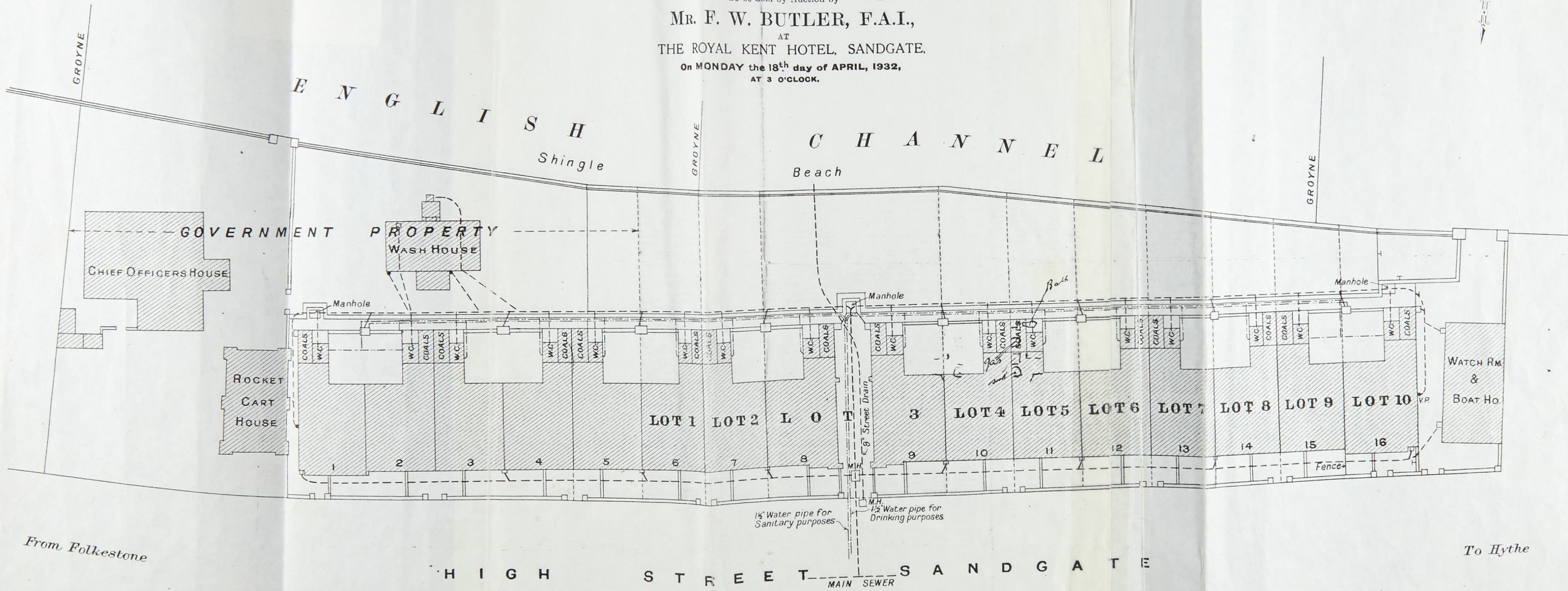
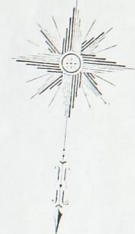


BY ORDER OF THE ADMIRALTY.

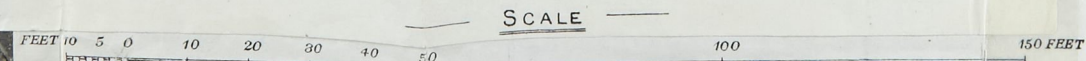
# Plan of ELEVEN COTTAGES

FORMING PART OF  
THE COAST GUARD STATION,  
SANDGATE, KENT.

To be Sold by Auction by  
MR. F. W. BUTLER, F.A.I.,  
AT  
THE ROYAL KENT HOTEL, SANDGATE.  
On MONDAY the 18<sup>th</sup> day of APRIL, 1932,  
AT 3 O'CLOCK.



NOTE.—This Plan is published for the purpose



## REFERENCE

Ordinary Drains ... Shewn thus ---  
Water Service from Town ...  
Service ...



Here with the cuttings. Will ring you soon, you  
could meet me for lunch in the High St??  
live on

12—EVENING STANDARD, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 1968

PROPERTY NEWS

William Roland

# £5000 will buy you something a little unusual

**A**nyone with £5000 and wanting an out-of-the-ordinary home, has a choice this week. This sum will buy a barge on the canal at Little Venice, Maida Vale, converted from a long boat some six years ago by naval architect Colin Mudie, and now providing a master cabin with two berths, two smaller cabins with upper and lower berths, saloon, galley and bathroom. There is

even central heating, hot and cold water and telephone.

