

SCHOOL JOURNEY

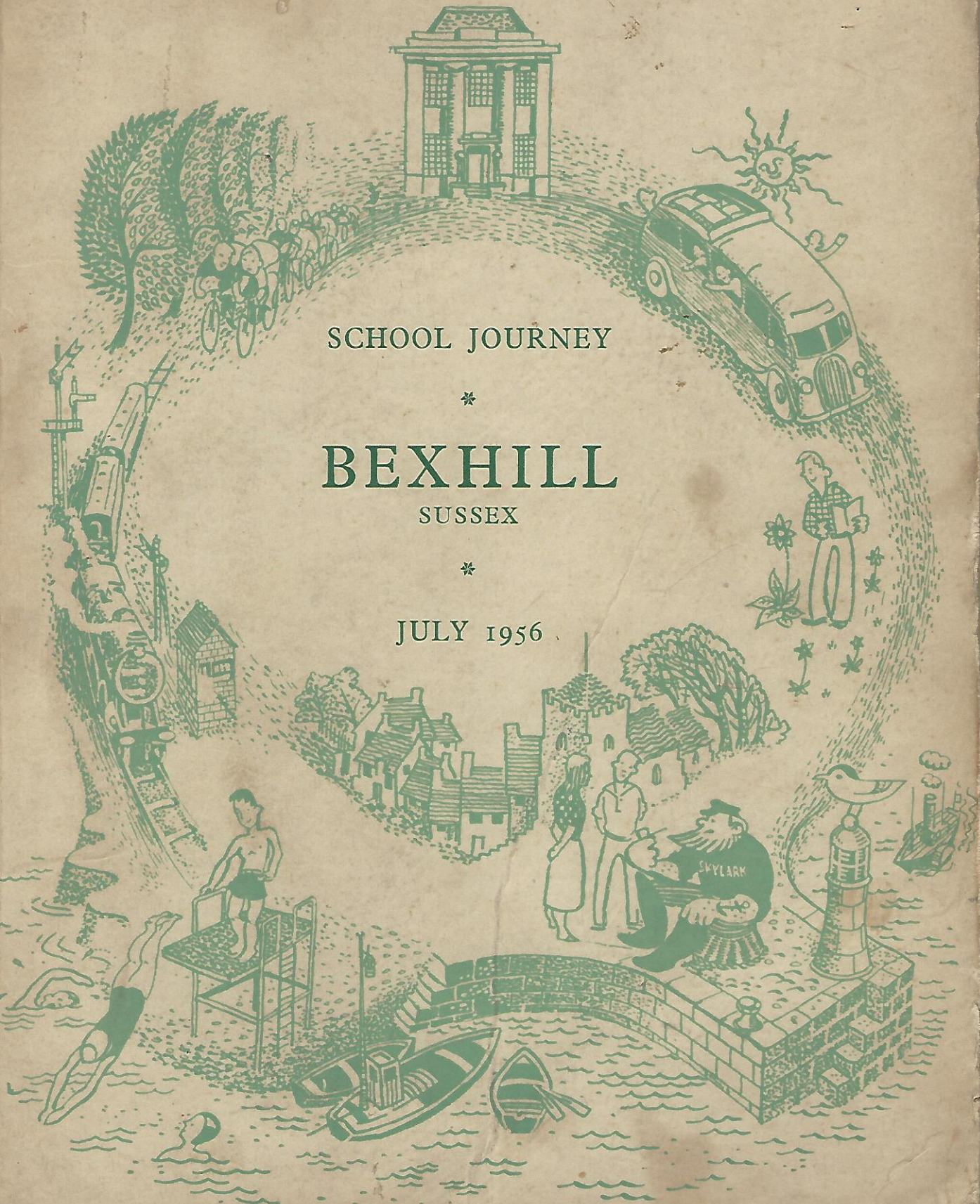


BEXHILL

SUSSEX



JULY 1956



NORTHAMPTON
TECHNICAL HIGH
SCHOOL

SCHOOL
JOURNEY

BEXHILL
1956

SCHOOL JOURNEY.

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FROM THE HEADMASTER.

It is my traditional and pleasant annual duty towards the end of the Summer Term to contribute to this Handbook of the School Journey of the Northampton Technical High School a message wishing the party an enjoyable and profitable week in new surroundings. This, with all sincerity, I now do on the occasion of our seventh Journey, to Bexhill.

You must not think that the interesting and instructive activities of the week ahead will be the result of chance: on the contrary, for months past much effort has been expended by the organising committee of the Staff to perfect the arrangements for your instruction, comfort and safety.

How, then, can you best show your appreciation of what has been done - and will be done - on your behalf?

Firstly, you must bear in mind that a School is not only a building, a mass of bricks, mortar, glass, wood, classrooms, laboratories, workshops, gymnasias and the numerous adjuncts considered so essential to the reciprocal process of teaching and learning, a list of successful examination candidates or an array of sporting trophies. True, all these have their place. But, a School is rather an organised body of teachers and pupils, sharing a common life with the avowed purpose of the highest possible achievement physically, mentally and morally. Therefore, wherever you are, the School is also.

Secondly, when a part of the School is transferred temporarily to a new environment its members become ambassadors and inevitably attract the notice of a new public who will for good or ill judge the whole by the part they see at close quarters. So during your excursion in Sussex let their verdict enhance our reputation for intelligence, good behaviour and seemly conduct.

