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James Mason in

Odd Man Out (A)

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REX. Monday December 26th for three days.

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at 6.30 and 8.45

also **WESTERN WHOOPEE** at 8.15



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FRIEDA "U" at 6.30 and 8.45

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by WALDRONS of Sandgate, Kent.



52. The **Rex Cinema** in its final years of operation, flanked by two shops also operating in the old hotel/music hall building, Folkestone Library



53. The view from the entrance foyer of the **Rex** showing the stairs up to the balcony. Folkestone Library

NOVEMBER 14th 2013.

Writer wants to be put in picture on town cinemas

IF ANYONE wants to watch a film in Folkestone, there are few options left. Over the years, many cinemas which have come and gone, and these will be explored in a new book.

ONE would expect to notice if a serial killer walked past while one was out shopping.

It would be fair to suppose that someone who once terrorised a hotel full of people would deserve at least a passing glance.

But when Norman Bates walked down Sandgate Road in the late 1960s, no one said a word.

This might be because he was a character in the classic Hitchcock thriller *Psycho*, played by American actor Anthony Perkins.

The star, who was nominated for an Academy Award in only his second film, had been staying at the Burlington Hotel at the time.

His visit to Folkestone was discovered by local historian Eamonn Rooney, who for the past few years has been writing a new book, called *Animated Photographs: A History of Cinema in Folkestone, Cheriton and Sandgate*.

His research has covered long-lost buildings including the Central Cinema in George Lane, Cheriton Electric Palace and the Playhouse, all of which were demolished, to be replaced with shops and houses where they once entertained crowds of hundreds.

Now he has hit a snag and needs the help of Herald readers with long memories.

He said: "I've always been interested in cinema.

"When I was a teenager in Northern Ireland, I worked at one as a projector; it's always been something I enjoyed.

"A few years ago in 2009, I realised it was the 100th year of

WAY WE WERE

Antony Thrower
antony.thrower
@KRNmedia.co.uk
01303 851683



cinemas, and I thought I should do a book on it for the centenary, but it didn't happen. The year 2010 was when cinemas arrived in Folkestone, but I missed that date too.

"I've been looking into it ever since.

"I've found information on a lot of cinemas, but there are two in particular I'd love to know more about, namely St Martin's Cinema in Cheriton and The Rex in Sandgate.

"I've found very little about them, and I'd love to hear more." Mr Rooney is hoping to uncover memorabilia such as posters, booklets with cinema times or ticket stubs, but he is most hoping to hear any stories from those who recall anything about them.

He is aiming to finish the book by the end of the year, with publication in early 2014.

He added: "Recently, I've found lots of things for the book from eBay.

"I recently bought stills of a film made in Folkestone, and they came from Canada. You never know where they will turn up.

"I'm aware the book is a little anorak-y, a bit in-depth, but I'm hoping movie buffs across the country will read it and come to visit Folkestone.

"If anyone has any information I'd be delighted to hear from them."

■ Anyone with information is asked to call Mr Rooney on 07855 634445



WAY WE WERE ON OUR WEBSITE

■ For more memories of days gone by
VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT

dover-express.co.uk



SINGING IN THE RAIN: Central Cinema in George Lane was showing a classic when this was taken



HISTORIC: The Rex in Sandgate

Creative entrepreneurs are going back to school

Scheme to help new businesses has the backing of former Dragon

By Dean Kilpatrick

dean.kilpatrick@KRNmedia.co.uk

TRADERS are taking part in a creative entrepreneur scheme spearheaded by a former Dragon's Den investor in the hope of boosting trade.

A number of local businessmen and women have been selected to take part in the School for Creative Startups, which is aimed at helping entrepreneurs gain skills and ideas to help push their businesses to the next level, and is supported by former Dragon Doug Richard.

Over the next year, "pupils" will learn more about business and coming up with a strategy their ventures, which they will then showcase in front of creative experts at a glitzy event in London.

Barbara Pani, who runs Anecdotes Design in The Old High Street, said: "I think it is a fantastic scheme.

"We can have one-to-ones with people who really help and give really good practical advice.

Involved

"A lot of those involved locally have got together and we have started selling each other's products.

"There is a real community among those taking part in the scheme.

"I would really recommend it. The people behind it really want us to succeed and they have got the means and experience to do that.

"And it's great so much of it is based in Folkestone."

100 people in the county were picked to take part in the scheme, which is funded by Kent County Council.

Lucy Porter of Lucy Alice Designs said: "I would like to recruit an intern from the local college in the new year, to help me with the production and also teach me a thing or two about social media marketing.

"In turn I would like to teach them about the day-to-day life of



HELPFUL HAND: Barbara Pani believes the scheme will help boost her business pedigree



SHOP LOCALLY: Sahra Carter has been running a pop up shop selling Folkestone souvenirs

stone, also spoke of the business community which has developed since being involved in the classes.

"She said: "It is wonderful to be a

east Kent."

KCC cabinet member for economic development Mark Dance said the scheme was "world-class" and said the author-



Kent College Canterbury

An outstanding school for boys and girls aged 11 to 18



"Now watch, girls. This is how it is done." A cookery instructress tosses a pancake at Mundella School on Shrove Tuesday.

BOUVERIE SQUARE 'BUS STATION

HOPEs were expressed at Wednesday's meeting of Folkestone Town Council that a start will be made soon on the provision of an omnibus station in Bouverie Square.

Cr. J. F. Moncrieff said he asked two years ago whether something could be done to clear up the gardens in Bouverie Square to make them presentable for the season.

"OUR SQUARE"

He made the same request last year and he was now asking again that something should be done.

"Bouverie Square has become known to thousands of residents as 'Our Square,'" Cr. Moncrieff. "It is no longer Bouverie Square but the Town Square, where the majority of buses coming into the town arrive."

