

No 51 High Street, Sandgate Library Grade II A

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

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

Brief Chronology

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

THE SANDGATE CHAIN OF OFFICE

Deputy Mayor of Folkestone 1999- 2001, Joy MacMillan is proud to be the first lady Councillor for Sandgate to wear the resplendent chain of office which, in 1901, first dignified Octavius Harry Smith Chairman of Sandgate Urban District Council.

From the silver-gilt chain hangs a pendent surmounted by a Victorian crown. The finely enamelled centrepiece depicts Sandgate Castle 1539 with St George's ensign on the keep. On reverse *In commemoration of Fifty Years of Local Government in Sandgate Rev . S. J. Gambier M.A. 1850: Lt Col Fynmore J.P. Chairman 1900.*

The collar bears a red medallion with INVICTA, the white horse of Kent, in relief. Successive chairmen are linked with individual enamel plaques until 1934, when Sandgate UDC was merged, reluctantly, with Folkestone Borough Council.

Fynmore was the donor, himself 13 times Chairman of Sandgate Local Board of Health then Urban District Council as designated in 1894.

SANDGATE COUNCIL MINUTES

In 1967 the Sandgate Society arranged with Folkestone Corporation for me to inspect the Minute Books of Sandgate Council. These were large leather backed volumes meticulously written up and in perfect condition. They were stored in the strong room below the old Town Hall in Guildhall Street and I was given the use of the Jury Room to study them.

In the hope that someone may be moved to extract and publish items of interest from these volumes I give below some notes on the content of interesting items in the years 1900 to 1933. The Sandgate Local Board became the Sandgate U.D.C. in 1894 and Sandgate was merged with Folkestone in 1934.

A further mine of information is to be found in the bound volumes of the Sandgate Weekly News held in the reference library at the Public Library in Grace Hill, Folkestone.

MINUTES

A.Todd. 24.11.1977.

GP=General Purposes Committee.

GP 27.4.1900. Changes in road names.

The Parade to Granville Parade.

South View to Granville Road West.

Granville Road to Granville Road East.

Council recommended to change Chapel Street to Wilberforce Road.

UDC Book L

4.11.1904 Council to promote bill to control Sanatoria. (There were a number of TB Sanatoria in Sandgate and visitors were complaining of nuisance).

21.2.1905. Reference to Sanitary Powers Bill.

8.8.1905. The bill has received Royal Assent.

18.1.1906 List of licenses for sanatoria for TB & Consumption.

UDC Book M

5.11.1908. Building works at Encombe commenced "April last". * Pages 174, 219, 271 - Permissions granted and refused.

(Note about 1893-94 Sandgate Board or UDC obtained Bye-Laws which were praised in The Times. These were hurried so that they could be applied to control the re-building of the village after the 1893 landslide. It was probably in exercise of these bye-laws that permissions were granted or refused.)

14.1.1909. Mrs.Bell of Encombe had laid a 3" water main as against a maximum permitted of $\frac{1}{2}$ ".

9.8.1910. A house in Sandgate had previously been used as a lunatic asylum but lunatics now left.

* On 8.12.1908 Mrs.Bell ordered the surveyor and a photographer of the premises.

UDC Book N

13.12.1910. Sandgate Society mentioned as asking for fences in the streets to protect creepers growing up house walls.

10.10.1911. Sandgate Society tries to have Newington-Folkestone direct made the main road. Sandgate UDC objects and sends petition. Sandgate Society slated.

p 178-Letter from Sandgate Society re Convalescent Homes.

p 183- do. do. do.

5.11.1912. Fynmore and Capt.Bell against proposed new reservoir above the Undercliff on grounds of landslide risk. (Combined Committees Minute Book No.1)

(for HF)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND VOLUNTARY BODIES

1 Sandgate, unlike Hythe and Folkestone boroughs, enjoyed no ancient charters and privileges. Officially, it fell within an outworn system centred on the parish vestry. The hamlet touched two parishes, Cheriton and Folkestone and lay, in part, in the Liberty of the town of Folkestone. Despite the divided life, and later administrative and boundary changes, Sandgate has always been a close-knit community.