On this occasion I feel like a person to whom has been accorded the honour of launching a vessel for whose captain, officers, crew and passengers exciting and stimulating travels lie ahead in foreign parts, and so I wish you the time-honoured, "God speed".

B.S. Howard.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.

Such an undertaking as the production of this handbook has obviously entailed much labour by a considerable number of people, and the Editor acknowledges very gratefully the assistance of the following :-

Miss M. Wilkinson, Headmaster's Secretary, Northampton Technical High School, for the typing and duplication of the material.

The Xpress Printers Limited, for binding.

Messrs. A. Spencer and A. G. Presland, Northampton School of Art for printing the cover-plate.

The articles, maps and diagrams were contributed by:-

Messrs. E. G. Bennett, A. Clements, P.J. Harris, S. Guffogg and E. G. Newell, Staff of the Northampton Technical High School.

We also record our indebtedness to the following who have made possible the arrangements for visits during the Journey :-

Mr. S. J. Day, Tenterden, Kent.

The Vicar of St. Mark's, Little Common, Bexhill.

E. G. BENNETT,

EDITOR.

BEXHILL.

(30th JUNE - 7th JULY, 1956)

SATURDAY, 30th June.	Journey down by coach via London, Bromley, Tonbridge.
SUNDAY, 1st July.	a.m. Morning Service in Church. p.m. Excursion to Beachy Head.
MONDAY, 2nd July.	a.m. Hastings and Battle Abbey. p.m. Dungeness.
TUESDAY, 3rd July.	Canterbury - Dover - Folkestone.
WEDNESDAY, 4th July.	a.m. Wilmington and The Downs. p.m. Pickhill Farm.
THURSDAY, 5th July.	a.m. Rye and Winchelsea. p.m. Lewes. Bodiam Castle.
FRIDAY, 6th July.	a.m. Royal Tonbridge Wells. p.m. Bathing.
SATURDAY, 7th July.	Journey back to Northampton.

DAILY ROUTINE.

7.30 a.m. Rising Bell.

8.15 a.m. Roll Call by Prefects.

8.30 a.m. Breakfast { Sunday 9.0 - Roll Call 8.45
{ Saturday 8.0 - Roll Call 7.45

9.00 a.m. Morning Prayers.

Sick Parade.

9.15 a.m. Inspection of Dormitories by Duty Masters.

9.30 a.m. Issue of pocket money by Group Masters.

9.45 a.m. Assembly for Morning Programme.

1.00 p.m. Lunch.

2.00 p.m. Assembly for Afternoon Programme.

5.00 p.m. High Tea.

9.15 p.m. Roll Call by Prefects

9.30 p.m. Canteen Supper.

Prayers

Bed.

10.30 p.m. Lights out. Silence.

NORTHAMPTON TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

School Journey to Bexhill, July 1956

The Staff Members accompanying the party :-

Mr. P. J. Harris.
Mr. E. G. Newell.

Mr. A. Clements.
Mr. S. Guffogg.

Prefects:

A. G. Scott.
R. J. Whiting.

GROUP I.		GROUP II.	
Mr. S. Guffogg.		Mr. E. G. Newell.	
Bull, D. J.	T.4	Ashmore, C. A.	T.3
Cockerill, T. A. J.	T.4	Battison, M.	T.3
Fairey, I.	T.4	Chambers, R. S.	T.3
Farey, J. A.	T.4	Grassby, J. E.	T.3
Jones, A.	T.4	Holmes, M. J.	T.3
King, R. C.	T.4	Musgrove, A. W. G.	T.3
Lay, A. E. W.	T.4	Osborn, R. F.	T.3
Loveland, J.	T.4	Pearson, R. C.	T.3
Macken, R. T.	T.4	Pittams, A. G.	T.3
Pardoe, J. W.	T.4	Redley, M. W.	T.3
Underlin, A. J. C.	T.4	Stephens, W. H.	T.3
Willmott, D. P.	T.4	Thompson, B.	T.3
Wood, P. G.	T.4	Wesley, R.	T.3
GROUP III.		GROUP IV.	
Mr. P. J. Harris.		Mr. A. Clements.	
Lawton, R. J. C.	G.4	Chivers, A. J.	2.A
Winckles, G. D.	G.4	French, G. J.	2.A
Daniels, R. P.	T.3	Hames, A. E.	2.A
Headland, D. W.	T.3	Kightley, J. W.	2.A
Northover, L. R.	T.3	Relf, R. G. H.	2.A
Wade, R. M.	T.3	Webb, A. C.	2.A
Brown, P. W.	G.3	Blundell, T. L.	2.B
Burrow, M. J.	G.3	Clapham, E. J.	2.B
Eales, G. A.	G.3	Coles, G. A.	2.B
Ives, D. G.	G.3	Davis, H. W.	2.B
Mineards, R.	G.3	Frost, G. J.	2.B
Sullivan, R.	G.3	Jewell, D. H.	2.B
Wright, D. W.	G.3	Jones, R. D.	2.B
		Merchant, M. G.	2.B
		Paul, A. A.	2.B
		Shatford, G. E.	2.B
		Sheldon, J. L.	2.B
		Thorpe, J. A.	2.B

BEXHILL.

You will find the town of Bexhill very pleasant indeed for, unlike some of the well-known seaside resorts, it has kept its air of dignity. The typical fun fair and slot machines are absent but the parks, shops and beaches are first class.

The house in which we are staying is well equipped in every way, standing in seven acres of its own grounds, having an open air swimming pool, a large Recreation Hall with its own stage, library, lounge and its own Private Chapel.