"It is not in a satisfactory state for a seaside resort of Folkestone's standing," he continued. "May I ask whether any more progress is being made with regard to the bus station or will an improvement be made before the coming season?"

Ald. C. E. Lister said he was

somewhat taken aback by Cr. Moncrieff's remarks. He would admit *in toto* what had been said, but no provision had been made in the estimates because they were negotiating with the East Kent Road Car Company in regard to the bus station.

"In the meantime may I take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and the members of the Parks Committee for the help they have given in clearing up the gardens," continued Ald. Lister.

"They have cleaned the place up and I do not think we can expect money to be spent there."

INCONVENIENCE

Cr. F. W. Archer said the scrubs had been cleaned out but he suggested that if the negotiations with the bus company were not sufficiently far ahead the convenience in the Square should be taken down.

"It should be taken away if we cannot put up something decent," he said. "It is an inconvenience, not a convenience."

Ald. Lister said the suggestions would not be left unconsidered.

ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS

East Kent Branch Annual Dinner

EAST Kent electrical contractors and engineers forgot high prices and other problems when they foregathered at the County Hotel, Canterbury, on Thursday evening.

The occasion was the 17th annual dinner of the East Kent branch of the Electrical Contractors Association (Incorporated).

MARKO

The company included well-known personalities from Folkestone, and the artistes who entertained after the speech-making were also from Folkestone, among them being "Marko," whose hypnotic turn really amazed the company.

The East Kent branch guest of honour was the President, Mr. P. G. Wallis, of Maidstone, who had some wise words to say about the industry, especially with relation to the British Electricity Authority, representatives of which included Mr. V. Gurr, J.P., of Folkestone. This is the Golden Jubilee Year of the Association, which had about 100 members in 1901 and today numbers 3,000.

(1) It is essential safety of traffic.
(2) It is required police for the efficiencies of their duties.
(3) It is necessary roads, such as road new estates where conditions arise for particular and pedestrian people is entitled and considerable amount of at ing is provided.
Mr. Nicholson said cll could judge whether local fulfilled any of ditions.

COMMITTEES ME
The Parks Comm reported that in connec the lighting on the Promenade and the thereto at an estimat £1,200, letters had bee from the Ministry of and the Ministry of Power drawing the t local authorities to t the Minister of Power in which he immediate need to utmost economy in consumption of fuel for power. Although the tion of all forms of ment and display had not apply to flooding of the Promenade by local authorities, he hoped that any s ing will be discontinued the present year, and it is important th the authorities should ample of economy.

A view of the committee deferred tion of the question ing lighting on the Promenade and the thereto.

14 LIGHTS

Cr. J. D. Lynch, for the Committee's action be got approved had made careful in to the scheme and lights were suggested. Each would have a

WATCH ON SEA DEFENCE

Sandgate Danger

AN emergency meeting of the Council's Coast Protection Sub-Committee will be called if it is found necessary to take action to protect houses in Devonshire Terrace, Sandgate. Giving this information at a meeting of Folkestone Town Council on Wednesday, Ald. N. C. Baker, Chairman of the Highways and Buildings Committee, said the Corporation's consulting engineer and the Borough Engineer would inspect the sea wall.

The question was raised by Cr. C. E. Neale, who asked what action would be taken to safeguard the Terrace, which had suffered damage in the recent gales.

CRACK

On Saturday a crack appeared along the whole length of the carriageway behind the sea wall.

The Highways and Buildings Committee reported that the Town Clerk had informed them that 11 summonses had been served upon him in connection with appeals made by owners affected by notices in regard to sea defence works, the date of the hearing of such appeals being February 21st, 1951. The committee gave the Coast Protection Sub-Committee plenary powers to take any necessary action in connection with the appeals.

Cr. N. Hall has withdrawn his nomination as the Council's representative on the Railway Traders' Panel, and Ald. W. Hollands has been nominated in his place.



Small boys with strong lungs. They are soloists in Lydd British Legion Boys' Band, believed to be the only band of its kind in the country. It is over 20 strong.

Wedding Bells

MR. P. E. WILLS—MISS E. M. DRAPPER

The wedding took place on Saturday at St. Mary the Virgin Church, Merton, of Mr. Felix Ernest Wills, only son of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Wills, of "Weyland," Capel-le-Ferne, and Miss Evelyn Mary Drapper, only daughter of Mrs. Drapper and the late Mr. Drapper.

The bride, given away by her uncle, was attired in a blue gown and carried a bouquet of pink carnations.

The bridesmaid was attired in a grey gown and wore a spray of carnations.

Flt.-Sgt. Wood, friend of the bridegroom, acted as bestman. The honeymoon is being spent in Oxford.

Many presents were received by the happy couple.

DEATH OF MRS. N.

SINCLAIR

Widow Of Former M.P.

THE death occurred at her home, 28, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, on Monday night of Mrs. Nina Sinclair, widow of Mr. Louis Sinclair, Conservative M.P. for Romford for many years.

Mrs. Sinclair, who was 82, had lived in Folkestone nearly all her life and had many memories of the town's earlier days.

Born in South Africa, she was the daughter of Mr. Daniel de Pass. She came to Folkestone in her girlhood and remembered the building of the Pleasure Gardens Theatre. Her husband, who died about 25 years ago, was one of the sponsors, with the late Sir William Bull, M.P., of the Channel tunnel scheme.

He was also closely associated

AWARD

AP

Scheme Won

Well

The importance of

attending

evening classes as laid

their agreements

phased at the buildi

apprentices' prize da

held at the Town Hall

Wednesday evening.

