how much the county council wants. But KCC refuses to give a figure, because under tender the building will go to the highest bidder.

Mrs Linda Rene-Martin, of Coast Cottage, Sandgate High Street, said if the authority had "any spark of humanity left" it would conserve the building as a centre for village life.

Society secretary Mrs Marion Lachlan said last year the county council said it was willing to discuss terms for the sale of the property to the brewery or the society.

But a few months later the county "changed its mind" and put the building up for tender. Mrs Lachlan said.

The meeting decided to send a delegation to County Hall, Maidstone, to stop tender forms being sent and start up negotiations before it is too late.

District Councillor Mr David Pratt, proposed that the society asks local County Councillor Wilf Lawrence to arrange a meeting.

"What we are really looking for is a bit of old-fashioned humanity," Mr Joyce said.

The only ammunition the society has is its "emotional and moral" objections to the property being sold by tender.

"We are almost having to say, 'can some public-minded benefactor come forward and buy it for the people?'"

By  
Gill Gooling

Folkestone Herald  
25. 6. 82

## Group ready to go home...

A CONSERVATION group will be back in its old home by Easter.

Last year the Sandgate Society was evicted from the Old Fire Station because Kent County Council wanted to sell the building in the High Street.

Now a deal has been fixed for the society to move back in rent free as caretakers until another charity buys the station for residents.

The society is guaranteed a permanent home on the ground floor and the former library on the first floor will be made into a history room.

The bottle store at the back will continue to be used by the Providence Inn next door.

At its annual meeting members heard the special com-

mittee set up to look at buying the property had bought an "off the peg" company called Socialiew.

As soon as the Charity Commissioners agree to it getting charitable status the name will be changed to the Sandgate Heritage Trust and it will buy the station.

The four company directors are all society members, the chairman Mr Dennis Vorley, secretary Mrs Marion Lachlan, Dr Alan Fisk and Mrs Linda Rene-Martin.

They have enlisted the help of famous people such as Sir John Betjeman, the poet laureate, as a patron to help with fund raising.

Dr Fisk told the meeting that it would have been impossible for the society to buy the building because it is not in its aims and objectives.

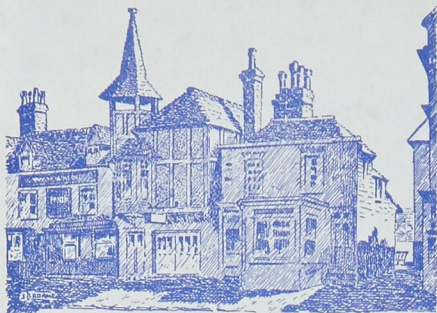
The new company is being carefully studied by the Charity Commissioners, said Dr Fisk.

"We believe it has been fished from the people of Sandgate and we are having to re-acquire it because it would cost far more to prove that legally than to buy it," he said.

Meanwhile the Sandgate Society will need volunteers to man the station when it re-opens at Easter.

Folkestone Herald  
18. 3. 83

must quit headquarters



# THE SANDGATE SOCIETY

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

Hon. Treasurer

MRS. G. JOYCE.

Chairman

MRS. R. E. GREENWALL.  
Aughrim House  
High Street  
SANDGATE.

Hon. Secretary

MRS. M.L.LACHLAN.

JANUARY, 1977.

Dear Member,

Your Committee is pleased to inform you that the Society has acquired the premises of the former Fire Station in the High Street as a Centre for its activities. It is hoped to use the place not only as an Office and Committee Room, but as a point of contact for Members during the week. Items of interest could be housed and displayed, and notices relative to the affairs of the Society, and of local concern, could be on view.

In order to develop the Centre in this way some initial improvement work is necessary, which will involve expense in addition to the rent. Your Committee is asking Members for any help they can give. Donations, however small, will be welcome. In addition, suggestions for contributions in the way of material goods, labour, and helping man the Centre when it opens, will be gratefully received by the Committee.

With your help this place could be made a focal point for the citizens of Sandgate, and a considerable aid in furthering the work of the Society.

Yours sincerely,

CHAIRMAN.

## SUGGESTIONS.

Owing to our very limited income, we are asking for any help you may be able to give, either in donations, or in your personal assistance.

WHITE EMULSION.

BRUSHES.

LIGHT FITTINGS.

STRIP LIGHTS & FITTINGS.

RUGS.

WASTE PAPER BASKETS.

ELECTRIC BLOWHEATER.

JEAVY CURTAINS.

CARPETS.

VACUUM CLEANER.

etc.

ETC.

Offers to be made to any member of the Committee.

THANK YOU.

*Gazette*  
30/6/82

## News in brief

# Society wins temporary reprieve

A STAY of execution has been granted to the Sandgate Society which was due to be thrown out of its headquarters on Monday.

After a meeting with Kent County Council members the conservation society has been told it can stay at the Old Fire Station in a caretaking capacity for the present.

This leaves more time for negotiation. At County Hall on Monday a deputation from the society was presented to Councillor Captain Will Lawrence, chairman of the county council's Country-side and Local Amenities Committee, by Shepway district councillor Mr Eric Hamer.

The county council wants to sell the Old Fire Station because it is no longer needed as Sandgate's library. A new one has been built in the High Street.

The society has leased part of the old station as a museum and headquarters since 1976.



## Heritage centre bid

MEMBERS of Folkestone's Sandgate Society have pledged cash-aid in a bid to save their historical accommodation (left).

For several years, the group has been meeting at the Old Fire Station in the High Street, sharing the premises with the local library.

Now the property is to be offered for sale and the society has been told to quit the premises.