Most of our party will be accommodated in bedrooms which have two or three beds, some rooms being fitted with H. and C. water. Thus there is little doubt we shall be well provided for.

THE EXCURSIONS.

On all our excursions we must remember that we are representatives of another town and of the Northampton Technical High School in particular. We should therefore do nothing that will injure our good name. To leave litter anywhere is thoughtless but such conduct by our party is inexcusable: let us therefore make it a rule that we will do nothing to spoil in any way the beauty we see around us.

Finally we must remember too our responsibilities as guests in a beautiful house and surroundings.

THE JOURNEY TO BEXHILL

The scenery on the way to BEXHILL varies between rural and urban since we have to pass right through the city of LONDON.

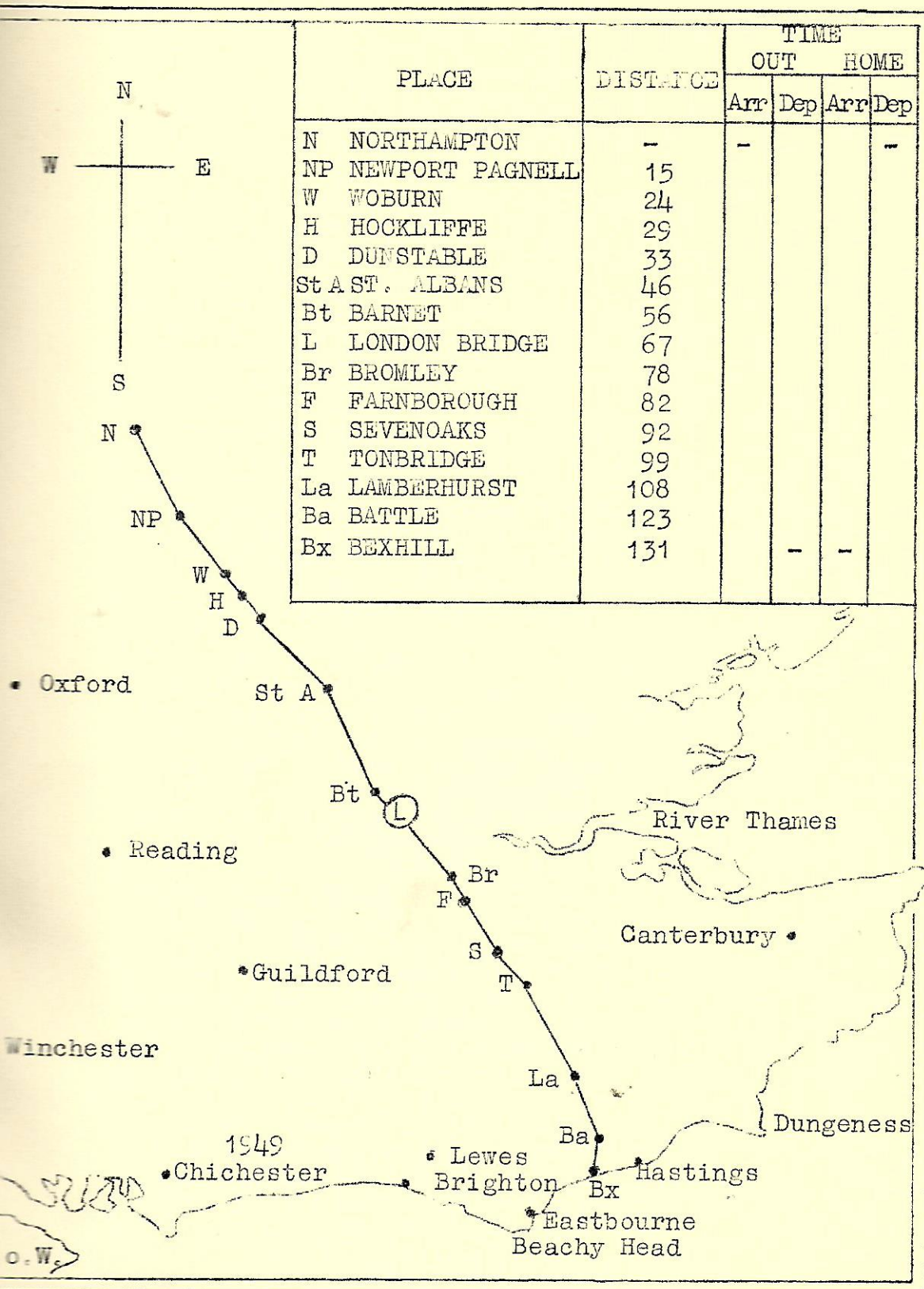
The first part of the journey is familiar to most people of NORTHAMPTON but you should notice in particular the sands at WOBURN, the coniferous trees and the deer in WOBURN PARK - the home of the Duke of Bedford - and the change of scenery when we join the Watling Street at HOCKLIFFE.

As we approach DUNSTABLE we pass through a cutting in chalk which is part of the Chiltern Hills, and not far away is Whipsnade Zoo. Before our journey is finished we shall become very familiar with a chalk landscape with its smooth outline and springy grass.

DUNSTABLE, formerly a market town, is now becoming industrialized as you will see from the factories in the Watling Street. St. ALBANS, the next large town, was known to the Romans as VERULAMIUM and many of their remains are still to be seen here. Here, too, is a great Norman Cathedral. We now begin to approach the suburbs of LONDON - the dormitories of the people who work in the City and from this point we shall have about 20 miles of difficult motoring, right into the city near St. Paul's and over the historic London Bridge and again through the southern suburbs of LEWISHAM and BROMLEY, which were once villages.