Welcoming the M

Hythe Councillor M.

who presented the

certificates, the Chair

S. J. Clerk said that

towns had always

happily together. Last

cup for the best exhib

year had gone to Hy

year it was coming t

stone.

GOING WELL

The apprentice class

he said, was still goi

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the end of 1943 183 ap

During 1949 60 of those

ties were const

New indentures

totalled 27, against 24

previous year. There w

reasons for that

"One of the big re

I think, that busine

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Sanct place, and

had quite a few app

their hands," Mr. Cl

on.

At the moment re

had 150 indentured ap

It was hoped to see

conditions going

Mr. H. A. When

Feb 10 - 1951 F'stace Hxndel

SPECIAL OFFER OF FINE QUALITY

Music Hall opened 1858 as Appendage to Public House known as Bricklayers Arms. Robert Rignell, Beer Retailer

December, 1875, saw the beginning of the full-time professional career (after odd engagements) of Charles Coborn ("The Man who broke the Bank at Monte Carlo"). Writing in his autobiography, (1924) Charles Coborn says:

"Sandgate, where I started my first complete professional year, is a small township on the south-east coast of Kent, and about three miles west of Folkestone; it depended chiefly for its support and progress upon the adjoining military camp of Shorncliffe. Our audience consisted mainly of soldiers, supplemented by local civilians and fishermen from Folkestone. The prices of admission were low, but the sale of large quantities of beer and other refreshments formed the chief source of revenue to Mr. Rignell [sic], the old and worthy proprietor of the Alhambra Theatre of Varieties.

On a very dark Sunday night in December, 1875, I arrived at the railway station, a mile or so from Sandgate. I had only the sum of fourpence on me, so I left my small amount of luggage at the station and started out to find the hall, my friends - their names were Vincent and Russell - and refreshment, and a place of abode. It was so dark that I had some difficulty in finding my way along the sea road, and the roar of the waves on the shingle quite near me, but scarcely visible, had a peculiar effect upon me, producing a feeling of awe and mystery and a longing for company.

When I got to the Alexandra Hotel, to which the Alhambra belonged and was attached, I found it all closed, and I had some difficulty in arousing anybody to attend to me. At last old Mr. Rignell looked out of an upper window and demanded, in his peculiar rasping voice, "Who's there?" He probably thought that the loud knocking originated from some tipsy belated soldier. I explained, and asked him if he knew where Vincent and Russell were lodging. He directed me to "the Frenchwoman", a Mrs. Hogben, wife of a fisherman with a good old Kentish name.

Those in the house had not yet gone to bed, so when I asked Mrs. Hogben if two comedians lodged with her, she said "Yes", and showed me upstairs to their room. I knocked, and an unfamiliar voice called, "Come in!" On entering the room I found myself in the presence of two men whom I had never seen before. I apologised for my mistake, or the landlady's, and said I wanted to find Vincent and Russell. The taller man replied assuringly, "Oh, it's all right, old men. Vincent and Russell are staying with Mrs. Philpott in Chapel Street, near here." I thanked him and withdrew.

I soon found out Vincent and Russell, and I also found out that the two comedians I had barged in upon were Chirgwin and Collins, two versatile "nigger" performers who had concluded their engagement at the Alhambra the night before. Thus did I make my first acquaintance with my lifelong friend and fellow-worker, George H. Chirgwin, the "White-eyed Kaffir," a comedian whom I felt impelled to describe in after years as the cleverest all-round artiste I had ever seen. And I cannot say that I have ever found reason for greatly modifying that opinion!

peculiar meaningless but popular expression 'Cold, ain't it?'
80's & 90's Shorncliffe garrisoned by 6000 of the toughest
Troops in the British Army

EXTRACTED FROM "THE FOLKESTONE CHRONICLE", 9th OCTOBER 1858

Page 8. column d.

SANDGATE

On Monday evening last, Mr. Rigden, the Landlord of the Bricklayers Arms, opened a new room he has had lately erected at the rear of his premises for the purpose of having musical entertainments, etc. The Hall, which is 65 feet long by 25 wide, and proportionally high, is lit by three handsome glass Chandeliers depending from the roof, with branches for gas, at intervals, along each side. The spirit which has dictated the erection of this fine room is very creditable to Mr. Rigden. A concert was given on the above evening, when Madame Blewett (Pianist and vocalist), Mrs. Marion, a pleasing Ballad singer, Mrs. Barnes, Mr. J.A. Gellis, not forgetting Herr Rosencrant, the negro melodist, and tambourine player, who astonished many by his extraordinary performances on ten tambourines at once, - gave a very pleasing entertainment, which was further enlivened by some very capital dancing in ballet costume by Miss Anne Zellesta, from the London Theatres. A large number of persons were present and seemed much to enjoy the entertainment provided for them.

Special engagement at enormous expense - the rage
of London and Paris - The Bros. Barron and their
wonderful Kinematograph or Animated photographs.

1921 Alhambra demolished.

Rex Cinema - silent stars of the Silver Screen.

lights after dark in Earls them. have had any previous dance experience or not.
Avenue, on January 20th. Henry Hilden, farm worker

Memories Of "The Bricks" And Gay Days At Sandgate

MEMORIES of the old music hall, The Alhambra, Sandgate, popularly known as "The Bricks," were recalled by two of the three items in the recent "Theatre in the Lady Sassoon Room, Public Library.

One of the exhibits was a faded photograph of a staff outting; another, a day-bill advertising a concert at Rigden's Music Hall—the name before the building became "The Alhambra."

Mr. Victor Foley, of Wellington Place, Sandgate, whose memories of old Sandgate go back some 75 years, revives the atmosphere of the heyday of the music hall, in the following letter received from him this week:

To the Editor

Sir,—Sandgate in the eighties held a world-wide reputation for gaiety for many a soldier who had been stationed on Shorncliffe Camp and drafted abroad, carried the memory of nights at the Alhambra Music Hall, Sandgate, commonly called "The Bricks."

