

1990

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Friday, March 9th 1990

Flood cost could soar up to £¹/₂m

COUNCIL workers saved lives by the speed of their reaction to last week's storms.

Emergency teams, backed by firemen and police, were on their way to the battered promenades of Sandgate and Hythe within minutes of the first alert being given.

A one-metre surge on top of an already high spring tide, together with gale-force winds, shattered seaworks and flooded scores of houses.

Shepway's duty officer, Ken London, took the first call and remained on duty for 16 hours as gangs worked around the clock to get 3,000 sandbags distributed.

"That sort of dedication to

By Victor Stevenson

duty should not go unrecognised," said environmental services chairman Ron Brown on Monday. "It certainly saved lives."

There was only one reported casualty, a man whose arm was crushed in a flooded flat.

The cost of the damage to Shepway's shoreline was still being assessed this week by local engineers and government officials, but is likely to be between £¼ million and £½ million.

Spending on flood protection schemes scheduled for Shepway's next long-term budget are to be brought forward as a mat-

ter of priority.

Apart from damage to private properties, tens of thousands of tons of shingle — the first line of defence against erosion and flooding — were swept away and groyynes from Folkestone to Hythe were severely damaged.

The fishermen's beach at Hythe, already swept clean of shingle by storms earlier in the month, were hit again.

Ten thousand tons of shingle, put in to repair damage from earlier tides, was reduced by half during last week's storm.

"If that shingle had not been replaced, all the huts on the beach would have vanished," said council engineer Bruce Rochester.

He rejected claims by Hythe

councillors that the storms had shown up the poor standard of previous repair to the sea wall at Hythe, where the worst damage occurred along West Parade and Marine Parade.

"The new damage occurred where repairs had not been carried out. The repairs stayed firm," he said.

In a letter to the district council, Hythe's plans and works committee has urged an independent opinion on the satisfactory repair of the town's Victorian seafront.

A short wall on the seafront pavement at West Parade had proved effective and they are asking for a permanent construction of the same sort along the length of the parade.

Early hours



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s accused of
kestone, on
March 12.
re not lifted.



Heading up again

THE service tunnel from Shakespeare Cliff, 12 miles out under the Channel, has already reached its deepest level and is climbing away towards the French coast.

On one day its boring machine cut 56 metres of tunnel, a world record.

From the French side, the service tunnel is on course to meet the British machine towards the end of the year — the first great undersea breakthrough.

Party's 2am stop

MAGISTRATES refused to allow La Parisienne nightclub to open until three o'clock in the morning for an awards night tomorrow.

The club has been awarded the title of best nightclub in London and the South East in a contest organised by Disco Mirror and Leisure Industry Products.

But revellers will have to go home to bed at the usual hour of 2am.

Walking for funds

ELHAM Valley Lions Club is holding its annual sponsored walk to raise funds for the Paula Carr Trust on Sunday April 1.

The 20km walk begins at 10am outside the Prince of Wales and Lady Diana pub, Rhodaf, Minnis, and takes to

Danger in dark

By Gary Spinks

A RUBBISH skip left in a busy road turned a seafront into a potential death trap.

One evening there were two crashes — separated by just a few hours — which injured three men.

And families along Sandgate Esplanade say there were several near-misses during the five days the skip was left on the A259 coast road.

They blame bad lighting in the street — and say lamps on the skip were out.

Paul Woods, 20, was on his way home from Lydd in the early hours of the morning with friend David Rigby when his Datsun was in collision with the metal dump.

The car was thrown back across the road and landed on the sea wall, hanging over the edge.

Shocked families, woken by the crash, rushed to help the two trapped men.

James Pollock, a teacher at Folkestone Grammar School for Girls, sat on the bonnet to stop the car from tipping on to the beach.

Mr Woods, of Shellons Street, Folkestone, got out by himself but his 18-year-old passenger —



Firemen hose down the road around the crashed car for safety.

David Rigby of Dolphins Road, Folkestone — was freed by firemen who winched the car to safety.

Paul, recovering at home from whiplash injuries and bruised knees, said: "The road was so dark I could not avoid the skip. There were no lights on it and I'm extremely annoyed about the whole thing.

"I'm still a bit wobbly on my legs, I'm off work, and I've lost my car — bought just three months ago — which I need to get around."

David was taken to the William Harvey Hospital with a broken ankle and face cuts.

Seven hours earlier a Ford Escort was also in collision with

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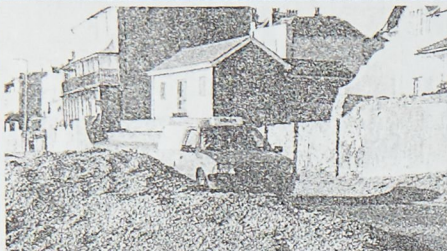
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STORM FURY

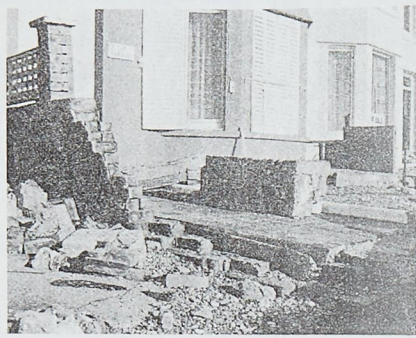
STORMS lashed the Shepway coast for several days from last weekend. Strong gales and high tides combined to give coastal defences one of the toughest tests for many years and they left a trail of devastation.



● Half buried in shingle



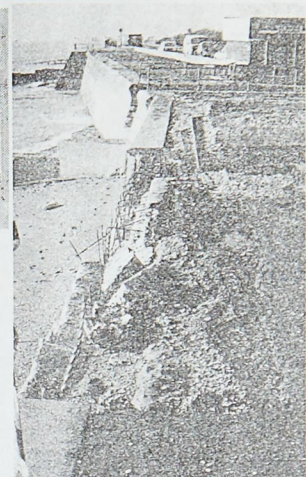
● Sailing through . . .



● Garden walls smashed to powder



● Concrete crushed like paper



● The awesome power of the storm . . . damage to Sandgate esplanade

**Pictures:
Vic Nelson**



● Still smiling amid the flood



● The lengths some people go to to get a pint . . .



● Trying to save the fruit and veg

News briefs

Vandals hit
VANDALS damaged a parked car on Thursday causing £350 damage. Mrs Joy Murray, 46, of Bradstone Avenue, Folkestone found the unknown culprits had attacked her car parked outside her home.

Line gone

Herald to the rescue of a newspaper in trouble



News briefs

Annual meet

THE annual dinner of the Old Harveians Association will be held at the Burlington Hotel, Folkestone, tomorrow.

Cheque out!

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KENTISH EXPRESS



DECEMBER 18, 1981

25p

Coast houses take pounding

HELPING hands come to the rescue of a driver stranded in the shingle on the main coast road at Sandgate on Monday after Kent had taken the full fury of gales and high seas.

Homes were evacuated and residents were terrified by the ferocity of the storm.

Dr Jack Grobstein of Coast Cottage said: "It was just like being on a sinking ship. A brick shed outside was demolished and shuttered windows smashed - the water came in the back doors and swept through to the front."

Full story on Page 3.



KEITH Speed is not one of those MPs who sounds off about something different each week. The main purpose of people like that is to make sure they keep their names before the public as often as possible — often a self-

when Mr proposal local pro-e listened

ct that he n of toll e infamous 20 was not

guaranteed to get us all jumping about with enthusiasm.

He is confident that the cash, said to be at least £37 million at the last count, required to complete 14 vital miles of motorway could be squeezed out of private resources.

Either that or a special loan could be made available from the Government.

The result, either way, would mean that those who use the road — and that means most of us — would have to pay for the privilege.

It can't come as any tremen-

KENTISH EXPRESS

OPINION

dous surprise to Mr Speed to receive the typical reaction: Why the devil should we when we have to pay so much road fund tax anyway?

And of course there is the danger of a real irony: we could find the crucial stretch of motorway completed and then seeing motorists taking to the sideroads in order to avoid paying the tolls.

This would defeat the object of the improvement.

Mr Speed says he wants to test the seriousness of Transport Minister David Howell's apparent keenness on experimenting with toll roads.

What he has done, very effectively, is to draw official attention again to the absurd hole in a trunk road link that otherwise stretches from Scotland to the south of France.

That's surely where the main strength of his case lies. Only the continuous airing of the problem is going to get anything

done about it.

There's encouragement in this respect, too, to be found in the new muscle of Tory back-benchers.

They've gained a notable victory. It looks as if another opportunity of proving heavier and more suspecting

The Government has taken a position that Speed — as a man of the good of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bitter blow was badly timed

Trail of damage in wake of storm

Adscene
3/2/83

SANDGATE residents mounted a night-time vigil as violent storms lashed their seafront homes on Monday.

Winds reached Gale Force Nine — spewing showers of shingle over the seawall and blocking roads on the Esplanade.

Folkestone police patrolled the area all night as residents watched over their houses and bolstered up sandbags.

"I certainly didn't go to bed until after the high tide," said Sandgate grocer Mick Allen, who lives on the far side of the High Street.

"I was very fortunate as the wind was west to north-west — if it had been a few points south I'm sure I would have been flooded out."

The storm began to rage at lunchtime on Monday and with a high tide due that night, sandbagging began early in the day.

From his shop Mr. Allen could pick out cracked walls and battered homes. "With just a cursory glance I can see thousands of pounds worth of damage," he said.

Twenty-two-year-old Chris Lloyd, of the Sandgate Windsurfing Centre, based on the seafront, told Adscene how he saw a car tossed across the road by a freak wave.

"The Mini was swept completely aside," he said. "The car's occupants were soaked but otherwise unharmed."

"Cracks opened up in the promenade and boulders were flung across the road," he said.

A report drawn up by Shepway District Council Works Manager, Mr. Frank Richards, reveals "extensive damage" to the concrete seawall at Marine Walk, Hythe, where coping was ripped away, and damage to the promenade. At Princes Parade the force of the storm tore holes in the slipway wall and on the Sandgate Esplanade the seawall itself was damaged.

The council's technical services department filled and delivered sandbags throughout the day and were called out to reinforce supplies just before midnight.

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Battered Shepway...

Gales, snow floods and power cuts

FROM PAGE 1

and parts of St Leonard's and St Hilda's Roads were under water for several hours.

The council emergency team could do little except make sure that storm drains and gutters were kept clear of debris and then sit and wait for the water to subside.

Local people claimed that the flooding had been the worst in the area for 16 years.

"There has been nothing like this since 1965," said one man as he watched the water gradually clear from within inches of his front door.

Mr Peter Tidmarsh of West Parade, Hythe, claimed the district council was not doing enough to help residents of water-logged homes in his area.

Storm drains had not been emptied for two years and could not take flood water, he alleged. Pebbles on the road outside his home had not been cleared and the provision of sand bags for residents was virtually nil.

"I have phoned the district council's highways department five times this morning, but nothing has been done," he told the Herald and Gazette on Monday.

Mr Tidmarsh said firemen had pumped out more than thirty houses, but there was a lack of activity from Shepway.

Coastguards said that the flooding had been caused by a combination of particularly high spring tides and very heavy south easterly winds which drove water down the Channel from the North Sea.

At Dymchurch, 30-foot waves threw shingle onto the roads, and many fences were ripped down.

Roads throughout Folkestone, Hythe and Elham Valley were blocked by trees which were removed by council workmen.

An RAC spokesman said: "The weekend should be a lesson for all motorists to take more precautions."

RIGHT: Part of the sea wall at Sandgate which was swept onto the beach during the storm.



BELOW: At last some people welcomed the snow. Brothers Christopher and Ian Smith join with Kirk Atkins for some icy fun at Hawkinge on Saturday.



THE Esplanade at Sandgate was closed to traffic because of the shingle which littered the road.



PETER Bird, Alicia Morland and Andy Holliday clear up the storm damage at 155 Sandgate High Street.

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TOPICS

by Jonathan Poore



Keep council issues open!

IT MAKES a change to see councillors talking about the principles of local government rather than bickering about the colour of bricks for a new supermarket.

It's not often our elected hacks tackle the subject but with Tory Jack Setterfield about they rarely get the chance, as last week's marathon four-hour Shepway meeting proved.

Under discussion was a plan to give Chief Executive Arthur Ruderman even more power at the Civic Centre and this got up the noses of some present, noticeably the burly John Jacques and ex-Folkestone Mayor Claude Conybeare.

Both were unhappy that the role of councillors was being eroded.

Some would say it's no bad thing to give expert officials more sway, bearing in mind the low quality of many elected representatives.

However we must take the blame for that, we voted them in.

But local government should be run by local people, despite what Michael Heseltine and his henchmen might say.

When some councillors raised the thorny issue of just how much power officers should have, Jack Setterfield was on hand, saying the council chamber was not the place to discuss such matters.

Come off it Jack. It's your job to serve your voters and make the decisions.