**X** The other unusual home going for £5000 is a freehold coastguard cottage at Sandgate, near Folkestone, with two reception rooms, two double bedrooms, kitchen, and garden to the sea, with access to the beach. Both properties are being dealt with by Ralph Pay and Ransom, Mayfair.

**X**

# e cop on the missive

ANDER WALKER



SINATRA—more at ease than he's been in many a movie.

appearances at the Festival Hall, on September 16, when he'll present a programme made up of what you usually don't see on the screen, since he's cut it out. Called 'Censored—And Why,' I'm told Japanese sadism, Swedish sex and American drug-taking films will be featured and there'll be a professional psychologist in attendance, so the laws of corruption and depravity will no doubt be suspended for the night. Quite a capture for Derek Hill, impresario of what's currently called Minimal Cinema — though a majority draw in this case, I'd say. More information from the New Cinema Club, 122 Wardour Street.

## A SAD LOST YOUTH

ROMANCE FOR TRUMPET (Cert. A), Paris Pullman. New Czech film, featuring that country's over-shy boy falling in love with a fairground girl, but finding his duty to a senile grandfather deprives him of his enjoyment and, ultimately, his beloved. A sad film, touched with melancholy of lost youth, but making as much out of the

ie into the film as Mia Farrow stepped out, does a nice, cool, underplayed job as a suicide's English widow—a performance perfectly attuned to the type of

I think, with this one caution: notebooks may be left at home, but it's still wise to tense your tummy muscles. In case after seeing The

# Our cottages are crumbling

*News*  
12/10/90

A TERRACE of Victorian coastguard cottages has started crumbling since sea defence work began.

Inch-wide cracks have appeared in walls throughout the Sandgate terrace as workmen used giant machines to build up defences in the landslide area.

One front door won't close and now has to be padlocked shut. Council workmen have had to reset manhole covers on a sewer after they moved, leaving gaps round the edges.

The cottages had few problems despite the instability of the land, until this summer's works started.

The work is designed to stabi-

lise and protect the Encombe area against sea erosion and landslips.

The idea is the weight of the new defences will stop the land from sliding into the sea.

Other homes in the area have in the past been damaged by earth movements.

Without the £2.3 million scheme, Shepway says, the problem could be huge. Before work started on the sea defences engineers carried out a survey of the cottages for the council.

But it is hard to prove what causes damage to homes.

Linda Rene-Martin, who lives in one of the cottages, said: "We are certainly keeping an eye on the situation, and will be

looking to Shepway to pay compensation for damage caused.

"The vibrations that come through the house are tremendous at times."

A Shepway council spokesman said: "There are cracks and there have been allegations it is because of the construction work.

"The situation is being very closely monitored. I can't say if it is because of the works because I haven't seen the engineers report yet. But the council has entered into discussions with the contractors about the question of liability.

"The problem does not seem to be getting worse, it would appear to have stabilised."



Coast Guard Station

March 4/22.



# COASTGUARD *cottages are*



**Home to HG Wells and many a valiant  
Coastguard, Sandgate station  
celebrates its centenary this year.  
Resident Linda Ren -Martin  
remembers...**



The author in her  
youth, Leading Wrn  
Plotter Linda Ritson.

The landslide disaster of 1893 in Sandgate almost wiped out the 30-year-old Coastguard station. The entire hillside had to be stabilised with a half-mile land drain. But by 1896 the old station was entirely re-designed and back in service. It is indeed a centenary to celebrate. The familiar landmark conjures up personal memories of idyllic summers, and

horrendous winter storms and floods.

I can trace it back to when my somewhat eccentric grandfather bid in auction, in 1932, for the cottage I now happily inhabit. Given the hazards, my row of neighbours and I never cease to marvel at its capacity to survive.

Many people know that the Coastguard service began in 1822 as part of the Board of

Customs. This area - Dungeness Bay - was a hotbed for the covert landing and transport of contraband by the daring gangs who defied the Excise. Their relatives and counterparts in Flushing were all in the racket.

According to the memoirs of John Gough, who was born in Sandgate in 1817, the village was peculiarly fitted for their exploits and the Fleur de Lys Inn was their favourite haunt. Later, though, HG Wells - a Sandgate resident for 12 years - doubted these tales, probably told to beguile the visitors.

Sandgate was certainly equipped with ample cellars and tunnels. On the other hand, there was a watch-house just to the west of the castle, another on the slopes of Shorncliffe battery, and martello towers were nearby.

