

27th November 2011

For the attention of Mr Richardson, Hotel Manager.

Dear Sir,

Grand Memories Competition

My first memories of The Grand are of Prize Giving Day at St Margaret's School Folkestone in the 1950s. I was a shy, 10 year old pupil and had been awarded the Junior Art prize which was to be presented to me in what is now known as The Green Room.

Prize giving took place in the summer. The sun shone and The Grand looked very imposing, and indeed, very grand as I walked up the front steps in my navy and white school uniform. Vast rows of chairs were set out to accommodate both pupils and parents the latter being very smartly dressed and the room had the air of a society wedding.

The prize winners sat in the front rows, parents and invited guests behind. The teachers stood in a line on the stage where books were stacked waiting to be presented. There was an electric feeling of anticipation as everyone waited quietly for the honoured guest to arrive and for proceedings to commence.

The stage seemed to me to be enormous as I waited for my name to be called. I watched fellow students walk up the steps to the right of the stage, across, shake hands and take the book, and exit by the steps on the left. Suddenly, my name was called, and I walked onto the stage as if in a dream of clapping hands and smiling faces.

The prize giving was always followed by a really magnificent tea, of dainty sandwiches, pastries and jelly and ice cream. A real treat in the 1950's, especially at The Grand and was one of the highlight of the school year.

Time went by and I became a member of Folkestone Art Society and some 50 years later I began exhibiting my paintings at The Grand. The stage now seems quite small, and I did win another award, presented in the same room - a voucher for 2 to take tea at The Grand. Do you know what? - the teas are still as grand and taste as delicious as they did in the 1950's !!!!!

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'F.M. Murray', written in a cursive style.

Mrs F .M .Murray

Mr R Richardson, Hotel Manager,
The Grand,
The Leas,
Folkestone,
Kent CT20 2XL



J.A. Mummy