Throwing a cloak of secrecy over an issue or trying to shut people up serves no purpose at all, except to alienate the public even more and increase suspicion about who is actually running the council — officials or councillors.



● Jack Setterfield

Beans are just right

EVER wondered where hairdressers get their hair cut or restaurateurs go out to eat?

Well now's the time to reveal all and divulge the *chance* covered by Paul Hagger, who's restaurant has just appeared in Egon Ronay's Good Food Guide.

First, I would like to congratulate Mr Hagger on receiving the honoured award for the place named after him, Paul's Restaurant in Souverie Road West, Folkestone.

But the other day, Mr Hagger was seen at The Coffee Corner cafe, in the Old High Street, Folkestone, eating his favourite dish of MASH and BEANS.

Private session

25. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 (AS AMENDED)

MOVED BY: Councillor C.N. Lloyd
SECONDED BY: Councillor J. Palmer

SPOTTED the deliberate mistake? Council agendas are not renowned for their wit, metaphor or repartee but this glorious example is the exception.

Doubtless some tylist in the Civic Centre is to blame, not that blame should be attached for this sort of thing.

The resolution below it read: That because publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business now to be transacted, the public (including the Press) be excluded from the meeting.

What's this mean? Orgies in the chamber? Methinks not.

No U-turn on link-up Mayor in the dark

I AM afraid to say I missed it, the opening of the Stanford to Ashford stretch of the new M20 that is.

While I was soaking up the sun on holiday in Merthyr Tydfil last week (Yes our worst thoughts are confirmed, you say, he's definitely gone potty) traffic thundered down the latest bit of motorway tarmac.

Too bad there's no sign of a start on the part that really needs building between Ashford and Maidstone.

THE STAGE was set in Cheriton as a host of civic dignitaries gathered for the switching on of the Christmas lights.

The twinkling electric splendour down Cheriton High Street is always a joy to behold, thanks to the Cheriton and Morehall traders.

This year promised to be no exception and excitement mounted as the big day arrived. Folkestone Mayor Peter Poole wanted to switch on but nothing happened — someone had forgotten to plug them in!

The things people say...

‘Nobody is going to open it my dear. It is going to open itself.’

— Transport spokesman on the opening of the new M20.

Three years for 'enemy of society'

FIVE YOUNG men who committed a whole series of burglaries, thefts and taking other people's vehicles, appeared at Canterbury Crown Court on Tuesday.

Three of them were jailed, one was sent to borstal and one was fined.

Appearing before the court were: Thomas Methvin, 18, of Ivy Way, Folkestone, Stephen John Christopher Betteridge, 23, of Satmar Caravan Site, Capel, Gareth John Jordan, 19, also of Ivy Way, Folkestone, John Maxwell Roberts, 18, of Dallas Brett Crescent, Folkestone, and 21-year-old Anthony Horvath, of Hill Road, Folkestone.

Methvin pleaded guilty to a burglary at Fairlight Road, Hythe, and theft of a stereo unit, cheque book and card and cash, worth a total of £261, belonging to Mrs Susan Hunt on July 12.

He also pleaded guilty to stealing a

wallet, cheque book and personal papers from a Ford Granada belonging to Mr Robert Holder six days later.

Other charges he pleaded guilty to were taking a Ford Cortina from Folkestone between July 10 and 23 without the consent of the owner, Mr Raymond Goslitski and driving while disqualified.

Methvin also admitted another burglary together with Betteridge of a house called Conway, Sea View Road, St Margaret's Bay, and taking building society books, stamps and other property worth a total of £4,583, belonging to Mr Horace Clewley between August 2 and 9.

Jordan pleaded not guilty to the burglary but guilty to stealing four models, taken by the others in the burglary.

Betteridge pleaded guilty to two charges of obtaining £40 on each by

deception by using Mr Clewley's building society books, Methvin pleaded not guilty.

Methvin admitted a further charge of taking a Ford Cortina belonging to Mr George Parker from Folkestone between August 16 and 19. Jordan pleaded guilty to an attempted burglary at St Margaret's Motors in July.

On a second indictment Roberts pleaded guilty to stealing a handbag containing a passport and other items from a tent at a camp site near Dover on June 21 belonging to a Dutch girl, Miss Linda Van Dam.

Horvath and Jordan, who pleaded not guilty to the theft, admitted dishonestly handling the bag.

Betteridge had been sent for sentence by Gloucester magistrates for dishonestly running up a hotel bill for £392 and then leaving without paying at the end of August and for taking a car without the consent of the owner from Gloucester.

Folkestone magistrates had also sent Betteridge for sentence for allowing himself to be carried in a Vauxhall Viva belonging to Mr Andrew Smith, which had been taken from Folkestone on August 10 and using it without insurance.

Roberts had been sent for sentence by Barrow-in-Furness magistrates for taking an articulated lorry without the owner's consent and for being in breach of three probation orders and three suspended prison sentences, totalling six months.

Methvin, who had been in trouble before and who asked for 16 other offences to be taken into consideration, was jailed for a total of three years.

Sentencing him Judge Joseph Dean said his was the most serious situation of all. Why he had chosen to become "such an enemy of society" at the age of 18 was a mystery, said the judge.

The public must be protected and he must be punished for a disregard for the law, his duties as a citizen and his lack of decency in taking other people's property, running up a claim for total compensation of over £3,000 which he knew he had no hope of paying, said the Judge.

Betteridge, who had also been in trouble before and asked the court to take into consideration six other offences, was jailed for a total of two years.

He too had committed offences within a short time of being released from prison in June, and if he decided to take no notice of the law then all the law could do, both to protect society and to discourage others was to send him to prison, Judge Dean told him.

Jordan, who was in breach of a three month suspended prison sentence and had a large number of previous convictions, was sent to prison for 18 months.

Roberts, who had been in trouble on three previous occasions, and asked the court to take into consideration one further offence, was sent for borstal training.

He had not shown any sense of responsibility and was in need of discipline and training, though it was up to him whether he took advantage of it or not, said Judge Dean.

Horvath, who was only involved in the dishonest handling of the handbag of the Dutch girl, which the Judge described as "a mean and miserable little offence", was fined £150. He had been in trouble once before.

Traders' tribute



TRADERS paid a special tribute to retired colleague Stan Luckhurst at a Christmas social evening in Cheriton last week.

Mr Luckhurst was given an honorary life membership of the Cheriton and Morehall Traders' Association by the group's chairman, Mrs Freda Neal.

The honour was awarded to the former antique dealer who had a shop in Cheriton High Street for work he has done in the area over many years.

He was one of the association's founder members. It started up nearly 20 years ago. Since then he has held a number of posts on the committee and has been heavily involved in the group's work.

Although Mr Luckhurst is retired — his shop is now a frozen food store — he is still great friends with local traders, Mrs Neal said.

She presented him with the life membership certificate at the association's monthly meeting held in the president's room at Folkestone Town Football Club, Cheriton Road.

After the official business traders held an informal Christmas social get-together with drinks and food.

Dilemma over name for new estate

NAMING a new housing development posed problems for Hythe Town Council.

Shepway District Council's suggestions for newly constructed homes in Twiss Road were criticised at Tuesday's meeting of the town council's Plans and Works Committee.

Members claimed that Wakefield Drive, Sandling Drive and Sene Close inappropriate.

Councillor Dorothy Stamp wanted to honour the present Mayor, Councillor John Hosgood, by naming the area Hosgood Avenue.

Her suggestion found favour with women councillors, but Councillor Richard Trice proposed naming after former Mayor, Gerald Walter. The voting resulted in a deadlock, however.

Other suggestions were given a lukewarm response. Finally members settled on Pitt Close, which is the idea they will put forward to the district council.

Water rat

THIEVES stole £80 worth of surfing equipment from the Redoubt Sailing Club, West Hythe, last week.

The missing items belong to an Ashford woman and include a black joint and skeg and a white slipboard with a multi-coloured strap.

1981

DEAL, DOVER, FOLKESTONE, HYTHE & SANDWICH

adscene

THE LEADER- others follow

No. 423 OVER 57,000 COPIES, DELIVERED FREE EVERY WEEK EXTRA COPIES 5p Wednesday, December 16th, 1981

Aftermath of a storm

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WALLS were demolished, tarmac ripped from the roads and cars buried on Sunday as a force 10 gale ravaged the south coast during the worst storm in years.

On Monday the big clear-up began, with emergency services pumping water from flooded homes and making some order out of the chaos that was Sandgate and Hythe seafroft.

Sandgate pensioners, Alfred and Jean Pope, were among the 20 or more people evacuated from their homes at the weekend, when gale-force winds and high tides wreaked havoc on the area.

The couple left their home in

Report by Chris Finn

Sandgate High Street late on Sunday night on the advice of a neighbour who was concerned for their welfare.

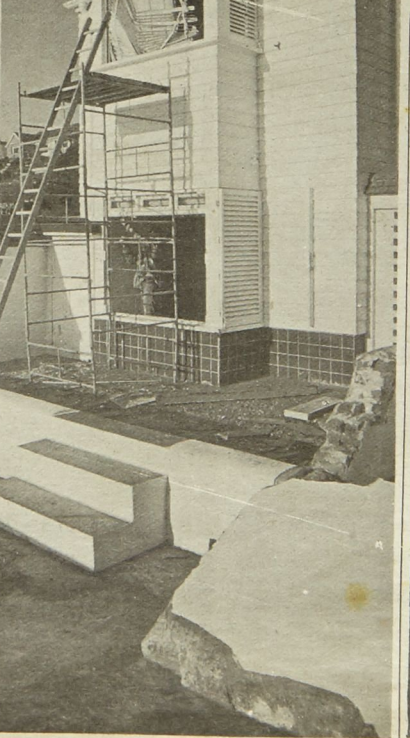
A storm board and sandbags offered no defence from 40-foot waves and a hail of beach stones.

When they returned to their ground-floor flat they found it flooded. "The drain was blocked with shingle and the sea had just

TO BACK PAGE



Trail of havoc left by Sunday's night of gale-force winds and high tide (above) when walls were demolished, doors ripped off hinges, cars buried in shingle (left) and debris strewn all over the seafroft. Scaffolding was hastily erected (below) and Operation Clear-up began.



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		Servis 311 Top load auto.	£270
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13.0 cu ft	£288	Servis 310 Electronic 1000 spin	£244
16.3 cu ft		Philips AW8085	£199
		Indesit 101 800-400 spin	£248
FRIDGE FREEZERS	£142	Hoover 3166	£169
4.0 - 2.0 cu ft	£209	Colston 8900 D Home Laundry	£275
5.7 - 4.6 cu ft	£227	Bendix 7129	£160
7.3 - 5.5 cu ft	£165	Bendix 7349 Home Laundry	£345
5.3 - 3.2 cu ft	£293	Servis d1 Twin Tub	£187
8.5 - 7.3 cu ft	£140	Hotpoint 18390	£245
6.3 - 1.7 cu ft	£160	Zanussi Washcraft 919 1000 spin	£225
9.2 - 1.8 cu ft		Creda 10700	£230
		Zanussi W02290 Washer Drier	£245
FRIDGES	£82	Philco W45 400-800 spin	£199
5.2 cu ft	£104	Zanussi 939 de luxe 1000 spin	£260
7.6 cu ft	£154	Hotpoint 14792 d1 twin tub	£190
11.2 cu ft	£215	Spin Dryers from	£50
15.7 cu ft	£30	Tumble dryers from	£82
4.0 cu ft larder	£138		
7.6 cu ft larder	£205		
13.9 cu ft larder			
DISHWASHERS	£196	MICROWAVE OVENS	£212
Bendix 7820	£215	Sharp 6950E - turntable	£184
Indesit 1116	£212	Tricity 2002 - turntable	£189
Servis 414	£224	Hitachi 8060 - turntable	£208
Electrolux BF83	£150	Tricity 2003	£380
Electrolux Minette	£266	Sharp 9600E - turntable/memory	£164
Philco 8142	£196	Edison McGraw with browner	£222
Zanussi 270		Sharp 9600E	£168
Zanussi 230		Philips 5000	£168
BUILT-IN APPLIANCES	£242	RANGE OF GAS COOKERS IN STOCK	
Moffat 2000 B U oven	£83	ELECTRIC COOKERS	
Westinghouse WH4G	£138	Jackson Topline	£328
Zanussi 1410 Fridge	£108	Belling 90 L/R Coffee/Cream or White	£268
Zanussi PS60 Hob	£186	Tricity Marquis	£390
Zanussi FMS oven	£138	Moffat Fiesta Ceramic	£240
Belling HU	£262	Tricity Contessa Ceramic	£240
Belling XOJ	£282	Belling 4307 White Coffee/Cream	£182
Creda 43903 Hob	£85	Tricity 2556 President	£254
Zanussi FMS5	£435	Belling Ceramic White or Coffee/Cream	£375
Tricity 2156		Tricity President Ceramic	£356
Smeig 6000 Gas Hob		Tricity Contessa 1605	£175
Moffat 3005 Ovens Grill		Belling 120	£98
Cooker hoods from			

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THE madness of motorists when facing hazardous — and often fatal — conditions, is now almost legendary.