Cobbett, as usual, scorned them: "...these towers are now used (at Cinque Fort's expense) to lodge men, whose business is to sally forth, not upon the Jacobins, but upon the smugglers".

By 1862 a permanent Sandgate station was essential. "Here at last," wrote the Folkestone Chronicle, "members of the service will have a fixed place of residence...The site of the Marine Hotel (run by the Podevins) on which the station is to be erected was formerly the private residence of Sir John Shaw. Afterwards his tenant was a no less distinguished person than the deeply lamented Sir John Moore while in command of the troops...when Shorncliffe was first made a military depot". Moore's memorial on the esplanade stands witness a few steps away.

The projected Coastguard station was

The western end of former Coastguard premises which used to get storm struck - with crown and anchor over the former watchroom and boathouse.



to include a dwelling house for an officer, 14 or 16 dwelling houses for the men, a boat house and watch room, a cart and rocket house.

An 1864 indenture between the Rt Hon William Earl of Radnor and HM Commissioners stipulated the Earl, his heirs and assigns reserved the rights to "all wrecks of the sea, derelicts, deadwans, waifs, estrays, fishings and all other royalties whatsoever between low water mark and the limits of the premises".

We children also lived in hope of gleaming any treasure from the sea.

Vessels in distress, shipwrecks off Sandgate (notably the *Calypso*, the *Eider* and the *Benvenue*) all tested the wits of Coastguards, but a major landslide from the rear was unexpected. With their shaken families, they found temporary quarters at Shorncliffe Camp, Navy jostling with Army.

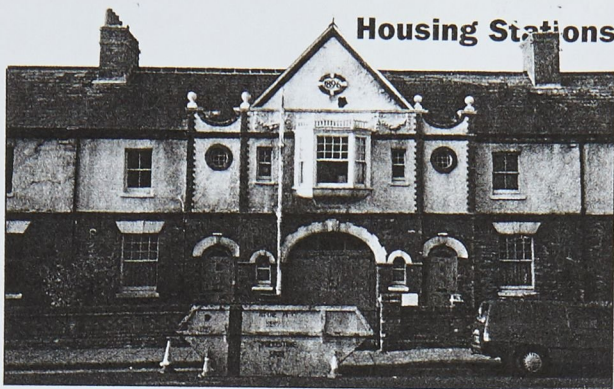
After the landslide, the fifth Earl of Radnor granted his lessees, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, a licence "to rebuild with alterations the Coastguard station at Sandgate" after making good the breaches in the seawall. This, in essence, is the Coastguard frontage we see today. With its ornate plaster work, swags and garlands, crown and anchor gable over the former watchroom and boathouse, it lends a special interest at the entry to the High Street.

In 1925, the Coastguard Act transferred the service to the Commissioners of Works (later Board of Trade) which, in 1932, auctioned off all but five of the leaseholds with 30 years to run.

Our neighbour, the late Lionel Haynes, bought his cottage and remained as an Auxiliary with duties such as beach patrol. In his navy cap and belted jacket, breeches tucked into high boots and armed with swordstick or 'tuckstick', he once accosted my brother and I at 5 o'clock in the morning, saying: "An what may you be up to at this hour?" as we combed the rocks for our lost fishing tackle. He liked to tell us tales of shipwreck or casks of brandy stranded on the shore.

The lease was due to expire in 1961, but in 1952, heedless of our pleas, the Radnor Estate sold the ground under our feet over our heads to a speculative gent for £3,500, putting our future in peril. Fortunately for us all, his many ventures landed him in debt and, in 1958 at a vast profit, he sold us each the freehold. No longer at his mercy, though increasingly at the mercy of coast erosion and flooding, we decided it was time to upgrade our properties.

Long gone, of course, were the days of an outside lloo, indoor coal store, a tiny pantry, kitchen range and china dresser in the main



Housing Stations

## COASTGUARD HOUSING STATIONS

At one time there were hundreds of Coastguard cottages scattered along the coast of the UK. Most were in groups known as Coastguard Housing Stations.

The largest dwelling in a group would be for the most senior officer, usually a District Officer. The second largest would be for the Senior Officer and the remainder for the regular officers.

Now nearly all Coastguard dwellings have been sold as they became vacant, or the resident Coastguard retired, and are privately occupied, but are still recognisable as former Coastguard houses. There are, however, five official houses still remaining within the Estate, four of which are in Orkney and Shetland.