Indeed, Folkestonians would swarm into Sandgate on foot, when any good show was billed for the week.

PICKETS

Special pickets of armed troops would patrol the streets to keep the naughty soldiers in order.

This was a necessary precaution, for one night in 1887, Sandgate's main street resembled a battlefield, when men of two rival regiments clashed in the hall and began to settle their differences during the gate show.

The interior of the hall was extensively damaged, reinforcements were sent for from Shorncliffe and order was finally restored, by the arrival of men of the Lincolnshire Regiment with fixed bayonets.

The Commandant of the

camp, General Sir Baker Russell, arrived on horseback and took charge, but he was pulled from his saddle and had to be protected from the mob.

READY FOR ACTION

Coastguards stood ready for action to prevent the station being overrun by the rioters. Luckily, there were no fatal casualties, but many were treated at the Military Hospital. Needless to say the Hall was closed for repairs, which took many weeks and at last was re-opened with a special programme and all the gaiety of former times.

Several "turns" of note were Belle Elmore, Crippen's wife, and a retired hangman named Berry.

This gentleman would unfold his gruesome occupation by relating the last moments of his unfortunate victims. To his everlasting credit, the Vicar of Sandgate cut short his visit. The best show ever staged there, was by a troupe of negro minstrels who made frequent visits to Sandgate.

Any outstanding event, was sure to be recognised by a special "turn."

STORM-BOUND

One worth recording was the extraordinary feat of a Cornish fisherman in 1890.

He was to be paid £100, if he succeeded in rowing his old tarred skiff of 16ft. "The Bold Lass," from Land's End to Looe, Gravesend, by stages, in a certain time.

Caught by a stiff southerly wind coming across Dungeness Bay, he rode skilfully on the crest of the waves, and landed safely at the Coastguard station at Sandgate.

He was engaged at the Music Hall for a week, collections were made for relating his experiences, and he left on the next stage, the richer by perhaps another £100.

One can look back on those far-off nights, when turn-out

time came. Talk about a rush hour crowd!

Soldiers, sailors and civilians all wending their way home, singing as they went, not forgetting the Folkestone fishermen and their wives ambling along the Lower Sandgate Road, much to the annoyance of the "gentlemen of quality" who slumbered there.

Complaints were made but were of no avail. Sandgate without "The Bricks" could not survive.

CHORUS

Here, I should like to record the chorus of a couple of songs. This one was sung by a costermonger girl with a rich contralto voice:

I don't want to ride in a carriage,
Or mix in society,
For arm in arm we stroll along.
That's good enough for me.
But when we go to a music hall,
Each chorus we'll merrily sing,
But my greatest delight, is on Saturday night,
When he's taking me up in a swing.

Another with a difference:

Oh, the lady upstairs, the lady upstairs,
Has captivated me,
The lady upstairs, with her elegant airs.
Oh what a beauty, is she,
When she leaves this world of ours,
With its sorrows and its cares,
Oh, won't they be making it warm down below,
For that dear little lady, upstairs.

But disaster was in the offing for the grand old variety music hall.

BOB RIGDEN

The original name of the place was "Rigden's Music Hall," and I remember Bob Rigden, a well-built, striking figure of a man. He used to stand at the entrance to the Hall wearing a velvet smoking cap. Bob Rigden's grave is in St. Martin's Churchyard, near that of Samuel Plimsoll, of "Plimsoll line" fame.

After changing hands several times, the Hall became known as the Alhambra and then the Vaudeville, but it never lost the name of "The Bricks."

It lost its popularity, after a disastrous fire which broke out mysteriously at mid-day. It began in the top storey and destroyed the roof and the upper rooms.

Here an amusing situation arose, which will go down to posterity as unique in the annals of fire-fighting.

REFRESHMENTS

The firemen were otherwise engaged, so the old hand-pumped engine was dragged along manned by Coastguards.

While six of them manned the pumps, the proprietor supplied them with refreshments from the bar!

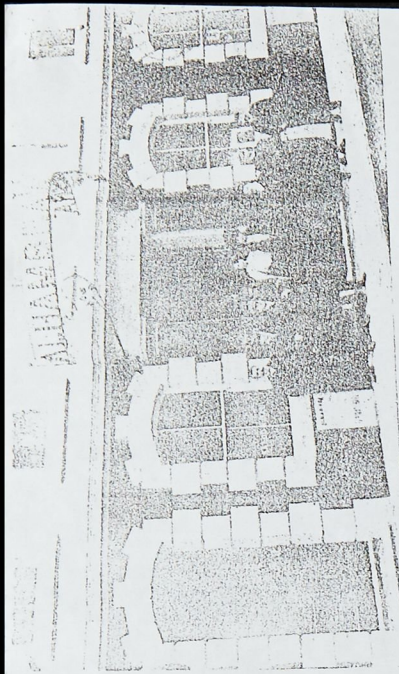
As a Music Hall the shutters were put up in June, 1914. This decision was unfortunate for two months later thousands of Kitchener's Army assembled here for training.

An application was made for the renewal of the licence, but it was not granted.

VICTOR SEBASTIAN FOLEY, Sandgate.

e Im-
Miss
mney

F.H. 32/62.



See "The Man who Broke the Bank at Monte Carlo"
Charles COBURN. pub. c. 1924. Memories of the Stage and Music Hall
'I could write for ever concerning Sandgate, the scene of my
first real start off in stage life.

The Alhambra

In October 1858, Robert Rigden opened a room, newly built on at the back of his "Bricklayer's Arms" premises, as a concert room and music hall. In May, 1863, this was referred to as "Rigden's Alhambra Hall."