These days, it seems an all-too-regular event when the newspapers record yet another example of drivers heading lemming-like into road or weather conditions which are almost bound to lead to accidents.

We have all seen the reports of "motorway madness" where multiple pile-ups in fog and/or ice have cost lives and led to others being maimed for life.

So we really ought to be immune to the sort of stupidity which took place during the height of the weekend's storm which devastated the south coast.

Road blocks had been set up to stop drivers using roads made dangerous by falling masonry and blocked by shingle from nearby beaches.

Yet drivers made their way round the barriers in order to get to the heart of the storm and its damage.

Like the motorway lunatics, they not only put themselves at risk but also those rescue service personnel who usually have to go along afterwards and pick up the pieces.

Amazingly, none of the drivers who ignored the warning signs was actually hurt.

Perhaps the real problem which makes people act stupidly on the road is the "It can't happen to me" attitude.

Sadly, it quite often does. If only a few more of the people who thought it would not happen to them were still around, the rest of us might heed the warning.

Published by Kent Free Press Ltd. (an Adscene Group Company) TELEPHONE CANTERBURY 54545 Managing Director: H. P. Lambert

Quarterly charge 'is fairest way to price power'

I REFER to the letter published in Adscene headed: "Time to abolish quarterly charges" and in particular to the writer's suggestion that quarterly charges for certain commodities should be abolished.

In the case of electricity we, like any other supplier, must charge an economic price for supplying goods and services.

The quarterly charge is designed to cover those costs incurred in the supply of electricity, irrespective of the number of units used.

The letter published correctly rectified the costs of the meter and equipment fixed to the customer's premises and the quarterly meter readings.

In addition there are the costs

incurred in sending out accounts, supplying and maintaining expensive equipment and cables bringing electricity to premises and maintaining a 24-hour emergency

I am sure readers will appreciate that unless a quarterly charge was made, the costs mentioned above would have to be recovered by higher unit prices, resulting in customers who use larger amounts of electricity subsidising those customers who use small amounts of electricity.

Although any method of charging may lead to inequality, I consider the present combination of a quarterly charge and price per unit the fairest practical method of pricing electricity.

L. Sands, District Manager, Seaboard.

Letters

HAVE YOUR SAY...

Letters should be addressed to the Editor, Adscene, Newspaper House, Wincheap, Canterbury. Please write on one side of the paper only and ensure you include your name and full address although this may be excluded from publication. Unsigned letters will not be used but names and addresses will be withheld on request. The Editor reserves the right to reject or abbreviate letters submitted for publication.

Proposed road/rail link is the solution

THE proposed rail and road link to the Continent is the ideal answer to the job — well worthy of the money and workmanship put into it.

If we have to have a channel or chunnels — this is the answer. The small single rail tunnel as put forward by BR would be obsolete before it was even finished.

One extra item would be required, and that is a viaduct along the shore between Dover and Folkestone in line with the present railway system — the cliffs are mainly cut back for this enterprise already.

By this means the chunnel could be fed from the existing rail and roads and also by the large road now approaching Folkestone and Dover.

Many cross-Channel ferries would still be needed, as thousands of travellers enjoy sailing on them, we pray that this and the

duity free will be kept on.

The money for the tunnels venture would come from all Common Market countries using the system — plus tolls put on trains, lorries, cars, freight using the systems.

To be able to feed in the chunnels from Dover and Folkestone would help maintain the large labour force as at present.

Failing this, the chunnel would be fed at Ashford/Maidstone causing the largest work slump Dover, Folkestone. Deal etc would see since the 1920-30s.



Anyway, the best of luck Mr. Ian McGregor of British Steel as high employment would come from the construction of the components for the whole system.

V. Yeakes, Durban Crescent, Dover.

UNIONS TRYING TO STIR UP TROUBLE

THANK you for giving publicity to the letter "Old Folks response apathetic" it is yet again a perfect example of the T.U.C. stirring up the situation, and attempting to cause dissa-

tisfaction.

I have received gratefully my recent retirement increase plus £10 bonus for Christmas, and have put £5 each aside for Segas and Seaboard. This is what the bonus is for, to provide towards necessities.

Mr. Gilchrist has no authority to make statements about pensioners in East Kent area. He is wrong to state that the lack of response was probably due to the country's depression, and in particular the general apathy shown to causes in the south of England.

In general, pensioners are better off now than ever before, probably the reason is in the south we do not waste money in clubs like the northerners do on alcohol, tobacco and bingo.

There must be a poor press circulation in Mr. Gilchrist's area, or possibly he is not interested in good causes.

What is required is a National Day of Action to disband the

The depression has been caused by the unions.

Malcolm Nichols, Cheriton Court Road, Folkestone, Kent.

Chairman's political comments

I REFER to a letter published in the letters column of your paper of 3 December from a Mr. Coles Watson, Chairman of the Marshall Street Residents' Association of Folkestone, expressing his political views.

Were I a member of this Association I would object to him using it as a platform for such a purpose no matter how wholeheartedly I supported his views.

Residents' and Ratepayers' Associations and suchlike are mediums through which local people can voice opinions on local matters more effectively than they could do as individuals.

If they are used by their spokesmen as political platforms they will inevitably become suspect, and thus lose their status as a medium where they should have little relevance.

Mrs. G. Cuthbert Brown, Sandgate Road, Folkestone.

Day care centre

MY CONGRATULATIONS go to the Sandwich Age Concern on acquiring a building for a day care centre.

They join with Deal and Folkestone Age Concern in offering this facility to the elderly.

We, involved with the Dover Age Concern, are anxious to provide this facility for the elderly of Dover.

If it is to this end that we will, in the New Year, be launching an appeal for either a suitable building or money to buy a building.

Any contributions may be sent to Community Centre, 8 Penchester Road, Dover, CT16 1RC. A. Crowcroft & B. Codd, Joint Chairmen, Age Concern, Dover.

Rates levy

I READ in Adscene a plan by Kent Federation of Parent-Teacher's Association whom by a rates levy is suggested to improve Kent's educational structures.

As a pensioner who has educated my sons, without the help of X-pounds per week (allegedly given by the government to subsidise one's children), I hope that should a rate levy be passed, then it is demanded only from people who presently send their children to state schools.

Name and address supplied

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NAME (not for publication)..... ADDRESS

F



DOVER'S East Kent coach drivers got a pat on the back from a delighted customer recently when they were nominated for a radio show's "Top Team" award.

The 27 drivers who take passengers on excursion trips all over the country and to the Continent were mentioned on the

David Hamilton Show on BBC's Radio 2.

"They're a great team of fellows," said one fan, a lady from Hythe who asked to remain nameless.

Pictured with their "Top Team" certificate are two of the drivers, Brian Dann (left) and Peter Tracy.

Much of the drivers' time is spent looking after the elderly on excursions, sometimes stepping in at the last minute to take passengers to the Continent all hours of the night.

"They are the best of any time bring the boss, Dick, and tend to be

DRIVERS CRITICISED AS STORM TAKES ITS TOLL



FROM PAGE ONE

poured in under the door," said Mrs. Pope.

The couple have only just decorated their home, having moved in six months ago. Now they will have to start again, although carpets throughout are probably ruined.

"Thank God we're insured. As pensioners we just can't afford to go out and buy new things," said Mrs. Pope.

They had nothing but praise for council workmen, who had been out at the scene all along the coast to Hythe since the start of the storm.

Mr. John Gale, Assistant Works Superintendent of Shepway Council's Highways Department, said on Monday: "There's still a lot of work to do and all the

workmen are deployed on the coast."

The council handed out nearly 1,000 sandbags to seafront residents over the weekend, but these proved useless against the might of the sea.

Folkestone Leading Fireman David Epps said: "I've never seen anything like it. Doors had been literally ripped off hinges and I heard someone remark that Sandgate High Street looked like a bomb had hit it."

He was one of the many members of the emergency services who worked through the night, pumping out homes and clearing debris.

Many were still there on Monday, digging out cars from beds of shingle and setting up road blocks to help their work.

Some drivers were criticised by

police who said they deliberately ignored road blocks and then found themselves stuck in the shingle.

Others had driven along the coast road in the height of the storm, risking a shower of debris and, in the case of motor-cyclists, being washed into the sea.

Residents agreed that the gale force 10 winds and tide resulted in more damage than floods in 1967. "I've never heard a wind like it for years," one said.

A pair of old coastguard cottages on the seafront at Sandgate took the brunt of the storm, with many windows smashed and furniture thrown from one side of the room to the other.

At Hythe, the force was so strong that lumps of tarmac were lifted off the promenade and flung several feet into the road.

ION DIARY



DIARY Dates

Thursday, 17th. Deal, Walmer and Kingsdown Regatta Association Christmas Party at the Quarterdeck, Deal.

Thursday 17th. Concert and Carols by Hythe Town Military Band and Hythe Methodist Church Choir at the Methodist Church, from 7.30 p.m., in aid of Year of the Disabled.

Saturday 19th. First night of "Babes in the Wood" at the Marlboro Theatre, Canterbury, at 7.30 p.m.

Monday 21st. "The Bear Who couldn't Spell", a story for children about Cuddles the Bear, at the Leas Pavilion Theatre. Production runs for two weeks, with matinee performances.

Monday 21st. Christmas Dance and presentation at the Leas Cliff Hall by the Margaret Ratcliff School of Dancing, from 7.45 p.m.

Sunday 20th. Last chance to see "Romney Marsh and the Royal Military Canal". An exhibition of crafts, watercolours and photographs at the Arts Centre, Folkestone, from 2.30-5 p.m.

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SISTERS OF MERCY AID VICTIMS OF THE STORM

TWO WOMEN were being hailed as sisters of mercy after throwing open their home to exhausted flood victims on Sunday night.

As gale-force winds and mountainous seas lashed Shepway's coastline, frozen Sandgate residents crowded into the High Street home of Mary Gill and Ann Pinchin.

The storms reached their height just after midnight's high tide with 30-foot waves crashing onto houses causing thousands of pounds worth of damage.

Houses a hundred yards from the seafront were shaken by the force of the waves which smashed parts of the sea defences to bits.

One enormous wave crashed through the roof of Mrs Molly Payne's house on the Esplanade setting alight electric cables until firemen moved in to black out the area.

The freak tidal surge sent furniture rushing on a flood of water through the house. Wooden shutters to protect windows were swept away like matchsticks out into the sea.

"There was nothing I could do," said Mrs Payne who was in the front of the house when the monster wave struck.

Residents were evacuated as firemen and workmen from Shepway District Council struggled to cope under appalling conditions. One fireman was lifted off his feet by a wave which broke over the

sea wall and dumped him on the Esplanade. Miraculously he got up and walked away.

Mr Charles Bryant, of the High Street, described the seas like a tidal wave.

"The doors broke open and the sea kept on coming through. If I had had time to be frightened I would have been," he said.

Another resident described how he was swept aside by the force of the water as he tried to keep his door closed.

"Three or four feet of water was rushing through for about an hour. This was a freak in every way."

At one stage street lights were on fire and raw sewage

up to six inches deep flooded kitchens and living rooms.

Amazingly, some residents only a few yards away from the fury slept on. One of them was hotel receptionist Mrs Ann Pinchin.

She was woken in the early hours of Monday morning by a knock at the window of the basement flat she shares with Mrs Mary Gill.

"At first I thought I was dreaming," said Mrs Pinchin, but when she got up, she saw an elderly woman outside.

Mrs Gill stepped out into the icy night and asked a fireman if she could help.

For the next few hours a steady stream of tired, wet

and bedraggled residents evacuated from their homes were given a steady supply of hot coffee and food to warm them up.