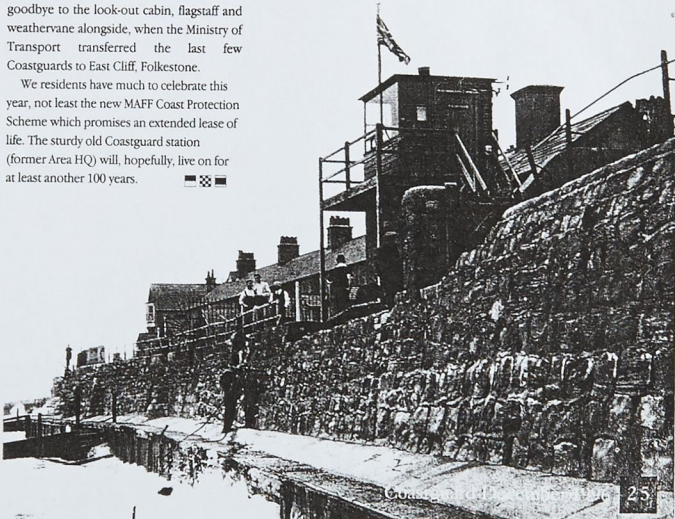
Richard Crowther, Deputy Regional Controller for North and East Scotland, with responsibility for the region's properties, told Coastguard Magazine: "The three houses in Shetland are modern timber bungalows, retained against the move to release official houses, to help officers who come north. The house in Orkney is also a modern dwelling - none of the old stuff any longer. But in the region, there are plenty of the old houses to be seen and many of them are big and imposing."

Above: Former Coastguard premises at Sandgate.

Below: The original Sandgate Coastguard lookout and battered seawall after the severe gales of October 1949.

living room, a handpump in the backyard and a communal washhouse. In 1962, it was also goodbye to the look-out cabin, flagstaff and weathervane alongside, when the Ministry of Transport transferred the last few Coastguards to East Cliff, Folkestone.

We residents have much to celebrate this year, not least the new MAFF Coast Protection Scheme which promises an extended lease of life. The sturdy old Coastguard station (former Area HQ) will, hopefully, live on for at least another 100 years.





Centenary Celebration of the Rebuilding of  
The Sandgate Coastguard Station 1896

private

With the generous co-operation of many residents along the Coastguard Terrace (Sandgate), a large stretch was opened up for a rousing celebration on Sunday evening 25 August. To herald the event, the Coastguard Ensign was hoisted on the flag-pole, beside the former look-out, for the first time since 1961 when the last of the Sandgate Coastguards moved to new quarters at Copt Point.

In addition to residents, the President and Chairman of the Sandgate Society and other locals defied the gusting wind. A uniformed contingent of regular and auxiliary coastguards from Folkestone and Dover, attended with their families and together with the presence of Derek Smith, Deputy Controller S.E. Region and Derek Fox, Sector Officer East Kent, brought the old days back to life.

The feasting was enlivened by the splendid band of T/S Invicta Sea Cadet Corps (Castle Road) with a display of precision marching and rousing tunes.

Derek St. Clair Stannard MBE, son of the former Chief Officer (d.1931) came over from Godalming to cut the Centenary cake. And Regional Controller Derek Smith presented Linda René-Martin (the organiser, whose family have owned a former coastguard cottage since 1932) with a commemorative Coastguard plaque.

Everyone felt moved when, at sunset, the bugler sounded 'colours' as the Coastguard Ensign was hauled down. With reason Sandgate can be proud of the Old Coastguard Station (est. 1864) rebuilt 1896 after the Sandgate Landslip damage, and also very grateful to the Service that continues, elsewhere, to maintain coast watch, and search and rescue at sea.

The event raised £ 155 for T/S Invicta Unit 144 (President Lt.Cdr Richard Colville D.S.C.) who ~~\*\*\*\*\*~~ do a fine job and deserve all the support they can get.

*Linda René-Martin (149)*

VERY MANY THANKS TO ALL RESIDENTS ALONG THE COASTGUARD TERRACE WHO JOYFULLY HELPED WITH CATERING, DRINKS, DECORATIONS, SIDE EVENTS AND RAFFLE PRIZES TO MAKE THIS -- DESPITE THE ELEMENTS -- AN ENJOYABLE AND MEMORABLE EVENT. EIGHT COTTAGES OUT OF SIXTEEN WERE REPRESENTED AND IT WAS VERY MUCH REGRETTEED THAT, FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER, OTHERS COULD NOT BE PRESENT.

PERHAPS, ANOTHER YEAR, OTHERS WOULD LIKE TO ARRANGE A NEIGHBOURLY 'GET-TOGETHER'.