



# The Sandgate Society

## THE SANDGATE SOCIETY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES of the meeting held remotely on  
**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**

### INTRODUCTION

Chair, Sal Kenward

#### 01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence

#### 002 MINUTES OF THE AGM held on 4th MARCH 2020

Proposed:

Seconded:

The Minutes were agreed by the Committee members present as a true record of the 2020 Annual General Meeting and sent to the Membership for any comments before signing. No comment had been received and Minutes were filed as a true record.

#### 003 MATTERS ARISING

As the AGM has had to be held differently due to the current situation, only Reports had been sent out for comments with all other matters being dealt with in these Minutes.

#### 004 REPORTS

**CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT - Sal Kenward**

No comments received

**005 TREASURER'S REPORT – Eddie Grimble**

No comments received

**006 MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Vicki Fisher**

No comments received

**007 EVENTS REPORT – Liz Smith**

No comments received

**008 ARCHIVES REPORT – Jill Partridge**

The name of Frank Pyke had inadvertently been omitted from the list of members of the Archives Team and this has now been rectified and advised to the membership. We apologise to Frank for this omission.

**009 PLANNING AND CONSERVATION REPORT - Rosie Saunders**

No comments received

**010 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2020-2021**

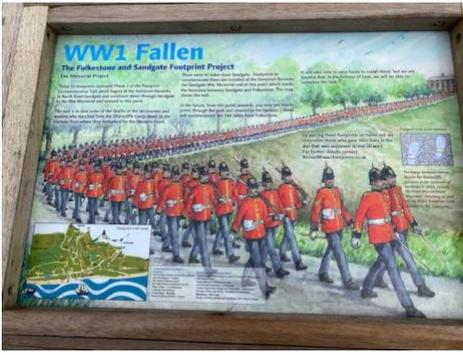
No acceptances to the invitation to join the Committee following the AGM documentation have been received. At the Committee meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March therefore the following new members were ratified:

Eddie Grimble	Treasurer
Proposed By	Liz Smith
Seconded By	Gemma Adams
Giles Topping	Member
Proposed by	Eddie Grimble
Seconded by	Guy Valentine-Neale

The Committee now comprises:

Sal Kenward	Chair
Vicki Fisher	Vice Chair & Membership
Eddie Grimble	Treasurer
Guy Valentine-Neale	Social Media & Communications/Parish Council liaison
Liz Smith	Events Leader
Rosie Sanders	Planning and Conservation





These prints are on the left off Brooke Road, on the pathway between the two parking pergolas. Perfect setting for the information board.

Marjorie Findlay-Stone  
Vice-President

**President of The Sandgate Society – Euan Williamson**

It is with great sadness that we announce the retirement of our esteemed President, Euan Williamson. His letter to the membership is published herewith.

## LETTER TO SANDGATE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP ON RETIREMENT FROM PRESIDENCY

Dear Members,

Next month, I will be 81 and will have been the Society's President since 2012. Carole and I will also have completed a full year of shielding during which we have had plenty of time to contemplate our own way ahead, and I have concluded that it is time for me to step down to allow someone younger to take over.

When we first joined the Society 23 years ago, it was a very welcoming one with the Old Fire Station engine room used as its HQ and, on Saturday mornings, as a hub where any villager could have tea or coffee and a biscuit, and where many lively village characters held court.

The village archives were also held there but were basic. Anyone who wished to research had little choice but to rummage through the documents, photographs and odd items that were there and hope to find something relevant. So, it has been inspirational to see it develop into a really professional and progressive archive which has been recognised by the presentation of a Kent Awards Local Council Community Award in 2019. We should be really proud that our Archive Team's phenomenal hard work has attracted such recognition.

Talks and events were staged in the Chichester Hall, but they too were on a small scale and the income they generated to help the Society fulfil its aims was limited. However, the events team have very successfully developed the programme to include quizzes, barn dances, trips to the Tower Theatre and first-class speakers as well as upgrading our main fundraising events – the Summer Party and the Christmas Party.

We were lucky to have some talented and willing members – some who were Sandgate 'born and bred' and others who had moved to the village because they had fallen in love with it. Due to their efforts during the next two decades, the Christmas Party and the Summer Party – slowly developed from tea and cake or a mince pie into lavish Summer Party Buffets with barbecued hot ribs of beef, cold meats, salmons, salads and amazing puddings (and on one occasion, even a giant paella!) to Christmas Dinners with hot turkey and home-made Christmas puddings - all produced by members. The Summer events were held in members' beautiful gardens and, on one occasion, in the Sandgate Castle garden. These parties took a lot of organisation and physical work in carrying the food and the tables and chairs and crockery and cutlery from the Chichester Hall to the garden and back again afterwards – not to mention the clearing and washing up! But a lot of fun was had and memories made for all. I will never forget seeing the steam coming off the barbecues as torrential rain bounced off them and the gazebos while everyone just carried on as if nothing untoward were happening – true Brits keeping calm and carrying on! Here I must pay tribute to our core catering team of members who always produced so many tasty delights. These events have become so popular that tickets sell out in the first week that they are on sale, and demand has been such that we have now moved the parties up to the Saga Pavilion thanks to their kind offer to let us hold them there.

This fund-raising has allowed the Society to carry out a whole range of projects to help enhance the village, draw attention to its heritage and generally make Sandgate a place that people cherish and wish to

live. I have already mentioned the work on our archives. It was you, the members, who helped raise the funds which, when put together with a significant personal donation from an individual member, made this work possible.

So, I am stepping down from the Presidency content that the Society is in good health and in the hope that it will continue to flourish. I shall now watch from the back benches with continued interest and look forward to continuing to enjoy it as a member.

Yours most sincerely,

EUAN WILLIAMSON

We would like to formally place on record that although we understand Euan's reasons for stepping down, it is with sorrow. Euan has been the perfect "figurehead" - but that word would pay no respect to the amazing amount of work he and Carole have put in over the years; there isn't a role they haven't played in the Sandgate Society.

We will miss Euan - especially his brilliantly orated votes of thanks at the end of our Talks. We know this is not goodbye and look forward to seeing Euan and Carole at our Events when they start up again.

If you have any queries or comments on these Minutes, please contact us at [sandgatesociety@gmail.com](mailto:sandgatesociety@gmail.com).

**Date of next AGM:                      Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022 at 1900  
Chichester Hall Sandgate.**