



Peter Sissons & Sandra Howard

## H G WELLS FESTIVAL, SEPTEMBER 2010

PETER SISSONS, famous BBC and ITN newsman, and local novelist Sandra Howard, are among those taking part in the 2010 Folkestone & Sandgate H G Wells Festival centred on The Grand on The Leas on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, 17-19 September. It will build on last year's very successful opening Festival. A programme of events and discussions in which everyone is invited to take part is shown in the box on the back of the leaflet.

It's mainly aimed at enjoying and preserving our literary heritage while encouraging and nurturing new talent, taking its place alongside our well-established art and pop festivals, but is well supported by talks, readings, a theatrical event and possibly a classic film show. It helps to replace our long lost and lamented seaside pier, in bringing residents and visitors together in shared and satisfying activities.

Last year's Festival dwelt on *The Sea Lady*, HG's delightful novel providing Sandgate with an Aphrodite rising out of the sea. This year it has been decided to concentrate on two more books written while he lived here 100 years ago – *Kipps* and *The History of Mr Polly*. These two stories give us a vivid picture of what life was like a century ago for ambitious but ill-educated, underfed and underpaid young people trying to achieve a fulfilling and enjoyable existence.

Professor Dominic Wells, HG's grandson, is returns for this second Festival, this time with his son Alex. HG started his scientific career at Imperial College, London when the College was just beginning to make an impact on the world and Dominic has until lately continued there in the family's scientific tradition. Dominic will once again present the winner & runner-up of the Short Story Competition with the cheque for £1000 & £250, supported by Sandra Howard, as the culminating event on Sunday, 19 September.

## HG WELLS QUIZ

SUNDAY 25 JULY 2010 7pm Keppels, The Grand £5

## FESTIVAL PROGRAMME

FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER TO SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER

### FRIDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2010

6-8pm Opening Reception with Wells biographer  
Michael Sherborne FREE

### SATURDAY 18 SEPTEMBER

11 am - 12.30 History Walk through Sandgate  
with Paul Allen of the H.G. Wells Society £5

2pm onwards Tea Party with Edwardian period  
entertainment by *Company of 12*,  
*Tangled Tales' Puppetry* and *Imaginary  
Futures Wargames* on the lawn £8.50

7.30 for 8pm Festival Dinner & discussion with VIP guests  
incl. Peter Sissons and Prof. Dominic Wells £25

### SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER All-day ticket £25

11am Coffee and meet the VIPs

12.30pm Buffet Lunch for Story Writers and ticket holders  
Story Readings

3pm Sandra Howard awards £250 prize  
Dominic Wells awards £1000 prize

5 - 7pm Tea for ticket holders  
Day's competition – answers & prizes 6pm  
Auction of Space Artefacts

### THROUGHOUT WEEKEND

- Art Show
- Paintings and books for sale
- Arts, Crafts and Marrin's Antiquarian Books

For latest information see [www.WellsFestival.com](http://www.WellsFestival.com)

### SPONSORS

Reg Turnill, President of The Sandgate Society – £1,000 Prize  
The Grand – £250 Prize; Premises; Printing & Publicity  
Graham Turnill – Photography | H G Wells Society  
Roger Joyce Associates, Chartered Architects  
Godden Allen Lawn, Chartered Building Surveyors  
SolarAge UK Ltd | Folkestone Creative | Marrin's Bookshop  
Folkestone Town Council | Sandgate Parish Council  
Cristus Contemporary Art, The Hub Cycle Shop  
& Country Warmth from Sandgate



The Grand, The Leas, Folkestone CT20 2XL  
Tel 01303 222 222 [www.grand-uk.com](http://www.grand-uk.com)

# H.G. WELLS ~ FESTIVAL ~



## FOLKESTONE 17-19 SEPTEMBER 2010

At The Grand, The Leas



Including the £1000 Short Story Competition  
Meet Peter Sissons & Sandra Howard



## HOW IT STARTED

The Festival started when it was realised that it was 100 years since HG (as he always preferred to be known, rather than 'Bertie', as his mother addressed him!) discovered that Sandgate's sunshine and sea views provided a good place to live. It was a place that restored his physical health and stimulated his imagination. Revisiting his books – and in particular Kipps with its local background – is a reminder that even from humble beginnings there is no limit to the potential of a single human mind.



## THE £1000 SHORT STORY COMPETITION

The Festival's focal point is the annual £1000 must-be-won competition for a handwritten short story of up to 5000 words with a local background. Last year produced 25 high-quality entries. Astonishingly, the independent judges, unaware of the entrants' ages and identities, selected a shortlist of story writers whose ages ranged from 12 to 72 – and it was a schoolboy of 13 who finally received the life-changing award from HG's great grandson. His story, and those of the three runners-up, can be found on the Festival website at [www.WellsFestival.com](http://www.WellsFestival.com)



Left: Will Jarrett  
Above: Mike Umbers & Dominic Wells

## HOW TO ENTER THIS YEAR

The donor is asking the judges not to choose a sci-fi story this year. In 2009, the 40th anniversary of man's first landing on the moon, that was inevitably the favourite theme. This time stories should give readers in 2110 an idea of what life is like for ordinary people, working or retired, in the second decade of the 21st century – its complications and perplexities, and above all its humorous aspects.

## WHAT TO WRITE

HG's characters described the misery and humour of apprenticeship in a draper's emporium. There must be both fun and drudgery working in a supermarket or MacDonald's. Is this or back-packing a better way to fill in the time between college and university? And what is it like if you don't go to university? Plumbing is said to be a well-paid alternative - and always good for a laugh. And how does it feel to be made redundant – all too familiar in 2010, but hopefully less well-known in 2110? There are plenty of non-sci-fi stories waiting to be written.

Entry form available at [www.WellsFestival.com](http://www.WellsFestival.com) or call Folkestone (01303) 222 222.

## A NEW PRIZE FOR OLDER AUTHORS

This year the £1000 prize will go to someone aged 25 or under. And so that we do not lose those splendid entries from older folk, The Grand has added an annual £250 award for an entrant over 25.

## WHAT DO LAST YEAR'S WINNERS SAY?

**Will Jarrett**, 13, of Harvey Grammar School, won £1000 for his story 'The Invaders from Within';

*"Winning this competition was one of the greatest moments of my life. I really didn't think I stood a chance - and at school they just didn't believe me at first, or that I had won all that money. But I've always wanted to be an author, and I hope to write novels for teenagers. A lot of people know about the competition now, so I expect there will be lots more entries. With the money I bought a mountain bike, which I ride in the woods at Barham. And I still have several hundred pounds in my savings, too."*

**Mike Umbers**, 72, of Hythe, was the runner-up, with a story written in a red notebook entitled 'A New Tale of the Unexpected':

*"I admit I composed my story on a computer and copied it out, and I was proud to be complemented by the judges on my 'flowing and legible' handwriting! So all those lines of loops and pothooks nearly 70 years ago have borne fruit at last. As it was a Wells event I felt that to enter I had first to go back to the man himself and his writings, and after years of neglecting him I found him still a most entertaining read, most especially when he is describing this local area – that was something I tried to copy myself."*

Mike Umbers and the other runners-up received only Certificates. This year there will still be certificates, but also the additional prize of £250 for the best story from the over-25s.

## WHY SHOULD STORIES BE HANDWRITTEN?

In an age when most people have computers, there are mixed views about this. But Reg Turnill, donor of the main prize, is well-supported in believing that handwriting is an important aspect of literacy. And it is a fact that many of our most prolific authors find that writing with pen or pencil is an aid to concentration and creativity.