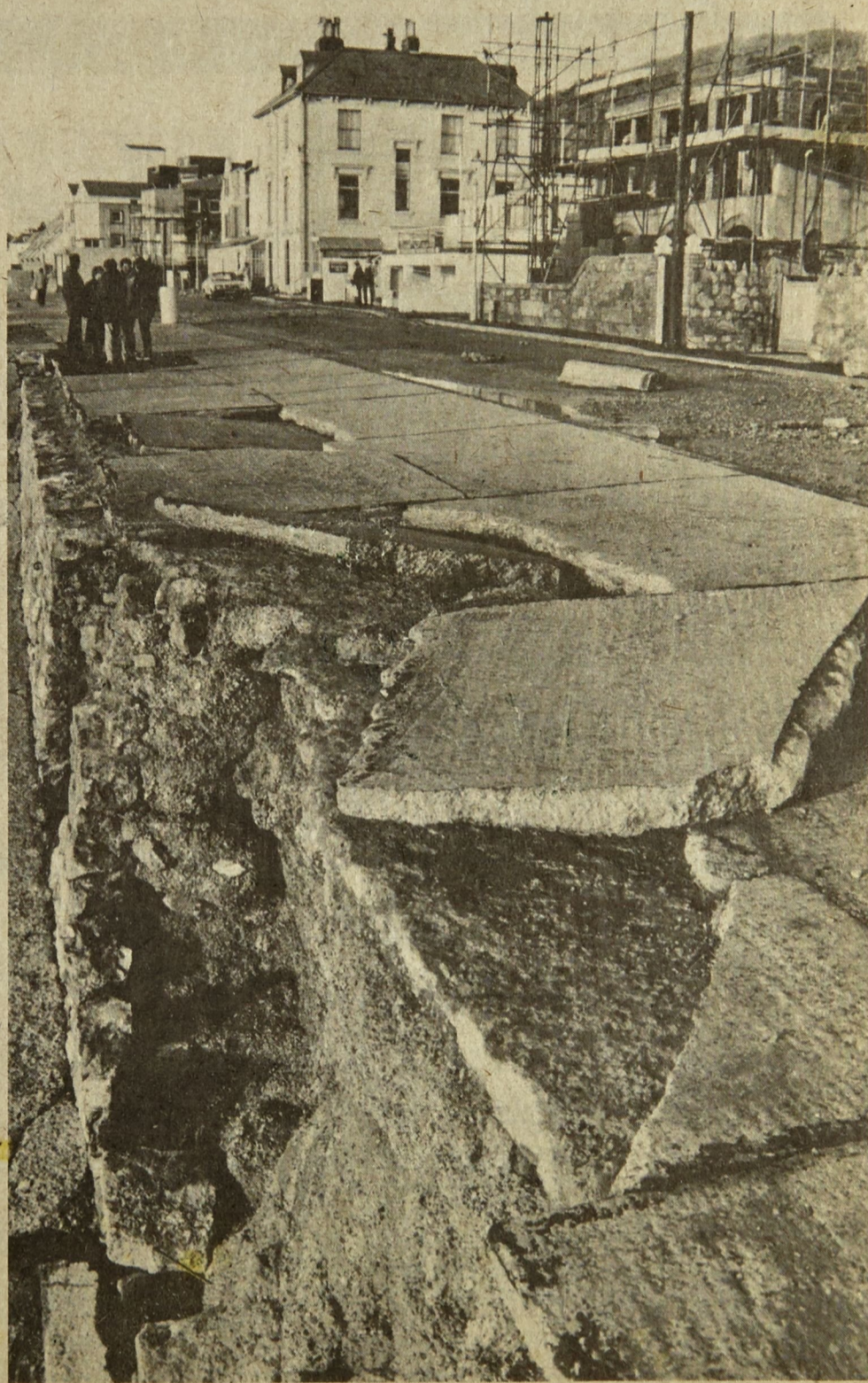
"We couldn't let people just stand there," said Mrs Gill. "It was like wartime all over again."

"One or two of the people were in shock or just distressed."

An elderly pensioner whose house backed onto the seafront was repeatedly asked by firemen to leave but was reluctant to do so.

Only after several appeals did she leave, stopping on the way to safety to post her Christmas cards.

By
Jonathan Poore



PART of the sea wall at Sandgate which was badly damaged by Sunday's storm.

Repairs to cost £100,000

SHEPWAY'S worst in living memory will cost the district £100,000.

Emergency work costing £25,000 started on Sandgate sea wall, torn apart by Sunday night's storm, on Tuesday.

The storm also damaged 30 houses and flooded another 100. The massive clear-up operation alone cost between £4,000 and £5,000.

Council workmen were out last Thursday and Friday clearing snow when a flood warning came in.

Four sections of sea wall failed and three are in critical condition and have to be repaired before more storms make the damage worse.

Sandgate was hit the worst with £30,000 damage to the wall near Tower Court, £5,000 worth near Sir John Moore Court and £20,000 of damage at Granville Parade.

There was £11,000 damage at the back of the Riviera, another £9,000 worth to the car park of the Fleur de Lis and £15,000 needs to be spent on the Princes Parade promenade, Hythe.

The Esplanade was closed to all traffic for three days.

Princes Parade was already in bad condition and work has been put off for two or three years but now it will either have to be closed or repaired.

The Marine Walk between The Leas Lifts in Folkestone and Sandgate has suffered £3,000 worth of damage. It was already partially blocked by a landslip but now it must be closed as it is in a dangerous condition.

The works committee decided to go ahead with emergency work and sort out which authority pays for it afterwards. Shepway may apply for a grant from the Government.

Mr Greening paid tribute to his staff and the fire brigade who were out in dangerous conditions trying to contain the floods.

Councillor Don Blythe (Lib., Folkestone Morehall) asked if the damage was because of neglect in former years.

Mr Greening replied that if planned groynes had been put in it might have had a small effect, but it was such an exceptional storm it would have caused a lot of damage anyway.

He said it was the worst storm any of the local residents could remember and caused the most damage that he has had to deal with.

In Hythe he reported that damage was smaller but the flooding greater. Eight men with an excavator and two trucks were clearing shingle and floods with the help of firemen all day Monday.

But during the clear-up there were more problems when an electricity blackout in Lydd cut off some water pumping stations.



SANDGATE ESPLANADE. It was still closed to traffic three days later.

Plight of the families hit by motorway noise

By **GRIZELDA GRAHAM**

NOISE from the new M20 is giving some residents on a Cheriton estate sleepless nights.

Despite the roar of the juggernauts only a handful of the homes in Appledore Crescent have been double glazed.

A survey carried out by Liberal Prospective Parliamentary candidate John Macdonald revealed that half the residents have their sleep disturbed by the roar.

Of the 76 households which took part in the survey, only six had been given double glazing to soundproof them.

People are also angry that their children can no longer go and play on the nearby Downs without a long and possibly hazardous walk to a

point where they can cross the motorway.

Mr Macdonald wrote to the Transport Ministry asking for a footbridge, but was told it is satisfied access to the Downs has been maintained in a reasonable manner.

And he said, the high cost of a footbridge cannot be justified.

On November 5 Mr Macdonald wrote to the ministry again, asking what the cost is, but he has not yet received an answer.

"I think it is very important. I am hoping we can get something done about it," he said.

One resident, Mrs Maureen Davey, said she and her husband Bob moved to the area because it was so quiet.

Railway maintenance supervisor Mr Davey does quite a lot of night work and can no longer sleep during the day because of the traffic noise.

"He can't get to sleep during the day. He is getting pretty fed up with it," said Mrs Davey.

Some people have been talking about getting up a petition, she added.

"It was lovely and peaceful," said another resident, Mrs Elizabeth Killick. She thinks her home should be

double glazed, but believes it will probably be a "dead loss" asking for it.

Nursery school teacher Mrs Susan Sinstead does not think the barrier between the houses and the motorway is very effective at keeping noise levels down.

A light sleeper, she says the traffic noise sometimes keeps her awake at night. Even her husband, Charles, a heavy sleeper, has noticed the noise.

The family used to go to the Downs quite often, but Mrs Sinstead says any walks now have to be supervised and she cannot let the children go on their own.

Mrs Ann Stephens said she is not really affected by the noise.

But she is concerned that walks in the country are now a thing of the past because of the distance the family has to walk to get to the fields.

A Department of Transport spokesman said it must provide double glazing if the noise is above a certain level.

Residents have the right to appeal and notices about that will be published in the local Press in the spring.

If people do appeal, then noise level readings will be taken.



● Mrs Ann Pinchin

a sparkling
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Policies which solve problems

THOUSANDS of people seem to be turning to the SDP/Liberal Alliance which claim to offer something new.

destroy grammar schools and gave the Trade Unions much of the power they have today.

Those people who now turn to the SDP should remember that it was their Socialist policies in the past that are to blame for most of the country's problems.

The choice facing us is simple — the Socialist policies supported by the SDP and Liberals that are responsible for the country's decline, or the Conservative policies which alone can make our country stronger and a place where people can live in peace and freedom.

Tenants in support of flats conversion

WE WERE concerned to read the letter in the Herald (December 4) by James Marsh, who claimed to be "the self-appointed secretary" of the Tenants Association.

I HAVE just read the letters in Friday's edition of the Herald about Mr Godden and the seafrost proposals.

Letters to the editor

Parents back the head

HAVING read the article in the Hythe edition of the Herald (Herald, November 27) we feel, as parents of children attending Palmarch CP School, that we would like to give our support to Mrs Price.

The way to employment

DURING the Second World War, there was a part of the British services serving in the Far East which became known as the "Forgotten Army" (the 14th).

force for the unemployed school leavers but these are essentially short term. What about the two million or so who in many cases are highly skilled and trained workers?

Care over pets for Christmas

AT THIS time of the year when thoughts are being given to Christmas gifts, it is necessary for the RSPCA to appeal to the public not to give animals as presents unless it is known that the recipient recognises and is willing to accept the very real responsibility involved in caring for an animal.

Give God plans even encourage

It certainly seems that Folkestone has more than its fair share of narrow-minded councillors.

Serious to the co

I WAS amazed to read in the Herald last week a report that Mr Godden says he will "hold the council to ransom".

Messiah

I HOPE you will allow me to reply to the Folkestone Choral Society Committee (Herald, December 4).

No extra holiday for bus drivers

WITH REFERENCE to the story about no bus-services over Christmas, may I point out that it was a managerial decision to close down for four days and this does not mean that the drivers get two days extra.

Care over pets for Christmas

By no means does the society wish to discourage the giving of an animal to a home where the family will welcome it, and also appreciate the attention it will need as well as the cost of maintenance.

Ours is not a street of shame

I WOULD like to reply to the write-up in the Hythe edition of the Herald, of November 27.

Library crossing danger

I HAD just emerged from the public library and was waiting for a lull in the traffic at this dangerous spot.

Protect

I NOTE the interesting article about moles by Rambler (Herald, November 27). He reminds us that they are usually attacked with strychnine.

BIRTHS · MARRIAGES · DEATHS · IN MEMORIAM

Announcement of BIRTH, MARRIAGES and DEATHS, etc, appear in our Group of newspapers (Folkestone Herald/Dover Express, South Kent Gazette/South Kent Gazette) at an inclusive rate of 25p per word (minimum of 12 words). All announcements must be authenticated by the name and address of the sender. WEDDING and ENGAGEMENT NOTICES must also bear the signature of both contracting parties.

Golden Wedding

GARLINGE · GROOMBRIDGE — On 26th December, 1931, William (Bill) to Doris, at Holy Innocence Church, Adham.

Deaths (Contd.)

HOUSE, — On December 13th 1981, peacefully, Mabel aged 84 years, widow of Clarence, Samuel House, 16 Kingfisher Avenue, Hythe, Beloved Mother of Anne, Service at Hythe Unitarian Church on Monday, December 21st, 1981 at 11 am, followed by Interment in the Hawking cemetery, Flowers to 1 Dymchurch Road, Hythe.

In Memoriam (Contd.)

BROWN, — In loving memory of a dear son and brother Peter, who left us on 20th December 1973, Sadly missed. — Mum, Dad and family. PA/D23

In Memoriam (Contd.)

LEWIS, — Remembering Doris Edna, died December 13th, 1971. Sadly missed. — Husband, Norman, daughters Valerie, Jenni, Sheila, husbands and grand-children.

Acknowledgement (Contd.)

HUTCHINS, — Mrs D. Hutchins and family wish to convey their thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for all their kindness and sympathy during their floral tributes, cards and letters of sympathy received in their sad loss.

Library crossing danger

I HAD just emerged from the public library and was waiting for a lull in the traffic at this dangerous spot.

Congratulations

ELSE, — Congratulations Aunt Clara and Uncle Bert on your Diamond Wedding anniversary December 26th. — John and family, Edie and family and sister Edie. PA/D23

Deaths

ADAMTHWAITE, — On December 10th 1981 peacefully in hospital, aged 89 years, Mrs. Edith Adamthwaite, dearly loved husband of Queenie. Cremated at Hawkinge. PA/D23

In Memoriam (Contd.)

CLARKE, — James Alfred, In memory of my darling Jim, who passed away peacefully on December 20th 1980, aged 69 years. Also a loving dad. PA/D23

In Memoriam (Contd.)

LEWIS, — Remembering Doris Edna, died December 13th, 1971. Sadly missed. — Husband, Norman, daughters Valerie, Jenni, Sheila, husbands and grand-children.

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In Memoriam

BAKER, — Vera, 20th December 1978 in loving memory of a dear daughter. God bless. — Mum. PA/D23

In Memoriam

BAKER, — Vera, 20th December 1978 in loving memory of a dear daughter. God bless. — Mum. PA/D23

In Memoriam

BAKER, — Vera, 20th December 1978 in loving memory of a dear daughter. God bless. — Mum. PA/D23

Thanks

CROUCH, — To our sons, daughters, daughter-in-law, sons-in-law, thank you all for the wonderful surprise and lovely presents on our anniversary and the grandchildren for a secret so well kept. Love, Mum and Dad. PA/D23

Protect

I NOTE the interesting article about moles by Rambler (Herald, November 27). He reminds us that they are usually attacked with strychnine.