We begin to reach the open country again at FARNBOROUGH, another old market town, and now enter the region known as the Weald, climbing gradually up the North Downs which like the Chilterns are composed of chalk, and dropping sharply down to SEVENOAKS. A later chapter describes the rocks of this area. The next town is TONBRIDGE, lying on the river Medway, here quite small and then we go over the sandstone ridges of ASHDOWN FOREST, still very well wooded. From here we continue through changing country to LAMBERHURST - the word "hurst" means a clearing in a forest - to BATTLE, the site of the famous Battle of Hastings, which we shall explore during our week. Hence we traverse high ground to HASTINGS and, finally, BEXHILL.

THE ROUTE TO AND FROM BEXHILL.



SUSSEX.

God gave all men all earth to love,
But since our hearts are small,
Ordaigned for each one spot should prove
Beloved over all;
That as He watched Creation's birth,
So we, in godlike mood,
May of our love create our earth
And see that it is good.

So one shall Baltic pines content,
As one some Surrey glade,
Or one the palm-grove's droned lament
Before Levuka's trade.
Each to his choice, and I rejoice
The lot has fallen to me
In a fair ground - in a fair ground -
Yea, Sussex by the sea!

No tender-hearted garden crowns,
No bosomed woods adorn
Our blunt, bow-headed, whale-backed Downs,
But gnarled and writhen thorn -
Bare slopes where chasing shadows skim.
And through the gaps revealed
Belt upon belt, the wooded, dim
Blue goodness of the Wold.

Clean of officious fence or hedge,
Half-wild and wholly tame,
The wise turf cloaks the white cliff edge
As when the Romans came.
What sign of those that fought and died
At shift of sword and sword?
The barrow and the camp abide,
The sunlight and the sward.

Here leaps ashore the full Sou' west
All heavy-winged with brine,
Here lies above the golden crest
The Channel's leaden line:
And here the sea-fogs lap and cling,
And here, each warning each,
The sheep-bells and the ship-bells ring
Along the hidden beach.

We have no waters to delight
Our broad and brookless vales -
Only the dewpond on the height
Unfed, and never fails,
Whereby no tattered herbage tells
Which way the season flies -
Only our close-bit thyme that smells
Like dawn in Paradise.

Here through the strong unhampered days
The tinkling silence thrills;
Or little, lost, Down churches praise
The Lord who made the hills:
But here the Old Gods guard their round,
And, in her secret heart,
The heathen kingdom Wilfrid found
Dreams, as she dwells, apart.

Though all the rest were all my share,
With equal soul I'd see
Her nine-and-thirty sisters fair,
Yet none more fair than she.
Choose ye your need from Thames to Tweed,
And I will choose instead
Such lands as lie 'twixt Rake and Rye,
Black Down and Beachy Head.

I will go out against the sun
Where the rolled scarp retires,
And the Long Man of Wilmington
Looks naked towards the shires;
And east till doubling Rother crawls
To find the fickle tide,
By dry and sea-forgotten walls,
Our ports of stranded pride.

I will go north about the shaws
And the deep ghylls that breed
Hugb oaks and old, the which we hold
No more than "Sussex weed";
Or south where windy Piddinghoe's
Begilded dolphin veers,
And black beside wide-banked Ouse
Lie down our Sussex steers.

So to the land our hearts we give
Till the sure magic strike,
And Memory, Use, and Love make live
Us and our fields alike -
That deeper than our speech and thought
Beyond our reason's sway,
Clay of the pit whence we were wrought
Yearns to its fellow-clay.

God gives all men all earth to love,
But since man's heart is small,
Ordains for each one spot shall prove
Beloved over all.
Each to his choice, and I rejoice
The lot has fallen to me
In a fair ground - in a fair ground -
Yea, Sussex by the sea!

Rudyard Kipling.

THE SCENERY OF THE WEALD.

Only once before have we had a School Journey to the South Coast and that was to Chichester district in 1949. Our previous journeys have taken us to Mountainous Wales, the hills of the Pennines, the Moors of Yorkshire and the low lying Broads around Lowestoft. Each of these regions has its own beauty, charm and character; but what determines such individuality or personality? It is largely the result of geographical relief which in turn is determined by the type of rock. So some knowledge of geology is essential in the study of an area.

Bexhill lies in the region known to geographers as the Weald, a word derived from the German meaning "forest". Designated by this simple term we find a number of distinctive areas, for there are locally three important rock formations each of which has its own scenery and vegetation. Consequently each provides a different way of life for Man and has always done so even in remotest times.

A simple section across the Weald from North to South is shown in the accompanying diagram (Fig. 2).

In the North and the South we find the chalk of the Downs. This is a porous limestone rock covered by only a thin soil which supports the springy grass for which the Downs are famed. On these high Downs ancient man made his home for here he felt free from attack where the land was open and here, too, he left his memorials in the form of tumuli (burial grounds), temples (e.g. similar to Stonehenge), fortifications (e.g. as at Maiden Castle), and figures on the hills (e.g. the Long Man of Wilmington).

Today the Downs are used for sheep farming and where the soil is deeper wheat and barley are grown, but always there is a problem of providing sufficient water. An attempt to overcome this shortage in the past was the construction of dew ponds and the siting in later centuries of villages on spring lines.