About 1867, the name was changed from "Bricklayer's Arms" to "Alexandra Hotel," the hall being called the "Alexandra Music Hall."

Robert Rigden died in 1890, and Thomas Maltby took the hotel, now called the "Alhambra," together with the "New Alhambra Palace of Varieties", also known as "Maltby's Mansion of Mirth." He relinquished it in 1897 to Thomas Hill ("Hill's Hall of Mirth"). It continued under various proprietors and managers (including another spell under the proprietorship of T. Maltby, from 1901-1904) until 1911.

Although officially "The Alhambra," the popular name of the music hall was "The Bricks."

After conversion, it re-opened as a cinema in 1915.

Artistes known to have appeared there include Charles Coburn and George Chirgwin. The hall was popular with soldiers from Chorncliffe Camp.

TOM MALTBY,

The "NEW ALHAMBRA"
PALACE OF VARIETIES,
SANDGATE.

NEW ALHAMBRA THEATRE, SAND- GATE.

This place was opened to the public at Sandgate on Monday evening last. On Saturday the magistrates inspected the structure and expressed their approval with all the arrangements and precautions taken for the public safety and pleasure in a building which will often be crowded by large audiences. This was the case on Monday evening, and if the applause, the expressions of approval, and the excellent character of the entertainment, are a criterion, then this music hall has a most successful career before it. A large number from Folkestone were present, representing all classes, Town Councillors, tradesmen, and members of the Masonic body, of which the proprietor, Mr. Maltby, is a member, and the manner in which they were seated, the comfort, and character of the refreshments provided, deserves much praise. In the course of the evening Mr. Maltby was called to the front, and in a few remarks, which were loudly applauded, he declared

"Sandgate is a restful little watering-place
nestling at the foot of Shorncliffe heights,
rather less than half-way between Folkestone
and Hythe ... at the Alhambra Music Hall,
entertainments of the variety order are given"
- Ward Look guide book (1902)

THE SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE

At the height of the Victorian era, in 1858, Robert Rigden, landlord of the inn, "Bricklayer's Arms" situated in Sandgate's High Street, opened a concert room which soon became known as Rigden's Music Hall. During the years that followed, this popular place of entertainment flourished - it was well supported by the regular soldiers stationed at Shorncliffe barracks, especially on Saturday nights! - but under various names as landlords came and went -

Hill's Hall of Hilarity

Alexandra Music Hall

Maltby's Pavilion of Mirth

New Alhambra Palace of Varieties

Although, to the local population it was simply known as 'The Bricks'. Charles Coburn, who made famous the song 'The Man who broke the bank at Monte Carlo', trod the boards in December 1875 and, in his autobiography, he recalls meeting George H Chingwin (The White Eyed Kaffir) who was also appearing at the Alhambra at this time. It is not certain when animated pictures were introduced at the Alhambra but in the early 1900's 'Special up-to-date films by Edwards Imperial Bioscope' was one of the attractions on the variety bill. The Alhambra was closed during the years of the 1914-1918 war, although it was used as a Canadian YMCA for part of the time. In 1921, the Alhambra Music Hall underwent a transformation, and emerged as THE SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE. The architect was A P Bowles who had designed the Electric Cinema, Folkestone (1910), the Picture Palace, Hythe (1911) and the Playhouse, Folkestone (1912) whilst Otto Marx was the contractor. The theatre was scheduled to open on Saturday 28 May 1921 but this date could not be met as an announcement in the local press explained:-

'The opening of this theatre has been postponed for a few days owing to the fact that an important part of the machinery has been delayed on the railway!'

The cinema eventually opened on Wednesday afternoon 1 June 1921, a special programme of films being screened with 'a talented orchestra under the direction of Mr Murray Forbes providing a musical background. Patrons were assured that there would be educational films in every programme but whether Buck Jones in THE LAST STRAW and the Hepworth photoplay ONCE ABOARD THE LUGGER qualified under this category is not stated. Both pictures were shown during the first week together with supporting shorts, the hours of opening being 5.30 to 10.15 pm with matinees on both Wednesdays and Saturdays at 2.30 pm. The manager, for South Coast Cinemas Ltd, was Chris White who came from the Electric, Folkestone.

However, it appears that not all was well and, later that same year, 1921, the theatre closed. Eventually, Mr Justice Russell in the High Court of Justice, Chancery Division, dealt with the Action - "South Coast Cinemas Ltd. Cochrane v The Company" - with the result that 'The Freehold Property known as The Sandgate Cinema, 101 and 103 High St, Sandgate, Kent' was put up for sale by auction on Thursday 8 June 1922 at the Royal Kent Hotel, Sandgate.

The Particulars of Sale issued by the Auctioneer, Temple Barton & Co, Folkestone describe the property in considerable detail (although making no mention of the projection equipment which, possibly, had already been seized in payment of debts) which included "flanking the portico entrance" two look-up shops as well as a self-contained residential flat on the first floor (large front and three other bedrooms, two large sitting rooms, servant's sitting room etc.)

"PARTICULARS.