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In Memoriam

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In Memoriam

BAKER, — Vera, 20th December 1978 in loving memory of a dear daughter. God bless. — Mum. PA/D23

Birthdays

MILNER, — Betty, Remembering our dear Mum and Nanny on her birthday December 21st never forgotten by Anton, Mum and David. PA/D23

Christmas Greetings

BAUT, — Mr and Mrs Marcel Baut formerly of Folkestone, wish to all their friends a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. PA/D18

CHRISTMAS PRES AND FRIENDS

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In Memoriam

BAKER, — Vera, 20th December 1978 in loving memory of a dear daughter. God bless. — Mum. PA/D23

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Birthdays

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CHRISTMAS PRES AND FRIENDS

DRAINPIPE JEANS & STRETCH JEANS LEE SWEATSHIRTS, KNITWEAR

**SOUTH KENT
Gazette**

Body found on beach

A WOMAN'S body was found washed up on the beach near Folkestone Harbour on Sunday morning. It was found on the foreshore a quarter of a mile from the harbour. According to the police there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the discovery of the

corpse. A post mortem was due to be held at Folkestone's Royal Victoria Hospital on Monday afternoon to find the cause of death. Police did not know who the woman was before the Gazette went to press.

They describe her as being of average build, five feet eight inches tall with dark brown greying hair, aged between 55 and 65. When found she was wearing a top coat, cardigan, scarf, jersey and trousers.

GALES SMASH SEA DEFENCES

Story:
Pip Clarkson
Pictures:
Brian Newcombe

TWENTY people had to be evacuated when freak tides whipped up by storm-force winds, flooded their homes on Sunday night.

Waves crashed onto houses at Coastguard cottages, Sandgate, with water flooding through top storey windows and down staircases.

Thousands of pounds worth of damage was caused to property and the evacuated flood victims stayed the night with friends or relatives.

The sea wall behind nearby Folkestone Rowing Club was smashed as the winds whipped the sea into a frenzy.

The evacuation came at the height of the storm which lashed Shepway for several hours.

Cross-Channel ferries, buses and trains were delayed, in some cases for up to an hour and roads were closed or just impassable.

Sub-zero temperatures froze water on the roads and several cars ended up in ditches.

At Capel a car overturned and a woman was taken to the Kent and Canterbury Hospital suffering from shock. Another woman was taken to the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, with a broken arm after the car she was in lost control and finished up in a field in the Alkham Valley.

More than 2,320 homes throughout the area went without electricity, some for many hours. And in Sandgate telephone lines were affected.

Residents at Sandgate struggled to build barricades with sandbags and planks as the flood began pouring across their gardens and lapping at their doorsteps.

Firemen were called to pump out the houses and police closed off Sandgate High Street and the Esplanade, while Shepway District Council workmen attempted to clear tons of shingle from the roads.

Parts of Hythe also suffered badly. West Parade



Continued on Page 3

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1969

Hythe & District Herald

Chronicle, Observer, Express and Kent Evening Echo.

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TOY FAIR

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1969

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Four-day fight to keep the sea out of homes

SEAFRONT residents at Sandgate and Hythe fought a four-day battle to keep the sea from their homes this week.

High tides and gale-force winds resulted in huge walls of spray breaking over the tops of the houses, wrenching slates from the roofs, smashing windows and tearing plaster from walls.

Householders were kept awake four nights running by the storms.

They used sandbags and storm boards to keep the water from their front doors.

Sandgate Esplanade and West Parade at Hythe were closed eight times from Sunday to Thursday as flood water and tons of shingle from the beaches covered the roads.

Herald photographer Graeme Fuller was knocked unconscious by one of the huge waves which swept Sandgate Esplanade at high tide on Wednesday night.

He was dragged clear of the water by two reporters who were on the spot.

Fuller was taken to hospital after being hit by a wave breaking over Coastguard Cottages when the incident happened.

BROKEN

He said later: "I saw a wall of water rearing up, and I just had time to turn my back on it before it hit me. "The water seemed to weigh a ton. It just picked me up and hurled me into the wall."

His glasses were broken and he cut a leg.

Residents of Coastguard Cottages slept in front bedrooms during the storms and some had suitcases packed in case they had to evacuate their homes.

Mrs. Florence Warwick lives alone in one of the cottages. She was 76 this week.

"On Wednesday I was trying to do some cooking for a birthday party and keep the water out of my house at the same time," she said.

"I put sandbags inside and outside the doors, and luckily they kept the water out."

"But the water has knocked a lot of slates from the roof, and I don't know how I am going to afford to have them replaced."

EXASPERATED

Folkestone Corporation workmen were busy every day clearing shingle from the Esplanade and pushing clear cars that had broken down.

One exasperated workman said: "I don't know why motorists try to drive along this road when the signs are out saying it is closed. They must be mad."

AT HYTHE front gardens of houses on West Parade and Marine Parade were under water.

Householders sandbagged their front doors to keep out the water.

Half-crown saving on power charges

PRICE cuts announced by South-eastern Electricity Board this week will mean a saving of 2s. 6d. a quarter to the average domestic consumer.

The cuts—0.03d. off the price of each domestic tariff unit—come into operation in April.

Similar reductions will mean savings of 11s. a quarter for commercial consumers and 8s. 6d. a quarter for farm consumers.

Large commercial and industrial concerns could have as much as £100 a year slashed from their power bills.

The reductions, although small, will cost Seaboard about £1,500,000 a year.

Quarterly charges remain unchanged.

Affray case transferred

The 10 people—one a woman—who were charged with causing an affray and various other offences at Folkestone on September 27, all had the cases against them transferred to Kent quarter sessions in Maidstone in December, by the Lawson, at Folkestone quarter sessions on Thursday.

All the defendants were granted bail in a total sum of £1,270.

Continental trip for 'newsboys'

OVER 1,000 local teenagers may be recruited as newsboys . . . to deliver papers on the Continent as part of the publicity drive for Expo Folkestone.

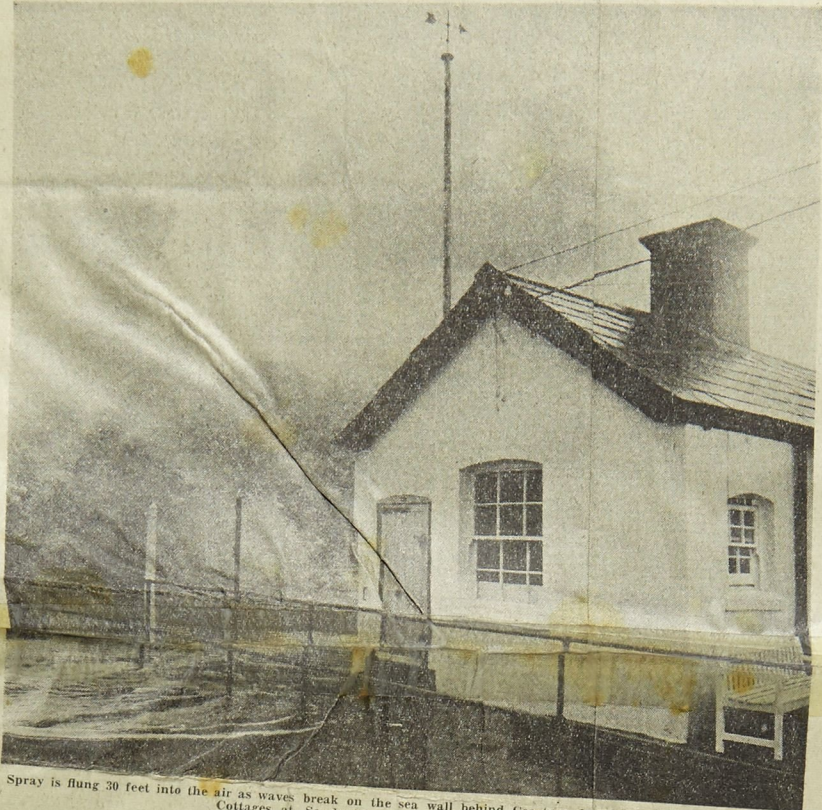
The youngsters would be needed to deliver papers in towns in France, Belgium and possibly Holland and Germany.

The campaign is the idea of Mr. Allan Wright, director of Expo Euro.

"For some time I have felt that the youth of this country would welcome with enthusiasm an opportunity to play a direct part in selling Great Britain and British goods and services abroad," Mr. Wright said this week.

"I feel we could give them this opportunity through Expo Euro."

CONT ON BACK PAGE



Spray is flung 30 feet into the air as waves break on the sea wall behind Coastguard Cottages at Sandgate.



Sea water laps into the front gardens of houses in West Parade, Hythe, as waves send up walls of spray.

MYSTERY OF DEAD MAN ON BEACH

A MAN may have sat for 18 hours or more on a Folkestone seafront bench dying or dead, it was revealed at a Folkestone inquest on Tuesday.

And a pathologist told the coroner that the man, 45-year-old office worker Arthur Ralph, of Radnor Park Road, Folkestone, might have been dead for up to 48 hours.

After hearing that the cause of death was an overdose of codeine tablets and one barbiturate capsule, the coroner, Mr. Norman Franks, recorded an open verdict.

Mr. Franks said that because of the time involved, exposure might also have been a contributory factor, although there was no medical evidence to support that.

Missing

Mr. Ralph's body was found by police in a sitting position on a bench in a secluded spot near the Lower Sandgate Road below the Leas Cliff Hall.

P.C. Robert Keene said that one witness claimed he had seen Mr. Ralph on the same bench the previous day, but had thought that he was asleep.

Mr. Ralph's landlady, Mrs. Esther Mawdesley, said she reported him missing to the police after he had not been home for two nights and after another lodger had told her he had seen him sitting on the bench.

The coroner said there were several matters that had not been explained.

The post mortem had shown there was no serious physical illness, there was no evidence of any mental illness and there was nothing to indicate Mr. Ralph's mental state when he took the tablets.



Men working in water a foot deep, ABOVE, try to clear a blocked drain at Seabrook. Meanwhile other workers, BELOW, prepare to push a car clear from a pile of shingle on Sandgate Esplanade.



WIN £300

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CONT ON BACK PAGE

FOLKESTONE, HYTHE & DISTRICT HERALD

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SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 1969

A MISTAKE . . . BUT THE FAULT IS WHITEHALL'S

IT now seems likely that Hythe will decide to continue to pump crude sewage, only partly treated, into the English Channel. What a ghastly mistake . . . although it could well be the authority is being forced into making it by Government pressures.

What damage are we doing in our ignorance for future generations to remedy as we dump excrement by the ton, poisons, detergents by the gallon, chemical by-products, even nuclear waste into our seas? What will be the effect on marine life?

No one knows for certain — but the pointers are there. Fears have been expressed in some quarters, and more immediately of concern are the dead rivers, once the haunt of salmon and roach, now uninhabitable only by rats.

The arguments in favour of the three-quarter-mile long outfall which will take Hythe's sewage out to sea, where it will be discharged as "a muddy stream" to quote the official report, are compelling in the way they are presented.

The chairman of the works committee, Rear-Admiral Derrick Hall-Thompson, has presented well the facts of the case; its strength is undeniable.

The answer rests simply on cost: What the people of Hythe can afford to face in the way of rate increases to pay for sewage disposal.

Here is a frightening factor. For it is the number of years over which the Government will allow loans to be repaid which makes the difference between a scheme whose cost is reasonable for the ratepayer or plainly prohibitive.

And the Government will allow a long period of repayments on schemes which involve discharging sewage into the sea.

But the works committee arguments themselves are not wholly convincing. For part of the argument in the past in favour of the long outfall was based on the result of float tests which were intended to show whether three-quarters of a mile would be far enough out to sea to avoid any discharge being washed back on to shore.

In fact, it proved impossible to conduct the tests in moderate to severe wind conditions, so no one can be sure until the outfall comes into operation whether it will be completely adequate.

The whole subject, though, only emphasises the need for central government to take over expenditure on sewage disposal — but then only if it will reconsider the foolhardiness of turning the English Channel into an open sewer.

THE OLD BOY WHO MISSED SCHOOL'S CENTENARY SERVICE

ONE disappointed old boy of St. Martin's school Cheriton, who missed the recent centenary celebrations was Mr. Walter Chandler, a former post office official at Folkestone.