We shall on a number of occasions climb and wander over these Downs and from their summits have spread before us the panorama of a wonderful English landscape, a sight which is unique and which for ever will be stamped upon our memories. Some important chapters of

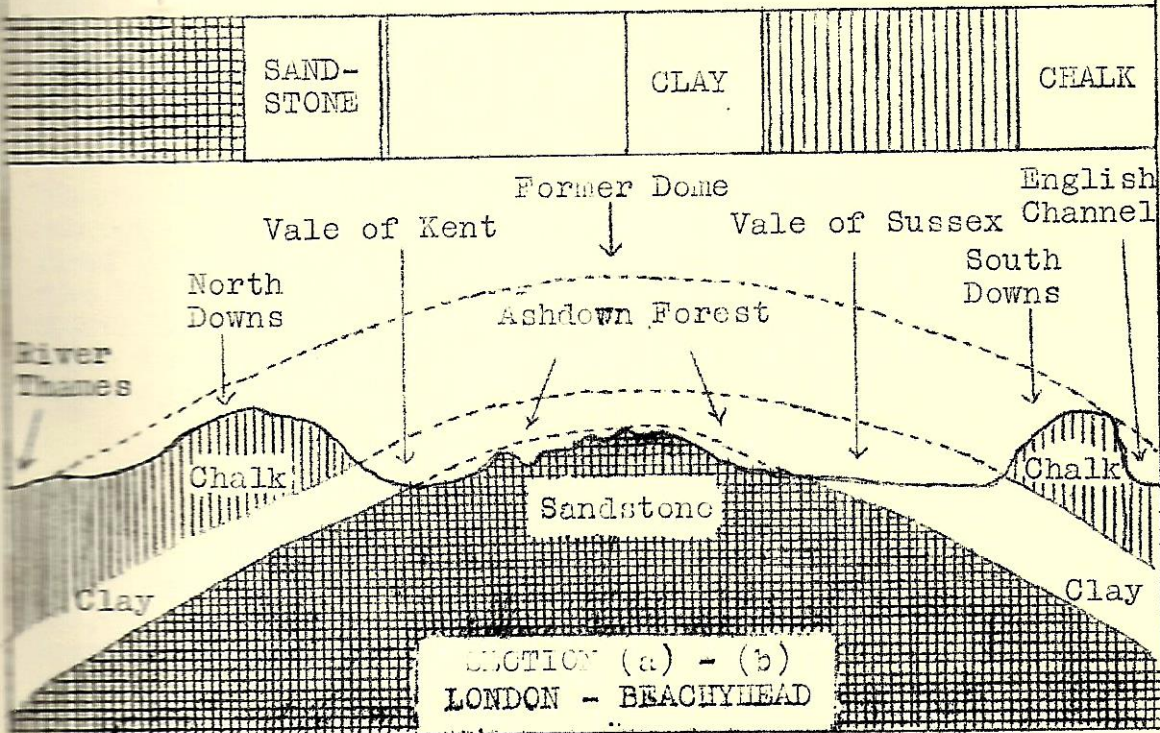
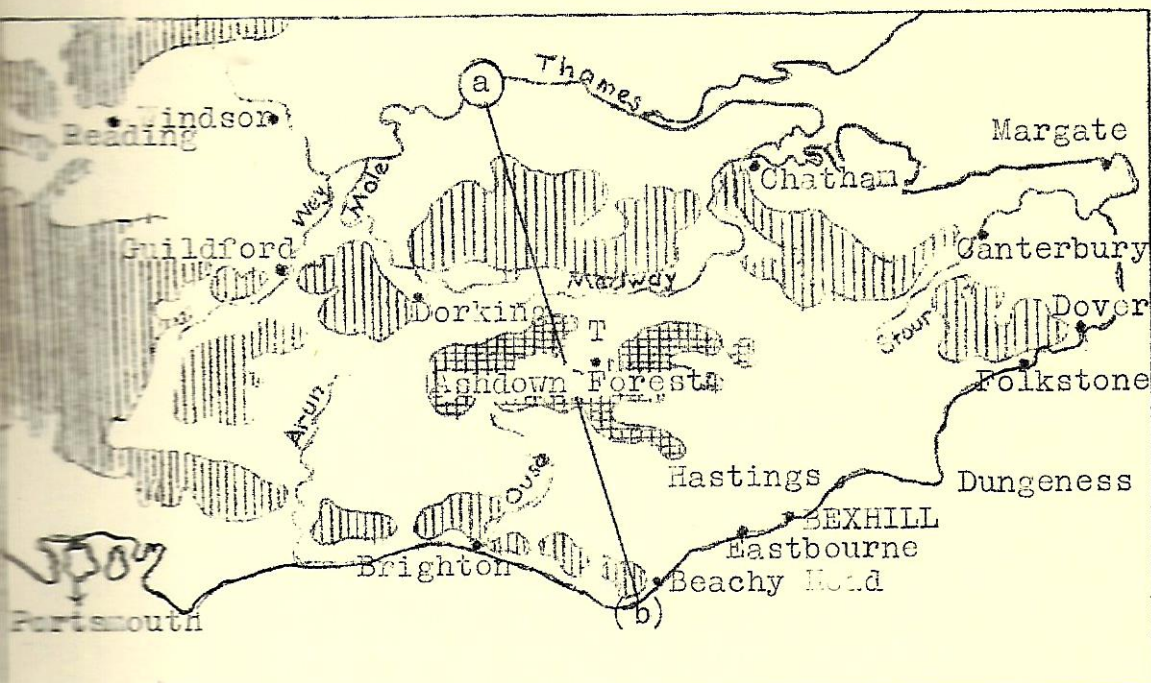


Fig. 2.

the history of England are written here. This Wealden area was the point of entry for the Belgae (so called ancient Britons), the Romans, the Saxons and the Normans. It would have been the point of entry for Napoleon, to whose ambitions the Martello towers bear witness, and Hitler: we shall see even now, the remains of pill boxes and fortifications of the 1939-45 War.