ALL THAT FREEHOLD Brick and cement built with slated roof DETACHED PROPERTY being Nos 101 and 103 High Street, Sandgate, Kent known as THE SANDGATE CINEMA situated in the principal part of the High Street, with main approach, and approached from side roads on the east and west sides. THE BUILDING is of good appearance and elevation with a TOTAL FRONTAGE of 49ft and DEPTH of 115ft 4ins. THE MAIN APPROACH is at the centre of the building, with shallow flight of two marble and mosaic steps leading directly into the WOOD PANELLED & DECORATED FOYER enclosed by iron grid gates and containing pay box and Manager's Office. On the right hand corridor leading to the theatre or main hall is a store room (with trap door to cellar) and communicating door to POWER ROOM adjoining. Beyond and over the latter are the TWO OPERATING ROOMS with direction over the balcony ... From this corridor is the wide staircase approach to THE BALCONY with seating accommodation for about 140 people. THE MAIN HALL approached by the right corridor, is of high pitch, with seating accommodation for about 374 people, with an 8ft pitch under the balcony affording standing room for about 100 people. The main building is ventilated by two vents in the ceiling with shafts leading to roof ventilator fitted for electric fan. THE PROSCENIUM PANEL with ornamental plaster border, is about 17ft 6in by 15ft 6in with ORCHESTRAL WHEEL at the base. There is a floor rake of about nine inches and there are THREE 5ft folding door PUSH OUT EXITS, two on the east side and one on the west side of the hall. Electric wiring for power and light, and gas laid on. Control fitted for operating FIRE SHUTTERS in the operating room over. Ample cellarge under." It would seem that no-one was interested in the property, at least not immediately, for it was not until 1925 that THE SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE was in the news again. On Saturday evening 20 September 1925 the cinema re-opened, Councillor J H Maltby, Vice Chairman of the Sandgate Urban District Council officiating in the absence of the Chairman. In his speech, Councillor Maltby said that in 1894, the first cinema film exhibited outside London was exhibited at this little hall (The writer has not, however, been able to verify this statement), going on to say that the fact that their worthy Vicar (Rev'd C F Tyrrell, Vicar of Sandgate) was there at the opening showed that cinemas were not being looked down on as much as they were! (Music Halls were not held in high esteem in their day either!) An 'excellent programme of films' followed the speeches, THE SIDE SHOW OF LIFE topping the bill. Madame Amy Atkins, proprietress of the cinema, gave two selections from her repertoire of songs and everyone went home in a happy mood. The following week, the cinema was open to the general public who could see (Mon/Wed) Bebe Daniels in SINNERS IN HEAVEN and (Thurs/Sat) Kipling's THE LIGHT THAT FAILED. The hours of opening were much as before - nightly 6.15 - 10.15 and on Wednesdays and Saturdays 3.00 - 10.30 pm.

But it was not all plain sailing from then on. In the issue of the 'Folkestone Herald' dated 17 October 1925 there appeared a reader's letter headlined 'The Sandgate Cinema and Sunday Opening'. Briefly, the writer said that it was common knowledge that the cinema was applying for a licence to open on a Sunday; that the cinema's generator interfered with wireless reception at the present time and that if the cinema opened on a Sunday in future, it would prevent him listening on what, at present, was the only interference-free day! The letter was signed 'Wireless'. There were five letters airing various views on the subject published the following week, all with their own caption:-

Sandgate Cinema and Wireless Reception/Sandgate Cinema and Sunday Opening/ Sandgate and Wireless Reception/ Generator and Wireless/ Sandgate Radio Society's Offer.

The last-named letter said that interference could be overcome and the Society were prepared to raise funds to 'affix a certain appliance at the cost of £7'. But that was not the end of the matter. The next week yet another letter appeared (Wireless Reception at Sandgate) in which the writer suggested that it was not the Sandgate cinema's generator that was causing the trouble but the one used by

the Sandgate Laundry! This suggestion was refuted the week after by a correspondent who agreed that the laundry generator did interfere - but only during the daylight hours whilst the cinema generator took over at night! And there the matter rested. Certainly the SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE did obtain a Sunday licence and, presumably, something was done about the generator!

As an independent cinema, it was not often that the SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE was able to put one over on neighbouring Folkestone but the occasion did arise in April 1929. Folkestone's Watch Committee, in their wisdom, had decreed that Cecil B de Mille's KING OF KINGS was an unsuitable picture to be publicly shown in the town and had banned it; Sandgate thought otherwise. The SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE presented the film for a full week, informing intending-patrons that it was

'Folkestone's Great Opportunity to see the Greatest Motion Picture of all time'.

Talking pictures arrived in Folkestone in 1929 and, by the end of the year, all three cinemas had been wired for sound. Patrons of the SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE, however, had to wait until June 1930 before they could enjoy the wonders of the 'Talkies'. The first sound picture, shown Sunday 8 June 1930 for four days, was HIS CAPTIVE WOMAN and starred Dorothy Mackaill whilst Myna Loy appeared in THE SQUALL for the second half of the week. The management advised that seats could be reserved at no extra charge.

And so, throughout the Thirties, the SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE played it's part in providing entertainment for the citizens of the 'restful little watering-place' so described in the local guidebook. Perhaps not the very latest releases or the most up-to-date newsreels were screened (Folkestone took first pick, then Hythe) but there was the compensation of lower seat prices and the warm welcome to be found at this small, family house.

It was, at first, 'Business as usual' when war was declared in 1939 for Kent had been designated a reception area and accepted evacuees from London and the big cities. Later, with war on the doorstep, the situation changed radically. Whilst the SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE (or, rather, the REK CINEMA, as it had recently been renamed) faced the High Street, the rear of the building overlooked, and was only a stone's throw from, the English Chamel. Understandably, with invasion expected hourly, it was hardly the ideal site for a cinema and the 'Business as usual' sign had to be replaced by one reading 'Closed for the Duration'.