BOLD

fifteen

Administration: In 1834, under the Poor Law Amendment Act, ~~the~~^{fifteen} parishes were grouped in the Elham Poor Law Union. Paupers and vagrants were lodged in the dreaded workhouse at Etchinghill, under the eye of a Board of Guardians (abolished 1929). Public health measures were minimal and typhoid and cholera were rife in England. As a resort rising in ^{first}repute, Sandgate fended for itself.

1.

2 In 1848, the ^{first}Public Health Act enabled Sandgate to carry out town improvement. In 1850, the first Sandgate Local Board of Health came into being with 9 elected members, the Rev. James Gambier as Chairman. Like Boards elsewhere, it had powers to borrow from central government, to levy a local rate and draw up bye-laws. Sandgate with a population of around ⁵1200 was chosen as a model of what could be done in a village.

3

4 Progress included the paving of streets, public gas lighting, (the appointment of a scavenger and an Inspector of Nuisances,) an efficient water supply from the Honeywood Springs (1860) ^{and} etc. Following a report by Thomas Rammell, consulting engineer, all habitations were provided with running water, WC's and drainage, with money borrowed against the rate. In 1903 electricity was laid on.

Under the Local Government Act of 1894, Sandgate became an Urban District Council. It clung to its autonomy until 1934 when Folkestone Borough Council took over. In 1974 Folkestone, in turn, was absorbed in Shepway District Council.

Roads: In the late 18th century, a postroad carried the mail coaches through Sandgate. ^{until 1877} It was controlled by a Turnpike Trust with a tollgate on Sandgate Hill. ~~The road was macadamised in~~

BOLD


5 Later, a fine seafront Esplanade led passengers from Sandgate Station ^(near Seabrook) to the village. In 1898, after a 7-year battle, Sandgate triumphed in the ^{House of Lords} High Court over the County Council who

In 1875 In the 1870s angry residents fought St plans to extend the S.E. Railway line ^{along} the seafront to Folkestone.

sea defences forming part of the main road system, ^{(now A}
were held liable for the upkeep and repair of the ~~seawall~~ where
it carried the main road (now A.259). This set a precedent for
every seaside town.

BOLD Benefactions: In the 19th century, the Poor Laws fell far short
of social needs, and private charity came to the rescue. A
Dispensary (est. 1844) assisted the needy with free medical advice
and treatment. A refuge was set up for young girls in need of
care and protection. The Beach Rocks Convalescent Home was
opened by the London Samaritan Society in 1883, enlarged 1892, for
crippled children from the London slums. Used in 1900 for
convalescent soldiers after the Boer War, it was later known as
the Bevan Nursing Home for the wounded of World War I. After
1920, a Richmond Star and Garter Home took over Enbrook estate.
In 1875 James Morris endowed handsome dwellings for the poor
(site of the present Library) and a ^{cattle} horse trough near the War
Memorial shows ^{a care for} that animals, too, were remembered. ~~the mentally~~
~~handicapped find a haven today in Castle Glen. Mental after-care~~
is provided at Castle Glen.

BOLD This Building in which you now stand, harks back to the Volunteer
Fire Station with Reading Room above, built in 1884, mainly
through the generosity of the Misses Reilly of Encombe. The
Reilly heirs sold it to the Urban District Council in 1904, and
the panelled Reading Room became the Council Chamber. From 1934
to 1982 it housed a Public Library. In 1983, the Sandgate ^{Heritage} Trust ^{and restored it,} bought the building from Kent County Council after
a public appeal for funds. It is designated of county-wide
importance. ~~Now the Sandgate Society's HQ and a Heritage Centre,~~
~~it is a focal point in village life.~~ ^{the fire ground floor}
~~for nearly the engine room~~ You are ~~now~~ standing in the former
engine room, now the Sandgate Society's A.Q. and a Heritage
Centre. It is a focal point in village life.


HERITAGE TRUST
LOGO