Lying inside the chalk we have two valleys of clay, sticky wet and difficult to plough, covered in the past by thick undergrowth and trees but today given over to dairying and stock raising. In the north it is known as the Vale of Kent and, where we are staying, as the Vale of Sussex.

The innermost core of the Weald is made up of Sandstone, an infertile hilly region still largely tree-covered and generally known as Ashdown Forest. Today it is a quiet, rural area, in parts residential but showing little evidence that in the Middle Ages and as late as the 18th Century it was the centre of the British Iron industry. The sandstone is ferruginous i.e. contains iron ore and this with the charcoal from the timber of the forests laid the foundations of the industry. In order to provide mechanical power many villages constructed ponds which provided a fall of water to turn the machinery of the iron foundries. These were known as "hammer ponds" and today add to the picturesqueness of many Sussex villages.

From this account you should now appreciate that there are three important rock formations. Each one emerges as the coast: the great chalk headlands of Beachy Head (536 ft.) is the termination of the South Downs; the White Cliffs of Dover represent the sea end of the North Downs; the Clay is seen at Pevensey Levels and near Romney Marsh and the Sandstone at the cliffs on which Hastings stands.

Investigation has shown that this Wealden area was once a great dome, the weakened resultant of the forces which threw up the Alps of Switzerland and Italy. (We should remember that the above formations are continued in France and that the Straits of Dover were "cut" about 10,000 years ago.) Rivers flowed from this Dome, northwards to the Thames and southwards to the sea and as the whole dome was worn away they kept pace with the erosion and cut gaps for themselves through the chalk. From the sketch (Fig. 1.) you can see the rivers named and notice how man has seized upon each of these gaps to build a town which controls the valley. Thus the

Arundel has cut a gap in the South Downs and the Normans built the great Arundel Castle to control it and to prevent any sea invaders penetrating that way into the country. Guildford on the Wey and Dorking on the Mole are other examples of gap and market towns which we shall see. Another interesting feature, which you can observe from the geological section, is the manner in which the Chalk Downs have a steep inwards scarp and a gentle dip slope to the Thames and the sea. Thus it is more difficult to get out of the Weald than into it.

As we pass along the roads of Sussex, try and ascertain what rock we are travelling over, since this is the key to vegetation and occupations. Remember too that none of this region has ever been glaciated and so we find no hanging valleys, corries and glacial drift.

POSTAL ADDRESS.

Name

(Northampton Technical High School),

Co-operative Holidays Association,

Collington Rise,

SEXWILL-on-SEA.

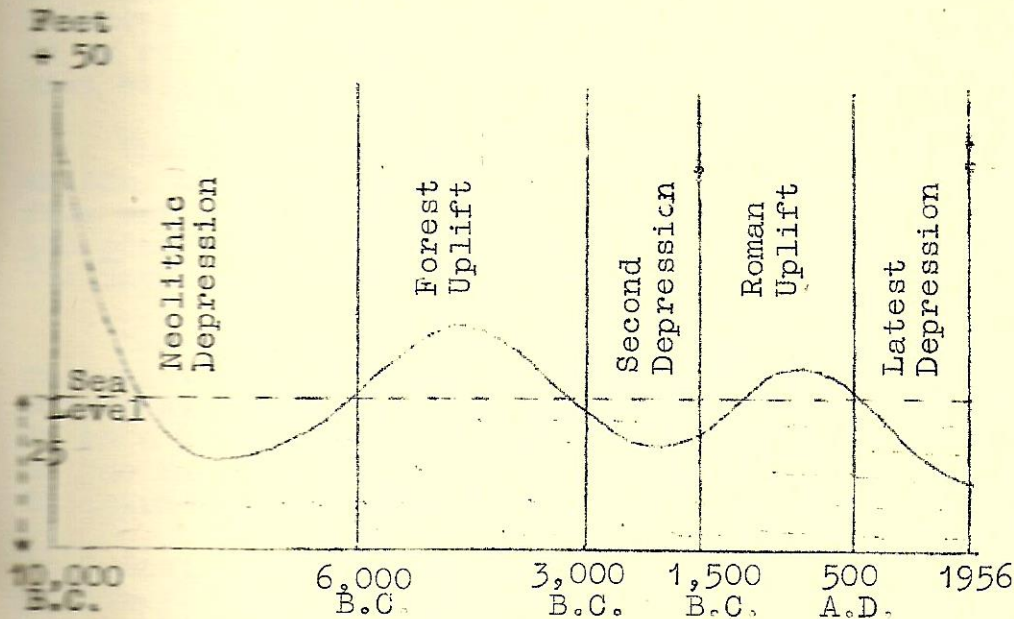
Sussex.

TELEPHONE (In case of emergency only): COODEN 15.

DUNGENESS.

In our study of Dungeness we include Romney and Walland Marshes which small area, low lying and in many respects uninteresting to the layman, hides a fascinating story of man's continuous battle against the sea. Most people have heard of the Cinque ports of Romney, Hythe, Hastings, Dover and Sandwich, the ports from which the Royal Navy grew: yet only Dover today remains a port; Sandwich is two miles from the sea; Romney a tiny village on the Marsh, and Hythe and Hastings pleasure resorts. The decline of these ports including Rye and Winchelsea which we shall visit is entirely due to silting and the sinking of the land.