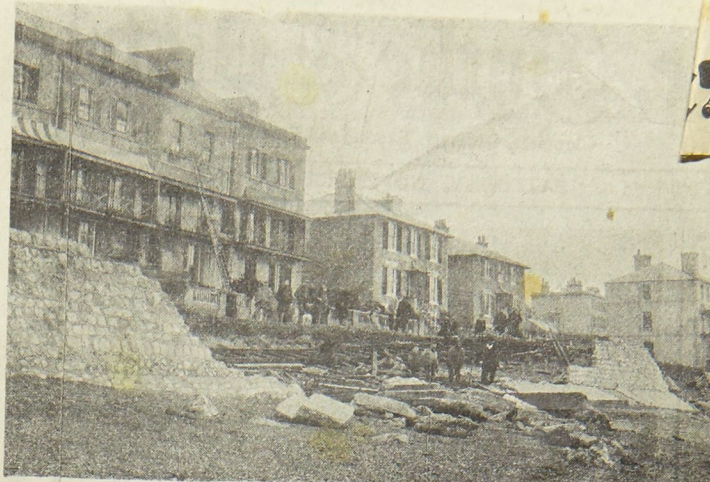
In 1906 he left Folkestone G.P.O. to become overseer post at G.P.O., Cambridge, and last year he was promoted to postmaster at Tring.

The Chandler family's association with St. Martin's goes back to 1922 when Lewis John Chandler became a pupil. He was there until 1931 and later was employed at the Wesleyan Soldiers' Home, Shorncliffe Camp, now the Montgomery Home.

During the last war, Lewis served in the R.A.F. and spent some time in Canada, which no doubt led him, his wife and daughter to emigrate to Ontario after the war.

He is now resident at 847, Maxwell Street, Sarnia, Ontario, where he works for the Dow Chemical Works.

Walter Chandler first went to St. Martin's in 1924 and seven years later won a scholarship to the Harvey



THE huge seas, which have battered the sea defences at Folkestone during the gales of the past week, adds special interest to this photograph of damage to the sea wall at Sandgate Esplanade in the early 1900s.

Gap in holes were torn in the wall and the lines of the horse tramway between Sandgate and Hythe collapsed into cavities behind the wall. For years Sandgate was at risk from the inroads of the sea. Quite a number of houses collapsed and disappeared when sea defences were breached and when the

shingle back filling to the wall was drawn out by the action of wave and tide.

Folkestone was the first local authority to take advantage of the Coast Protection Act, which provides for the cost of sea defence work to be borne by the government county council, local authority and individual frontagers.

Perhaps the most serious threat to Sandgate came in 1908, when the sea covered great holes in defences fronting The Riviera.

The water almost reached the big houses lining the seafront and

it was only prompt action by the local authority and the decision of the then borough engineer, Mr. E. L. Allman, to use fasciols as a temporary measure to halt the inroads of the sea that prevented a major disaster.

An emergency meeting of the town council was called and an immediate call went to the Ministry of Health for a grant of £11,000 to meet the cost of temporary repairs.

Later, extensive and costly coast protection schemes, including the repair of groynes were undertaken. With the construction

of new rehabilitation which, in natural threat to removed.

But still be done breaking wall at the tide.

Very often hit the water are in the shingle and still carried roadway along this week with traffic on to

AROUND AND ABOUT WITH THE STROLLER

Peter has new role

IT was some years ago that Peter Barkworth, fresh from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, first appeared with the Arthur Brough Player at Folkestone's Leas Pavilion.

He was recognised by Arthur Brough as a young actor of more than usual promise. Peter soon made a name for himself, and won wide acclaim for his performances in The Power Game a popular television series.

Now Mr. Barkworth will appear in a B.B.C. drama, Special Projects Air, featuring the Royal Air Force.

The film is centred on a fictitious Ministry of Defence department concerned with the investigation of troubles involving the R.A.F. all over the world.

I am told that fast action and exotic locations are the essential ingredients. Location shooting for two programmes, which will be screened by B.B.C.1 tomorrow evening and next Sunday, was done at R.A.F. Changi and on the neighbouring islands.

Peter Barkworth plays a

wing-commander and the co-star, Elizabeth Bell, is cast as a W.R.A.F. flight lieutenant.

Helicopter crews of the Far East Air Force's 103 and 110 Squadrons, Jungle Survival School staff, men of the R.A.F. Regiment to 15 (Field) Squadron, Seletar, R.A.F. transport drivers and members of Changi's Station Theatre Club all take part in the film.

Praise for brochure

A NEWLY produced brochure, which gives details of the conference facilities offered by Folkestone, is proving to be a big success.

The brochure was published recently by Folkestone Corporation as part of a campaign to sell the town as a conference centre.

Copies have been sent to conference organisers all over the country.

The Confederation of Health Service Employees has already replied in glowing terms.

Its general secretary wrote to Folkestone publicity and conference officer, Mr. Charles McDougall: "I have seen many of these in the past and in my opinion this is the best brochure on the subject that has come my way."

Among the many gifts presented to Walsh, of Radnor Cliff, Sandgate, who, after many years with Batchelors P Ashford, was a fishing rod. She is presented with her farewell gifts by Mr. departmental head at the Ashford

Dog dramas recalled

THE days of the dog dramas are recalled by the colourful Victorian Theatre exhibition currently on show at Folkestone's central public library, Grace Hill.

In the dog dramas of the middle of the 19th century, performing dogs appeared in the roles of noble, faithful hounds.

One Old Vic play-bill of 1847, included in the exhibition of material relating to the Victorian Theatre in London, announces a version of Hamlet and a dog drama being played together.

The exhibition, prepared by the circulation department of the Victoria and Albert

development. On contributions Arthur Sullivan Gilbert in collaboration with Savoy Opera

George Edward Gaiety Theatre

able for that is usually English Musical Comedy

The most of the ever, to be growth of These original garden, the previous their name provided a through musical text

They operation with gradually of gramme of provide a w sentimental material, of entertainm which ex popular cul for a Bene 1838 at the nation Pleas Grecian Sa exhibit in t

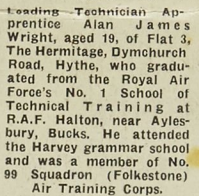
The Eagl house refer known popu refrain of weasel in it and out th

There is ing to Me Holborn Es music had pantomim opment of black-face lithograph performing the audience in the

The exhib November

Office mate

AMONG Cadets guard of stone W Remember 16-year-old school by James Sa he has officer tr Naval Co Lieutenant Craker,



Leading Technician Apprentice Brian James Wright, aged 19, of Flat 3, The Hermitage, Dymchurch Road, Hythe, who graduated from the Royal Air Force's No. 1 School of Technical Training at R.A.F. Halton near Aylesbury, Bucks. He attended the Harvey grammar school and was a member of No. 99 Squadron (Folkestone) Air Training Corps.

grammar school where he matriculated in 1935.

Two years later he joined the Folkestone G.P.O. staff and in 1941 was called up for service with the Army.

He served with the Army Post Office in the Middle East and was awarded the B.E.M.

Walter returned to the post office at Folkestone after the war and became closely associated with St. Martin's church, Cheriton, where he was organist from 1951-1966, deputy church warden, secretary of the bellringers and secretary of the parochial church council until he moved to Cambridge.

He now plays the organ at Swavesey Parish Church. Had he heard about the school's centenary celebrations he would dearly have liked to play the organ at the special service in connection with the celebrations.

Third member of the first generation Chandlers to attend St. Martin's school was Margaret Chandler, now Mrs. Beilfield.

She took up nursing at Ashford General Hospital and gained her S.R.N. before she left the profession to marry. Later she was appointed matron of Dr. Barnardo's Home for spastics at Warley, Essex.

William Chandler (1927-1934) served as air crew with the R.A.F. in the last war. Afterwards he joined Thomas Cook & Sons and is their chief representative at Folkestone Harbour. His home is at 18, Park Road, Cheriton.

Second generation Chandlers who attended the school are Valerie Chandler (1955-1962), who left to go to Folkestone grammar school for girls.

She became a children's nurse at Mayfield Children's Home for spastic and mongol children.

Valerie rejoined the family at Cambridge in 1966 when she became a G.P.O. telephonist. Later she returned to nursing and went to the Paddington Group Hospitals for S.E.N. training.

She left nursing again and became an accounts clerk before marrying Peter Heffer in September.

Hilary Chandler (1957-1964) left St. Martin's to go to Harcourt secondary school and later transferred, when the family moved, to Colebridge secondary school, Cambridge, where she was made a prefect and house captain.

Hilary, after a spell at Cambridge Technical College, joined the W.R.A.F. in July and became a leading aircraft woman in air traffic



Marie Lloyd

Museum, shows, through play-bills, programmes and illustrative material, something of the history and development of the major aspects of the Theatre in Victorian times.

A favourite form of dramatic entertainment was the adaptation for the stage of a successful novel of the day. Dickens' early works were especially popular in stage versions, as were also the novels of Harrison Ainsworth. Dickens is represented by The Chimes (1844) and The Cricket on the Hearth (1845), and Ainsworth by Jack Sheppard (1839 and 1857).

Such stage versions were popular throughout the century and there are also in the exhibition items relating to Miss Brandon's Lady Audley's Secret (1863), and George Du Maurier's Tribly (1895).

There are also a programme for a Royal Command per-

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**Vanishing
beach
threatens
boats**

FISHERMEN at Dungeness have lost 140 feet of their shingle beach in the past year.

This also affects the lifeboat, which is now out of operation — because it cannot be launched.

In fact, so far this autumn, 60 feet of shingle has been washed away from the £5,500 slipway which came into operation just a year ago.

The fishermen fear that winter gales could sweep away their boats and huts as the shoreline where they stand recedes.

The trouble, they claim, is the thousands of tons of shingle which the Central Electricity Generating Board has taken from the east side of the point to replace that lost on the west side, where the nuclear power station is.

This has left a bay which the fishermen claim has altered the effects of the tidal currents.

WASHED AWAY

But another factor is that there has been no good blow of wind from the north-east for a number of years — and these are the winds that help to pile up shingle on the east side of the point at an average of 18 feet a year.

In just one night last week 16 feet of shingle was washed away on one tide during a gale.

The fishermen want the C.E.G.B. to take responsibility for any losses that may result if the waves continue to advance.

Mr. John Thomas, speaking for the fishermen, said: "We have reached the point of no return. We have lost all our safety beach."

"If we have a rough winter all the beach here will disappear and we could lose our boats, winches and huts."

"We could be swept off this point overnight. If this happens we will all be on the dole."

Mr. Thomas estimated it would

CONT. ON BACK PAGE

FOLKESTONE AND HYTHE

GAZETTE

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Hythe 66667

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Flood havoc closes roads, cuts power

HOMES ARE EVACUATED AS THE SEA POURS IN

THOUSANDS of pounds worth of damage was done by flooding sea water and huge waves along the coast between Folkestone and Dymchurch on Thursday and Saturday.

Floodwater four feet deep swept into Sandgate and Seabrook. It reached a depth of two feet in places at Hythe and Dymchurch on Saturday.

About 20 homes in Sandgate High Street had to be evacuated and at night police kept watch in case of looters.

For the twentieth time this year Sandgate Esplanade, a stretch of the coastal road, was closed. It was covered in shingle and floodwater.

It all started just after 11 a.m. on Saturday as the tide, swelled by almost gale-force south by south west winds, started licking over the sea wall.

Waves pounding the wall sent huge plumes of spray high into the air and the strong winds carried the water and flying shingle crashing on to nearby houses.

AT FOLKESTONE the huge waves exposed large rocks as they washed away about four feet of the East Cliff sands.

It is expected that within a month or two the sea will have piled the sand back again.

Cross-Channel ferries were unable to operate from the harbour.

AT SANDGATE the back door of a cottage was pulled from its hinges.

A gas cooker and refrigerator in the same cottage were ripped from a kitchen wall.

In Sandgate High Street a wine shop cellar filled with water and £400 worth of Christmas stock was destroyed.

Several vehicles were towed to safety after getting stuck

on the shingle-strewn and flooded Esplanade.

AT SEABROOK waves ripped up part of the road surface at the junction of Prince's Parade.

The sweet stall opposite the police station was hurled into the middle of the road. The police station was isolated by deep water and equipment from it was moved to the courthouse next door.

A garage in the same place was under two feet of water and thousands of gallons of petrol may have been ruined.

AT HYTHE Mr. Ronald Ward was trapped in water which rose up to his neck before he was released by gardeners.

About 500 homes were blacked out when the sea flooded Seabrook's sub-station at Ormonde Court.

Collapsed

Some homes received alternative current, but 200 were without electricity from midday until Sunday morning.

Firemen worked non-stop for almost 12 hours, pumping flood water from homes in West Parade and Ormonde Road.

AT DYMCURCH parts of the sea wall collapsed and an 800-yard stretch of the Dymchurch road was under about two feet of water.

The road was closed from lunchtime on Saturday until Sunday afternoon.

Two reasons were put forward for the severe flooding. The gale-lashed sea had spilled over worst at Sandgate at a point where buildings had once stood.