For all intents and purposes, our story ends here. The Second World War saw the demise of the SANDGATE PICTURE HOUSE in exactly the same way as the War of 1914-1918 rang down the curtain on the ALHAMBRA PALACE OF VARIETIES. Both wars marked the end of an era in more ways than one. For the record, the cinema did re-open in the late Forties but did not survive long. Today Sandgate has only fading memories of the music hall and the silver screen, combined, as they were, in one historic building, 101 and 103, High Street, Sandgate, Kent. T A THOMPSON (Otford)

CEA AREA REPRESENTATIVES

In our March/April 1981 issue we listed the names and home addresses of the thirteen members who have been appointed as Area Representatives, together with areas that each one covers. It was mentioned that a number of vacancies remained to be filled, so we are now pleased to announce two additional appointments:

Bryan Matthew, 44 Crumpsall Street, Abbey Wood, London, SE2 0LR.

Area covered: Greater London, Kent and Surrey

Roger Benton, 23 Seagrave Avenue, Sheffield, S12 2JJ.

Area covered: South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.

These two additional appointments still leave a number of vacancies.

Please note that the Area Representatives Liaison Officer (a fairly new post in itself) is: Tony Moss, 45 Turnpike Inn, Park Hill, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 5NP., to whom all enquiries should be sent.

CINEMA NEWSRIEL North-East England

Bradford CMA member Geoff Mellor has often reported in our columns three cinemas closing down, much to his regret, but this time he is happy - in this day and age - to report **THREE NEW CINEMAS OPENING!**

Yes, dear readers, that's the good news from the Yorkshire coastal resorts, where the "Big Screen Scene" seems to be all set for a revival, despite what is happening elsewhere, particularly on the Rank-owned Odeon circuit.

The first step in the Yorkshire cinematic revival took place in SCARBOROUGH, where the new, delightfully named HOLLYWOOD PLAZA, North Marine Road, opened (or should one say reopened) its doors to film fans on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 21 May 1981, with a ten-day run of **THE JAZZ SINGER** (1981 version). This was followed by weekly change programmes, including **YANKEES** and **DOGS OF WAR**, screened from Thursday to Wednesdays. This gives weekly visitors to this popular seaside town two changes of programme during their stay. The Hollywood Plaza seats 300 patrons and is built on the stadium principle. There is a soda fountain and a snack bar attached.

With regard to the organ, the proprietor, Mr Arthur Turner, says that although the mighty Wurliitzer, purchased from the ABC (formerly RITZ), IPSWICH, is now in place, it is not yet wired up. At the moment (as we went to press) it is not yet possible to do so, for the cinema has two distinct shows daily, at 2.15 and 7 pm, but work will resume again in September. Mr Turner looks forward to welcoming "organ nuts" for the 1982 season, when the Wurliitzer will rise up from the pit in fine style!

In point of fact the Hollywood Plaza is a brand new cinema within the shell of an old one, which had been used as a motor garage for fifty years. The former **NORTH BAY CINEMA** opened for the first time in 1914, with seats for 439 patrons in stalls and circle, but had a chequered career on films before being sold as a garage in 1928, just before the talkie revolution arrived. Interestingly, for the 1926 summer season, the building was used for live shows by the famous "Sanger's Circus." Since 1977, when the garage business there closed, the old cinema building had been empty. By the time this write-up appears in print, another cinema in SCARBOROUGH should be open for business, this being a mini 95-seater in the **EVENHOLME CENTRE**, Aberdeen Walk, only a few yards from the former 801 seat **GALILEY CINEMA** (also on Aberdeen Walk), which is now a bingo club. Actually, the Evenholme Mini is part of a triple complex taking shape within the shell of the old **ST. GEORGE'S HALL**, which had been used as a saleroom and later a cafe since 1900. The other mini auditorium is already open as **THE STUDIO**, being used for One Man/Woman shows (Sounds rather naughty? Ed.) Rector Readings and, unusually, as a "Creative Dance Centre." Above these two minis will be a theatre for live shows, scheduled to open in 1983. The **EVENHOLME CINEMA** was planned to open on 20 July 1981 with the Australian-made film **MY BRILLIANT CAREER**, to be followed by a Japanese "classic" with sub-titles, and other rare foreign films. Mr Peter Adams, who is creating the **EVENHOLME CENTRE**, says that the mini-cinema is designed to show pictures which the big circuits will not screen, but he feels should be seen "outside London". As Mr Adams is fully occupied with running the entire Evenholme Centre, the mini-cinema is controlled by Mr Paul Lum, who has instructions to "cater for connoisseurs of cinema" with film bookings.

In addition to the above welcome ventures, SCARBOROUGH has the 2,155 seat **FUTURIST THEATRE**, Foreshore Road, which this summer season is running live shows in the evenings with "Afternoon Cinema". The resort's **ROYAL OPERA HOUSE** has occasional "late-nite" film shows. All this cinematic activity has understandably had an adverse effect on the **ODEON**, Westborough, SCARBOROUGH, which, with its capacity of 1,537 seats, is now only using the circle for its weekly change programmes.

The third new cinema on the Yorkshire coast is **THE SPA**, BRIDLINGTON, which screened its first films on Spring Bank Holiday Monday, 21 May 1981, when patrons saw **PAUL McCARTNEY'S ROCK CONCERT** on the screen. During the summer season films are only shown in the afternoons, the live "Les Dawson Show" taking the stage for evening performances. Nevertheless, a spokesman for the Spa said that there was no reason why the hall should not show films full-time in the winter. As it is, a "Children's Cartoon Show" was put on in the mornings, if the weather was poor, these having

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

LEAS

PRESENTS

PAVILLION

IN THIS OUR
JUBILEE YEAR

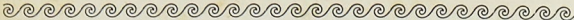
Olde Tyme Music Hall

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF MADAME AUDREY BAUCH-DAWE




PROGRAMME & WORDS
OF SONGS

MGC



Olde Tyme Music Hall

Leas Pavilion



Chairman - - - - - Wilfred Preston

The Company:

Mesdames

Sandra Brown

Alison Dawe

Judith Richardson

Pauline Howson

Darrell Smith

Patricia Tooth

Gloria Clark

Diana Duthoit

Rae Giles

Rita Marlton

Christine Thompson

Mary Warren

Rena Davies

Esther Greenwood

Lilian Hines

Barbara Searle

Gerryldine Tomlin

Messeurs

Michael Betts

Francis Griffiths

Richard Hills

Stephen Smith

John Clarkson

Ronald Giles

Edward Howson

David Springett

Robert Fagg

Raymond Mortimer

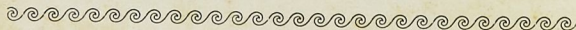
David Warren

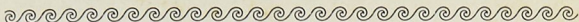
The Boys of Brockhill School

Under the Direction of Madame Audrey Baulch-Dawe

Choreography - - - - Moya Kennedy, Beryl Greenslade

Tumblers by - - - - - Trevor Rodwell



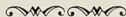


Orchestra led by Maestro Richard Baulch at the Pianoforte

Violin & Trumpet - - Edward Tomlin
Double Bass - - Michael Foad
Benjamin Hunnisett
Percussion - - Kenneth Martin
Geoffrey Robbins

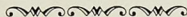


Decor by - - - - - Marcel Comeau
Stage Manager - - - - - David Soutar
Assisted by - - - - - Peter Boalch
Lighting by - - - - - Peter Heselden
Costumes - - - - - Lena Bayliss and the ladies
of the Wardrobe



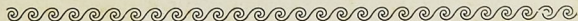
For Folkestone and Hythe Operatic and Dramatic Society

Stage Director - - - - - Geoffrey Duthoit
Theatre Manager - - - - - Ida Brewer
Publicity - - - - - Barbara Johnson



NOTICE

The Foyer is for the benefit of our patrons. Any Cabmen,
Fishmongers and Layabouts found skylarking or other-
wise misconducting themselves will be asked to leave.



1.

She was a dear little dickey bird
"Chip, chip, chip" she went
Sweetly she sang to me
Till all my money was spent;
Then she went off song,
We parted on fighting terms
She was one of the early birds,
And I was one of the worms.

2.

You are my honey, honeysuckle, I am
the bee,
I'd like to sip the honey sweet from
those red lips you see.
I love you dearly, dearly, and I want
you to love me
You are my honey, honeysuckle, I am
the bee.

3.

Just watch the ivy on that old garden
wall,
Clinging so tightly, whate'er may befall;
As you grow older I'll be constant and
true;
And just like the ivy, I'll cling to you.

4.

Daisy, Daisy! Give me your answer do,
I'm half crazy, all for the love of you!
It won't be a stylish marriage,
I can't afford a carriage,
But you'll look sweet, on the seat
Of a bicycle built for two.

5.

As I walk along the 'Bois Boolong' with
an independent air,
You can hear the girls declare "He
must be a millionaire,"
You can hear them sigh, and wish to
die,
You can see them wink the other eye
At the man who broke the Bank at
Monte Carlo.

6.

"Where did you get that hat? Where did
you get that tile?
Isn't it a nobby one, and just the proper
style?
I should like to have one, just the same
as that!
Where'er I go they shout 'Hello!' Where
did you get that hat?"

7.

In the shade of the olde apple tree
When the love in your eyes I could see
When the voice that I heard, like the
song of the bird
Seem'd to whisper sweet music to me.
I could hear the dull buzz of the bee
In the blossoms as you said to me,
"With a heart that is true, I'll be
waiting for you,
In the shade of the old apple tree."

8.

She's a lassie from Lancashire, just a
lassie from Lancashire
She's the lassie that I love dear, oh so
dear.
Though she dresses in clogs and shawl
She's the prettiest of them all
None could be fairer or rarer than
Sarah
My lassie from Lancashire.

9.

She's my lady love, she is my dove, my
baby love
She's no girl for sitting down to dream
She's the only queen Laguna knows
I know she likes me, I know she likes
me
Because she says so
She is my Lily of Laguna, she is my lily
and my rose.

10.

In the twi twi twilight. Out in the
beautiful twilight
They all go out for a walk, walk, walk
A quiet old spoon and a talk, talk, talk
That's the time they long for, just
before the night
And many a grand little wedding is
planned in the twi twilight.

LITTLE THEATRE (6)

24/1/66

THURS., JAN. 20th — 3 Days. THE PINK PANTHER
4.20, 8.15. (A)

Would Patrons please note that Circle Seats for the last performance Monday to Friday may be booked in advance at no extra charge. Enquire at Theatre for further details.

LITTLE THEATRE, SANDGATE

FOLKESTONE-HYTHE OPERATIC & DRAMATIC SOCIETY

present

THE IMAGINARY INVALID

Miles Malleson's adaptation of Molière's play

Produced by MARGARET DAWE

FOR ONE WEEK

Commencing Monday, 24th January

At 7.30 p.m.

Doors open 7 p.m.

On Wednesday, January 26th, tickets will be by
INVITATION only

Prices of admission: 5/-, 4/- and 3/6

Seats (open to the public) may be booked as follows:

SATURDAY, 15th to FRIDAY, JANUARY 21st, Robinson
Homes Ltd., 2, Radnor Chambers, Cheriton Place, Folke-
stone, Tel. 55478; and at The Bendix Launderette,
High Street Hythe (opposite the Co-op), Tel. 66719.

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22nd, onwards, ONLY at The Little
Theatre, Sandgate, between 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. Tel. 38460.

Vivien Leigh, Sim-
noret, Jesse Ferrer and
Marvin play the last
remarkable film.

A Shot in the Dark
day to Saturday) feat-
inimitable Peter Sellers
police inspector who
leads him to a trail of