Research has shown that the piece of coastline shown in the sketch has sunk twice, been raised above sea level twice and today is once more slowly sinking.



We know too that the River Rother once flowed out near Hythe but today joins the sea at Rye: this change of direction is due to a most violent storm in 1287 which virtually meant the end of Romney as a port. But the change of the river's direction left behind Marshes which man immediately began to drain, and especially interested in this draining were the monks who proceeded to enclose the marshes and pump away the water. These drained areas are known as "innings" as the drained areas in Holland are known as "polders". Winchelsea succumbed as a port in 1587 owing to an "innings" being created which prevented the sea entering the port any more.

Romney Marsh today is known the world over for its famous sheep, for the grass is especially favourable for this type. The ground is largely too wet to plough except to grow some root crops which are used as winter feed.

When we turn to consider Walland Marsh, we find that its origin is totally different, for this represents the action of the sea alone. The westerly gales of the Channel have caused great masses of flint from the chalk cliffs further down the coast to be thrown up here in a series of "fulls" each full representing a new beach level so that the whole is growing outwards at such a pace that there have been three lighthouses and even the present one is now 400 yards from the sea. It is estimated that the mess is growing about twenty yards each year. On the easterly side the storms are not so severe, hence the pebbles are smaller and the water deeper. The sea here is sixty feet deep within a few yards of the shore, thus allowing shipping to sail very close to the coast which is an excellent site for a Coast Guard, Signal and Life-boat Station.

The little town of Lydd on Denge Marsh is mainly an Army town especially for artillery practice. It was from here too that the famous "Pluto" "pipe line under the ocean" oil pipe line across the Channel was laid for the invasion of France in 1944.

You will be especially interested in the miniature railway line which runs fourteen miles from Hythe to Dungeness and carries thousands of visitors each year. It is a $\frac{1}{2}$ standard gauge and the locomotives are $\frac{1}{3}$ scale of the Pacific type of engine known as 4-6-2 and 2-8-2 to train-spotter enthusiasts.

Another well known feature of the region is the Military Canal which, running from Hythe almost to Rye, was built at the time of the Napoleonic invasion scare. Today it is used for boat trips and is a drain for some of the streams of the region which find difficulty in reaching the sea.

We shall visit Rye and Winchelsea where we shall catch glimpses of medieval England. You will feel that it was impossible that such small towns were ever important ports.

CANTERBURY AND ITS CATHEDRAL.

Comparisons are odious! Remembering these words we will avoid the folly of comparing Canterbury with York, or Lincoln or Durham and simply see it as it is, a mediaeval gem in a modern setting.

Canterbury; the name means the "burgh" or fortified town of the Cantii, the Celtic tribe which gave its name also to the county of Kent. The A.A. guide tells us it has a population of 25,000 and its shops close on Thursday afternoons. On the buildings of Canterbury the guide is silent. But then, everyone knows that Canterbury possesses a Cathedral, the seat of an Archbishop, and the mother church of the Anglican Protestant Church.

But not everyone knows that Canterbury still has fragments of her mediaeval city walls, the Westgate Tower, a former city entrance, the 13th century house of the Blackfriars, and the first Christian church of Saxon England. This is St. Martin's. It is small and unpretentious, but still the Church in which St. Augustine preached the Word of God to the Jutes, and the oldest of all England's Churches.

The Cathedral is, however, the crown and heart of Canterbury. Once it was the Church of Canterbury Abbey whose Abbot, chosen by the monks, was also the Archbishop of Canterbury. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries the monks' house was destroyed but the Cathedral, the House of God still stands.

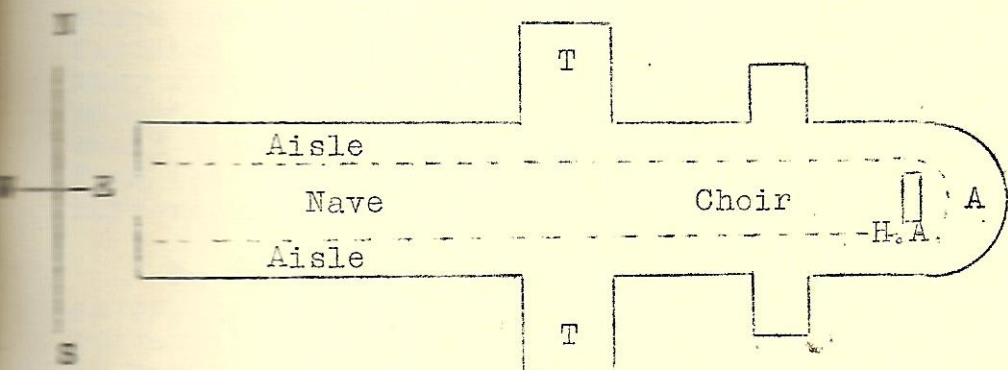
It is difficult to appreciate the meaning and history - they are inseparable - of a Parish Church; to understand a Cathedral is far more difficult. Like a Parish Church, the Cathedral is functional, the building planned to provide a setting for a religious service, drastically altered after 1534.