An old garage and a hotel



Sandbags are laid at the doorstep of a Sandgate house in an effort to keep out the floodwater which swept through the streets on Saturday.

both occupied the site, but both have been demolished. If these buildings had been standing, or a higher wall left round them, the flooding would not have been anywhere near as bad, some residents claimed.

Another reason it was said, is that the sea wall at Sandgate and Seabrook is not designed to throw back the sea, as it is at Lower Sandgate Road at Folkestone.

Even after high tide, at 11.46 a.m. it was a considerable time before the position eased, and the water subsided. In its wake was a trail of destruction.

Mrs. W. A. Curtis, of Coastguard Cottages, only a few yards away from the sea-front, said:

"Water just trickled into the yard at first—and then it got worse."

"As the waves got higher, my back door was completely ripped off."

"The gas cooker and the refrigerator in the kitchen were ripped away from the wall, and about a foot of water rushed into the house." Almost every window in a

number of houses in her row was smashed in, and driftwood and seaweed was piled up in gardens and at back doors.

Sea-sodden furniture

CONT. ON PAGE 2

SECRET SESSION ON COSTS

FOLKESTONE Town Council went into secret session on Wednesday night to discuss the estimated and actual costs of the town's civic centre.

The last official figure published was 2474,033.

Earlier the matter had been discussed by members of the finance committee with Mr. George Whitby, of Messrs. McMoran and Whitby, and Mr. John Bensey, of Messrs. Cleeds, the council's architects and quantity surveyors.

After receiving reports from the borough treasurer and Mr. Whitby the committee decided it should be supplied with more details concerning estimated and actual costs, and that a representative of the consulting engineers for the electrical and mechanical services — Messrs. Donald Seymour and Rooley — should also attend a future meeting.

The town council decided on Wednesday to leave the matter for further consideration by the committee.

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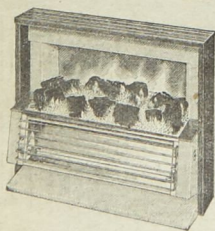
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FIND THE

See page 21



WIN £300

EVERY WEEK

MR. Edward S. Bengé has beaten the women at what was becoming their own game — the Gazette and Herald and associated newspapers' Find The Ball competition.

He carried off the £250 first prize outright in competition No. 10.

For Mr. Bengé, who lives in Fife Close, Ore, Hastings, the win is a splendid climax to his lucky year.

He has had four small wins

on the pools during the past ten months.

Five local people won consolation prizes in competition No. 10.

They are: Mrs. G. B. Bray, 399 Canterbury Road, Densole; Mrs. E. M. Wells, Burford, 38 Canterbury Road, Hawkinge; Mrs. A. MacDonald, 117 Shaftesbury Avenue, Folkestone; Mrs. M. B. Wheeler, 1 Ash Tree Road, Folkestone; and Mr. L. F. Orman, Lavinia, Capel Court Caravan Park, Capel.

THE FLOODS

Architect is trapped in his home

CONT. FROM PAGE 1

stacked on tables and in bedrooms dripped with water long after the mountainous waves had died down.

Equipment at the police headquarters at Seabrook, which was for a long time completely isolated by deep water, was moved to the courthouse next door.

Furniture was piled on tables as several inches of water licked into the rooms of the station.

Policemen with hammers battered huge holes in the walls of garage buildings to allow water to flow out.

Eleven police motor cycles and four cars were pushed to safety through almost four-feet of water, and many police officers stayed behind after their shift to help clear up the mess.

"It is the worst flooding I have ever known here," said one policeman, emptying a boot full of water.

Outside the police station, at the junction of Prince's Parade, waves had ripped up part of the road surface and a wooden shop, The Candy Box, had been lifted up and thrown into the middle of the road.

Nearby Caffyns garage was under more than two feet of water, and it is feared that thousands of gallons of petrol

in underground storage have been ruined.

At Valentine Charles' wine shop in Sandgate High Street, eight feet of water slopped into the cellar, destroying £400 worth of Christmas stock.

"The cellar was full right to the ceiling. I have never seen anything like it before," said manager Mr. Alan J. Frost.

The situation could have been even more serious for Mr. Frost.

ALIVE

"The water got to the electricity mains, so it was alive," he said.

Folkestone firemen with pumping equipment went to the shop, where the power had to be cut off temporarily.

"They don't get this sort of trouble at Dymchurch as often as we do in Sandgate," said Mr. Frost.

"It would help a lot if the sea wall at Sandgate was designed to curve the sea back again, but it is just straight."

Next door, at the Ship Inn, landlord Mr. George Warden and customers helped to mop up floodwater which had flowed into the bar.

For a time the inn was cut off from the road by deep water. A sandbag wall helped to stop more water getting through the doorway.

"It would never have been

as bad as this if the Kent Hotel and the old garage had not been demolished," said Mr. Warden.

The buildings acted as a shield, but now that they have pulled them down, the water whips right over."

Many shops in the street had sandbags in their doorways and were closed.

Concrete-based litter bins, as well as tons of shingle were strewn all over the Esplanade.

Several motorists risked going through the flood. Their vehicles had to be towed or pushed to safety after becoming stranded.

Mrs. Lynne Barnes, of 1, Gloster Terrace, Sandgate Esplanade, said: "I have lived here for 12 years, but I have never seen it come up as high as this before."

"The sea came right over my first floor windows, but I was not frightened. In fact the sea fascinates me."

Mrs. Barnes also thought that Sandgate should have a sea wall designed to throw back the sea water.

"I know that it would cost money, but the point is that it costs money each time the road has to be cleared by workmen," she said.

SHOCKING

Miss Clara Holland, who lives at 4, Gloster Terrace, also said that it was the worst flooding she had ever seen. "It is shocking," she said.

"Something should be done to stop all the shingle from coming up on to the road."

At Coastguard Cottages, home of Mrs. C. Maggs, piles of driftwood and rubbish were thrown up against the back door.

Mrs. Maggs paid tribute to the police, firemen and council for the prompt action they took to try to prevent the flooding getting worse.

"They did some jolly good work," she said.

Nearby, a back garden wall had been smashed down by the force of the waves, and at almost every house where storm shutters had not been erected, windows had been smashed in.

Shoe shop proprietor Mr. Fred Moore, of Sandgate High Street, had two feet of water in his cellar.

"These are the worst floods for 40 or 50 years," he said.

Another resident of Sandgate said that he had lived in the place for 80 years and had never seen the sea breaking over the road in such a way before.

By midnight on Saturday the road had been cleared of shingle and was passable once more.

ARCHITECT Ronald Ward was taking up carpets in his home, the converted Martello



The floods at Seabrook subside and a van, ABOVE, fords the lake which swamped the garage and police station nearby. This was the scene on Saturday when huge waves lashed the coast creating havoc to many sea-front homes. Damage from the floods is likely to run into thousands of pounds and it will be many weeks before the trail of damage has been cleared up.

A number of houses, like those on the LEFT, at Coastguard Cottages, were flooded to a depth of two feet and more in places. Firemen toiled for several hours to pump away the water from cellars, but their efforts were hampered by water which kept seeping in again. Several families evacuated their homes, leaving furniture stacked on tables and in bedrooms.

said a fireman. "They did a wonderful job."

But there were some people the fire brigade could have done without—the sightseers.

"Crowds of people came to West Parade to watch. Some of them got their cars stuck in the mud and shingle, others had their engines flooded," said a fire brigade spokesman.

"All they did was get in our way—we were too busy to give them any help."

After working until midnight on Saturday the firemen were back at their pumps again first thing on Sunday morning.

ON THURSDAY also Sandgate Esplanade was closed as spray shot 50 feet into the air, covering the road with a foot of water and swamping cars that had been abandoned.

PILED UP

By nine o'clock on Thursday morning the sea was fountaining across the Esplanade—and high tide was not until 10.20 a.m. Road closed signs were put up.

Tons of shingle piled up, litter bins were washed across the road and in places the water was a foot deep.

Some cars stalled as water poured under their bonnets, others got bogged down in the shingle when their drivers tried to get through.

Proceedings at Seabrook magistrates' court were held up for a few minutes until water was stopped from getting in the building.

Ironically on Friday—the day in between the floods—a total of 6.9 hours of sunshine was recorded at Folkestone... the sunniest place in the country!

SIGHTSEERS IN FIREMEN'S WAY

tower in West Parade, Hythe, as water swept over the sea wall.

Suddenly a wave smashed a length of timber through a window and water poured into the room.

The door was shut and Mr. Ward was trapped.

As water began to rise he shouted for help, but before his calls were heard by two gardeners, the water was up to his neck.

The gardeners smashed the door down and water rushed out of the room, sweeping Mr. Ward to safety.

After the narrow escape, the only comment Mr. Ward would make was: "I would rather forget it."

Firemen from New Romney, Hythe and Folkestone worked non-stop for almost 12 hours on Saturday, pumping water out of flooded homes in Hythe.

The alarm was raised shortly before midday. Thirty firemen went to West Parade, where water was sweeping into houses.

One said: "It was terrible. It all happened so quickly. People were dashing around trying to get their belongings to safety, but they did not have a chance."

"The sea was in their rooms before they knew where they were."

Possessions of people living in ground floor and basement flats in West Parade and Ormonde Road became waterlogged.

And to add to the chaos about 500 homes were blacked out when the sea flooded in to Seaboard's sub-station at Ormonde Court.

"There were clouds of steam, and a lot of thumps and bangs coming from it," said a fireman, "we thought it was going to explode."

A Seaboard spokesman explained: "The basement sub-station was almost full of water."

The board which distributes the electricity had been put in a position where floodwater had never reached before.

TIRING

"But it was under way on Saturday and will cost several hundred pounds to repair."

When the tide turned on Saturday and waves stopped pouring over the sea wall firemen began the long, tiring job of pumping the floodwater back into the sea.

Members of Hythe Women's Royal Voluntary Service turned out to keep the men supplied with hot drinks.

"Without them we just could not have kept going."

INQUEST TOLD OF MYSTERY BRANDY BOTTLE

FOR forty years Mr. Richard Ponsford woke his wife every morning and gave her a cup of tea. But one morning he found her unconscious.

He said at an inquest at Folkestone on Monday that there was an empty tablet bottle beside her and half a bottle of brandy in the bed.

"I don't know where she got it from. We have never had

any drink in the house," Mr. Ponsford, of Capel Street, Capel, said.

Mrs. Rose Ponsford, aged 65, was found unconscious on Monday, October 30, and taken to the Royal Victoria Hospital, Folkestone.

After treatment, Dr. John Dyer said, she responded and was taken to a ward. But two days later she died.

Mr. Ponsford said his wife had been ill since 1959 and was in considerable pain. She had been prescribed tablets, but he had never previously seen the empty bottle found beside her bed.

Dr. M. King, pathologist, who performed a post-mortem, said the cause of death was barbiturate poisoning.

The coroner, Mr. Norman Franks, said: "I have heard that this lady had several operations and had been in severe pain for a considerable time."

"It is quite clear to me that she took her own life."

He recorded a verdict that Mrs. Ponsford took her life while the balance of her mind was disturbed.

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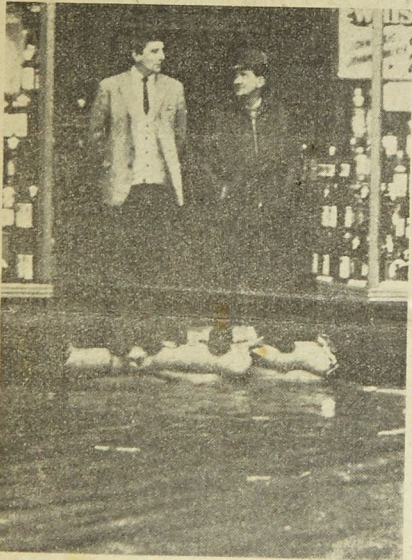
CAUSE HUNDREDS OF POUNDS OF DAMAGE



Chief Inspector E. F. Holdaway and a colleague talk to two residents of Sandgate, ABOVE, as they wait for the midnight high tide on Saturday. But by then the gale-force winds had dropped, and there was no more flooding. A damsel in distress, LEFT, is rescued—providing a light-hearted moment in the serious flooding at Sandgate on Saturday.

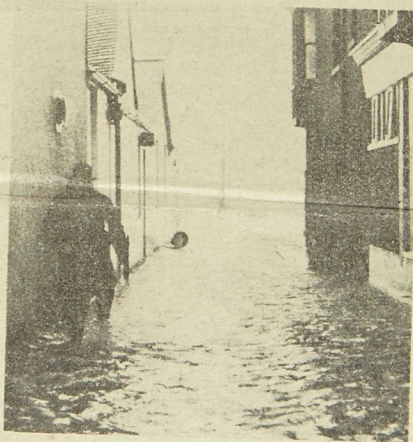


A sweet stall, ABOVE, still intact, was hurled into Prince's Parade by huge waves at Seabrook. In places the road was ripped up by the sea.