But members have come forward with cash-free loans in the hope they will be able to buy the property — owned by the county council —

and use it as a heritage centre for the area.

At a meeting of Shepway District Council's Finance and General Purposes sub-committee, last week, members decided to defer any decision on council aid for the society, pending further negotiations.



# Cabbie is beaten up and robbed

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**AFN**  
ASSOCIATION OF FREE NEWSPIPERS

WIN with

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from  
**Playtex®**

See page 5  
and enter our  
exciting competition.

**Their  
appeal  
granted**

ST. Margaret's Bay pension-

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

# SANDGATE LIBRARY

To be opened by  
Councillor C.W. Poll, Chairman,  
Shepway District Council,  
on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 1982

KENT COUNTY LIBRARY

## THE BUILDING

The replacement Sandgate Branch Library is situated on the ground floor of a small three storey housing development, near the junction between the Sandgate High Street and Castle Road.

The accommodation includes an adult and children's lending library of 191 square metres with shelving for 7,000 books. There are also illuminated cases for exhibitions and displays. A separate staff and work room is also provided, together with the necessary toilet accommodation.

The design of the library scheme was undertaken in the Shepway District Council's Architect's Department, in liaison with the County Architect's Department. Work was commenced on the complete development in October 1981 by Jenner Contractors Ltd., and the library was handed over to the Kent County Council in April 1982.

County Architect	D.F. Clayton, Dip.Arch.RIBA DIP.TP.
Shepway Project Architect	B. Lyell
Liaison Architect	N.M. Gibson
Contractors	Jenner Contractors Ltd. (Folkestone)

## THE SERVICE

Sandgate's first public library operated from Chichester Hall until 1934 when the Folkestone Corporation became responsible for the service. In August of that year the library moved to the Council Chamber of the former Sandgate Urban District Council. At that time it was open to the public for five hours during each week and provided a stock of 1,100 books. Two years later the hours were extended to over twenty hours each week.

By 1982 the shelf stock of the old library had risen to 2,800 books. Borrowers however, had to climb a steep flight of stairs in order to make use of the library service.

The new Sandgate Library, so much more accessible to the public, will house its stock in spacious surroundings. The library, in James Morris Court, enjoys good display areas and has attractive free-standing and wall-fixed wooden shelving units. It has ease of access from the street level, and has the advantage of adequate space in which to consult, browse among, and borrow books.

The library holds some 7,000 volumes which have been selected to cater for all ages and tastes, with ample provision for the younger generation. A small selection of reference books, supported by the information resources of the County as a whole, is available for consultation and the staff will be anxious to assist members of the public with their information needs.

Extra provision has been made in this library for additional display cases which will be delivered and erected within the next few weeks. Part of the purpose of this is to enable the Sandgate Society, who may well not be able to continue in their present premises, to be able to display various items relating to Sandgate's history in the library from time to time. It will also enable a programme of larger displays on topics of interest to be shown in the library.

## OPENING HOURS

MONDAY	10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
TUESDAY	10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	Closed	Closed
THURSDAY	10.30 a.m. - 1.00 p.m.	2.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.
FRIDAY	Closed	2.30 p.m. - 6.00 p.m.
SATURDAY	10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m.	Closed

Telephone: Folkestone 38563

County Librarian                      Dean Harrison, MA, FLA.

Divisional Librarian                  R.N.E. Dawe, ALA.

# Councillors united in fight for library

**THE CAMPAIGN** to re-open Sandgate library has gathered momentum with all three councillors for the area throwing their weight behind the scheme.

The *Herald* recently reported that the Sandgate Society was furious that frequent flooding had kept the library shut since June.

Now Sandgate councillors Robert Bliss, Gordon Elliott and Joy Macmillan have joined forces to lobby Kent County Council for the facility to be fully restored.

Councillor Macmillan said: "We have all been working quietly behind the scenes to re-open the library.

"We think it is a valuable asset to the community and it should never have been closed."

And Councillor Elliott said the library was vital for young and old alike.

He added: "Children use Sandgate library to learn to read and without it people will have to go to Folkestone library or use the mobile one - and you can't just go down there when you feel like it."

He continued: "Kent County Council says that flooding is a problem and that the books would be damaged if it we had it back.

"But what used to happen when a place was flooded was that they would put up a barrier of sandbags there and

By Toby Smith

try to prevent the flooding."

The books from the library have now largely been moved out of the old library, fuelling suspicions that the closure is permanent.

But KCC has hit back saying no final decision yet taken as to the library's future.

A spokesman said: "The councillors have said we are using the flooding as an excuse.

"That may be their view but that is the reason why it has been closed and all we can say is that the library's future is still being reviewed."

But he added that he could not give any guarantee that the library would be reopened.

He added: "There is a mobile library which comes to the Riviera Road and of course there are also Hythe and Folkestone libraries for people to go to."

But Mrs Macmillan insists: "The council has said the water runs down the hill, cars splash water at the library and the roof leaks.

"But surveyors have told us the damage is only superficial and that there are no real structural problems.

"We can see no reason why the library, with a little repair work, could not be restored."

## Winners!

SIX LUCKY people listed below are winners of our Fairy Liquid competition.

Their prize is an attractive kitchen clock which will be despatched to them shortly. M Harrison, Marine Point, Radnor Cliff, Sandgate; Mrs Hobbs, Middleburg House, Cheriton; Mrs J Finn, Green Meadows, Dymchurch; Mrs P Fuller, Canterbury Rd, Folkestone; Mrs C Hobbs, Page Farm, Postling and Mrs E Cutting, Hythe Road, Dymchurch.