Surveying the scene from the sandbagged doorway of his shop in Sandgate High Street, LEFT, is Mr. Alan Frost (left) and a friend.

Water laps down the side streets, BELOW, as a man sloshes his way along the pavement.



Tractors using snowplough equipment start the long task of shovelling away hundreds of tons of shingle.

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TOWN TO CALL IN CAR PARK SPECIALISTS

FIRMS which specialise in car parks will be invited by Folkestone Town Council to submit schemes for Payer's Park and an area of land north of Bouverie Square.

Loan sanction has been received by the Corporation for a car park and service roads at Payer's Park, which it already owns.

Ministry of Transport agree on the distributor road included in the new Town Plan.

The council decided on Wednesday to invite the specialists to prepare their plans, which they will submit to the corporation for consideration without cost.

Bouverie Square and Tram Road.

THE CAR PARK provided by Martin Walter Ltd. for employees at the Tile Kiln Lane, Folkestone, works, was described by Councillor W. E. Penfold as the finest in the town.

The firm provided the hard surface park, sectioned off into separate bays, after councillors protested last month that the firm's employees parked their cars in Tile Kiln Lane itself, causing a traffic hazard especially dangerous to schoolchildren, who daily used the road.

AWARE

Council will tell Folkestone and District Trades Council that it is aware that more car parks and parking spaces are required and that every effort to provide them will be made.

The Trades Council asked the Corporation to consider a multi-storey car park at Payer's Park and underground car parks at The Leas,

QUCKER

The borough engineer, Mr. Norman Castle, suggested that the work would be expedited if specialist firms were invited to submit schemes.

The Payer's Park site will be dealt with first, and will be followed by the area north of Bouverie Square if the

NO REGARD

Councillor Penfold said Martin Walter Ltd. were to be congratulated on the action they had taken, but he regretted that some employees seemed still to have no regard for the safety of the children and continued to park in the road.

He understood that action was to be taken soon by the police against motorists who continued to cause traffic hazards in that section of Tile Kiln Lane.



Hythe and District Gardeners' Society held their annual chrysanthemum show at the Venetian Hall, Hythe, on Saturday. Two visitors ABOVE take a look at the onion class, won by Mr. J. Hobbs. Four of the five trophies in the show were won by Mrs. H. Genders, of Cherry Garden Lane, Folkestone, for her chrysanthemum entries.

Dance plea is rejected

An application from Mr. M. Hambi for permission to hold dances on premises at 32-33, Tontine Street, Folkestone, up to 11.45 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays has been turned down by the Town Council on

the grounds that the noise would be detrimental to the amenities enjoyed by residents in the area.

Also refused is an application from Major L. C. Buss to use a house at 309, Cheriton Road as an office.

Quality of fruit is high

DESPITE frost setbacks earlier in the year, the apples on show at the East Kent Fruit Show at Canterbury last week, were, in the opinion of the judges, of fantastic quality.

Pears were in short supply but were of outstanding merit.

The premier award, the Ernest Elgar memorial bowl, for the best entry, went to three standard trays of Cox's shown by Messrs A. K. and J. B. Henderson, of Elmston Court Farm, Foston, who made a remarkable number of successes, capturing 11 other trophies. Other winners included Mr. C. E. Tuff, of High Chimneys Farm, Stelling, Minnis, with a third for three standard trays of a dessert variety of apple, and F. J. French, of Hearts Delight Farm, Kingston, a third for two orchard half-boxes of Cox's and a third for any other dessert variety in the international market pack class.

MEMORIAL RIFLES TO BE DESTROYED

FOR over 60 years 12 Mauser rifles were on display in Folkestone Town Hall, guarding the Boer War memorial.

But now they are to be destroyed. The rifles were in perfect firing condition, and a few months ago police asked if they could be removed from the main entrance of the Town Hall.

They were taken down from the wall display.

tion's firearms certificate for the rifles—relics of the Boer War — expired, and the weapons were taken to Folkestone police station.

At Wednesday's meeting of Folkestone Town Council it was decided that the arms should stay in the hands of the police.

A police spokesman said afterwards that the rifles would be sent to headquarters at Maidstone where they

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MP's question on social benefit

QUESTIONS on the effect higher gas and electricity charges might have on people living on low fixed incomes were asked by the M.P. for Folkestone and Hythe, Mr. A. P. Costain, in the House last week during a debate on official security.

Mr. Costain asked the Minister of Social Security what additional benefits were proposed for such people.

In the replies he was told that the National Insurance Benefit and Supplementary Benefit rates were being increased this week and that it was estimated that for the small domestic consumer higher electricity charges would absorb no more than a small proportion of the new benefit increases.

The question of gas prices had been referred to the Prices and Incomes Board.

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COUNCIL MUST BUY LAND

Because it refused to allow houses to be built on two areas of land reserved as open spaces on the Golden Valley development, Folkestone Town Council has been served with purchase notices by the developers, D. and G. Mills ('Builders') Ltd.

This means the council will have to buy the two pieces of land.

Folkestone Herald
 Sandgate, Hythe, & Shorncliffe
 Standard.

Advertisements, and all other communications of a business nature, to be addressed to Messrs. W. E. THORPE & Co.

All literary communications, paragraphs and news, notices of meetings, etc., to be addressed to the EDITOR only.

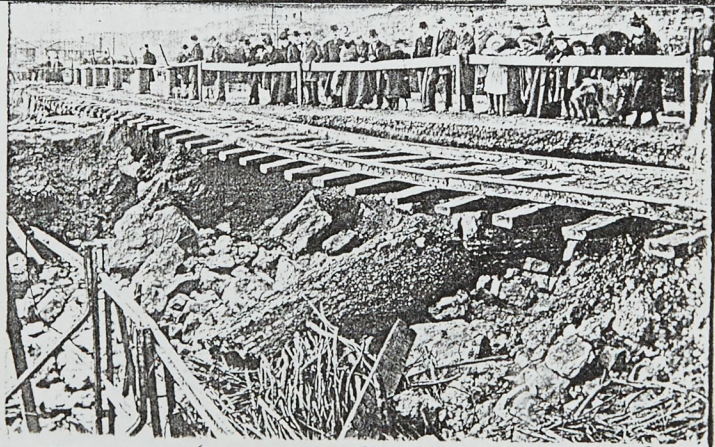
SATURDAY, NOV 25th, 1893.

THE TERRIBLE STORM.

Since November 11th, 1891, there has not been so disastrous a gale as the north-easter which prevailed over this part of the country from Saturday night until Sunday evening, a period of more than twenty-four hours. The terrific force of the gale was accentuated by the snowfall that accompanied the hurricane. No part of these islands escaped the ravages of the tempest. In its earlier stages it wrought havoc around other portions of our coast-line, as might be expected from a pressure of forty pounds on a square foot, a force representing a wind velocity of ninety miles an hour. Day by day since the cessation of the storm, details of shipwreck and loss of life have been crowding in from all parts. Happily, the fishing colony in Folkestone have escaped without injury to life or property, though on Sunday morning there were grave forebodings as to the fate of a smack belonging to Mr. Starling, which had managed to run into Newhaven, all well. On the north coast of France, however, the effects of the tempest were disastrous in the extreme. Almost a whole fleet of fishing boats have been wrecked on the coast in the neighbourhood of Calais and Boulogne, and day after day comes the intelligence that more dead bodies have been washed ashore. At Dover the sea was so rough, notwithstanding the shelter afforded by the cliff, that the waves rolled over the promenade by the new harbour works, and flowed across the roads into the adjacent docks, depositing a quantity of shingle in their passage. The boats running between Calais and Dover and those between Dover and Ostend had terrible experiences. The service between Folkestone and Boulogne

without effect, so that they might well have given way to despair. On perusing the details given in the daily papers one is tempted to ask why there has been so much delay in providing the lifeboat for Folkestone. The boathouse has been erected for some time, but it is untenanted. Had there been a lifeboat available this week, we are confident that it would have distinguished itself in the emergency that arose at Dunge-ness. We mention this matter in the hope that the boat may be stationed here at the earliest possible moment. We know very well that there is a great demand upon the too-limited resources of the National Lifeboat Institution. If this noble Institution received the support which it deserves, and which the magnitude of the peril it encounters would seem to demand, its life-saving agencies would be multiplied along our coast-line. During the severe gales that have been experienced on our coast, extending from the 17th to the 21st inst., the Institution lifeboats were launched sixty times to the aid of vessels in distress. Not only so, but they were instrumental, often under the most trying and perilous circumstances, in saving 192 lives from different wrecks, besides helping to rescue three vessels from destruction. It is a noble record of charitable work, and we often wonder how it is that the Lifeboat Institution has to beg almost in vain for charitable help while an ample endowment is provided spontaneously for a home for lost dogs. It is a paradox, but who shall say that it is intelligible or defensible?

1893



Drawing to Main road at Bally Point Dec. 1896.

H 3573

NOTICE!

Removal of SAND, GRAVEL, SHINGLE, &c., from the FORESHORE at Sandgate.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the removal of SAND, GRAVEL, SHINGLE, or other MATERIALS from the Beach or Shore at Sandgate, below the line of high water and adjacent to the property of the ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION, is likely to cause damage and injury to that property, and is strictly prohibited.

Any Person or Persons removing, or being concerned in the removal of SAND, GRAVEL, SHINGLE, or other MATERIALS from any portion of the Beach or Shore below the line of high water, in front of the above mentioned property, will be treated as Trespassers and Prosecuted accordingly.

Particulars of any such removal should be reported without delay to the HARBOUR DEPARTMENT OF THE BOARD OF TRADE, LONDON, S.W.

(Signed) **C. CECIL TREVOR,**
Assistant Secretary.

By Order of the Board of Trade, October, 1880.

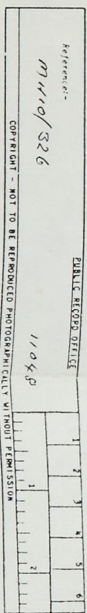
FURTHER NOTICE.

Notice is Hereby Given that any Person or Persons removing, or being concerned in the removal of Sand, Gravel, Shingle, or other Materials from any portion of the Beach or Shore above the line of high water, being part of the above mentioned property, will be treated as Trespassers and Prosecuted accordingly.

GEO. WILKS, Hon. Sec.

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Storm, 14 Nov 1875 Kentish Express 20 Nov 1875

- 1875 The effects of the hurricane and high tide were severely felt at Sandgate. The Castle was flooded the water rising in the shell room to the extent of 6 inches. A considerable amount of damage was done at Beach Rocks (nursing home) the residence of Mrs Heurtley of Hampton Court. The sea swept the Esplanade and roadway for a distance of half a mile, stopping traffic. The bathing house was washed down and a clean breach of 30 feet long was made into the road. Several soldiers families had to evacuate cottages near the shore. The waves made a clean breach over the Castle and valuable stores were with difficulty preserved. The damage done in Sandgate is estimated at £ 500
- 1865 January 1865 Very high and raking tides -- the two strong new jetties at the Castle destroyed, the beach drawn away baring the foundations. About 8 to 10 feet deep of beach removed all along the ~~east~~ shore, coming down to hard sand. The waiting room at the bathing machines undermined.
- 1873 High tide and gale carried away many yards of the road at Battery Point
- 1877 The gale on New Years day was at its height about one o'clock -- List of Sandgate devastation follows from Radnor Cliff to Government Buildings. East end of Sandgate: 'Audley Cottage - Fence destroyed, lawn ditto and shrubs uprooted. Basement inundated at Castle Green and Cliff Cottage. At Sandgate Castle, over the parapet of which many tons of water were thrown, the central tower was undermined and the bottom filled with water. At the Volunteer Institute, the drill ground was completely washed away, the door of the gun room although well barricaded smashed completely in, and the drill room inundated, the whole of the arms having to be cleared out for safety. (This is now T&S Invicta, in Castle Road). ... The Esplanade was torn up in pieces and tons of beach thrown over the road. Kentish Express 6 January 1877

* This shows four major storms within 12 years

Transactions Royal Philosophical Society Part 2, XXvii, Vol 567
April 10, 1834

Mr Palmer read a paper on the Motion of Shingle on the Kent Coast wherein he stated 'Tempestuous weather had prevailed in the previous autumn (1833) so much so that public attention was first directed to the matter at Sandgate in October. 'The accumulation had been continued for a considerable time, the numerous groins erected ~~erected~~ near Folkestone to impede the progress of the beach for the protection of the cliffs had collected a bank of pebbles which in some parts were five feet in height. The wind had so much abated as to be hardly perceptible but the sea had a motion denominated a ground swell, the waves approached the shore nearly at right angles with it but although in rapid succession their forces were very moderate. These circumstances continued through five tides by which time nearly the whole of the loose shingle had disappeared, including all that had been collected by the groins at Folkestone. The whole returned in four tides.'