Entering from the West End one looks down the Nave eastwards to the Choir. On either side of the Nave are the aisles to north and south. The junction of Nave and Choir is crowned by the great Central Tower and to north and south stretch the Transepts. At its east end the Choir ends in an apse and behind the choir stalls runs the Ambulatory, off which open small, one-time Chantry Chapels, where priests served private altars. The High Altar stands before the semi-circular apse.

Just like the smallest Parish Church the Cathedral grew slowly through the centuries. Saxon, Dane and Norman, each in turn, enlarged and beautified the House of God. From end to end, east to west, the Cathedral is 500 feet long. From floor to roof the Nave is 80 feet in height. To list its treasures here is pointless: a very adequate Guide can be obtained in the Cathedral which contains work in stone and glass representative of every century from 800 A.D. (a Saxon wall in the crypt) to the present.

Outside, on the south side, lie the Cloisters round which the monks silently paced after their midday meal in the ruined Refectory. The Chapter House, in which each day the monks gathered to hear the Reader read aloud, in Latin, a chapter of Holy Writ, still stands.

Finally a note on the tombs. Since the mid 19th century burials in churches have been, except in exceptional circumstances, forbidden, but they were common in Mediaeval England. Beckett's Tomb, once a place of pilgrimage drawing pilgrims from all quarters of England was desecrated at the Dissolution, but the tomb of the Black Prince (c.1330 - 1376) still draws visitors. The victor of Poictus, and scourge of France, died of dysentery in England after having been at his own request relieved of his command in France in 1373. Near by is the tomb of Henry IV who usurped the Crown from Richard II and died, disease-ridden, in 1413, at Westminster Abbey.



H.A. = High Altar.
A. = Ambulatory.
T. = Transepts.

THE HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT.

This is the Country of the South Saxons; and of the Romans; and the Celts; and the smaller, darker men of the chalk uplands, who have left their Long Barrows as witness to the centuries during which they tilled their fields and offered sacrifices to their fertility Gods. Man lived here through the thousands of years when ice covered our county, Northamptonshire. And even before the Ice Age. Here was found, in 1911, in gravel on Piltown Common, the skull of a distant ancestor of the Cave Men, who walked on Sussex Downs a quarter of a million years ago.

During an inconceivably vast time men have lived here in Southern England and for the greater part of that time on the tops of the Downs whose bare, treeless ridges were then preferable as living quarters to the densely wooded valleys or marshy morasses on the plains. On the Downs are still found their finely-worked, flint tools, the pits from which the flint was mined and, occasionally, bones of the animals they hunted; the hippopotamus and rhinoceros. England must once have been a much warmer land than it is today.

Long after the ice that covered Northern England had gone, when the climate resembled that of today, but while a land bridge joined this country to the Continent, possibly about 2,000 B.C., there came here the men who built the Long Barrows. These men were farmers though we today should wonder at their tools of stone. In working the stone they used a new method, rubbing and grinding the flint to the desired shape and sharpness. With their hoes of stone, fastened by leather thongs to long wooden handles, they were able to till the light chalky soil of the uplands, but not the heavy clays of the valleys. Nor could they clear the primeval forest lands. Hence we find the traces of their pit-dwellings and their Long Barrows on the Downs.

To make these Barrows they probably toiled in gangs, organized by their chiefs, first building a rectangular chamber of stones, or digging a square pit as burial place, and then heaping over it the vast mound of earth that transformed it into a small hill. These barrows, often used by successive generations and peoples, held not one but many burials, and a certain quantity of tools, pottery and food, which seems to have been intended to help the dead on their long journey.

They worshipped strong gods whose help they begged to make their land fertile and their beasts to multiply. Perhaps at the same time as the Hebrews were dwelling as slaves in Egypt (1,600 B.C.) there came to England a new race and different type of man. We call him Celtic. He was tall, fair-haired and light-skinned, had mastered the art of metal-working in bronze and was pastoral in his way of life. No records exist to tell us whether the smaller, darker-skinned men fought or yielded the land without a struggle. They were displaced and flocks of sheep pastured where Neolithic Man had hoed his fields.

It was these Celtic Men of the Bronze Age who constructed the Round Barrows, of Bowl and Bell type, which, in clusters, are found on the slopes and summits of the Sussex Downs. They buried their dead singly, with tools, urns, oxen, horses, and the ashes of burned garments. A great many of these Barrows have been carefully investigated and much has been learned as a result of the lives of the Celtic Men of the Bronze and Iron Ages. Such men also erected the great stone circles, the best known of which is Stonehenge, and dwelled in hill-top encampments similar to the one on Hambury Hill. From the male and animal figures cut in the chalk on the slopes of the Downs at Cerne Abbas and Offington we can surmise much of their religious rites.

Successive waves of Celtic invaders continued to arrive in this country till shortly before the coming of the Romans. The later Celts, from 800 B.C. onwards, brought knowledge of iron working, and a heavier plough with which it was possible to begin the work of cultivating the more fertile valley lands. Not, however, till the Saxon came here in the sixth century A.D. armed with a really heavy plough and using, as draught animals, long-horned, shaggy oxen, did the work of forest clearance and valley drainage really begin in earnest. By the beginning of the first century B.C., the tribe of Celts, the Regni, who held this county, exported grain to Gaul in return for Roman-made articles of luxury, used minted coins and dwelt in villages somewhat resembling the Zulu kraal.

Although Bexhill, our "journey's end", appears to be entirely modern, its growth almost entirely 20th century, it still can boast of a Saxon ancestry. As part of the earldom of Wessex it was closely bound to Harold, the last Saxon king and earl of Wessex. Little is left, however, except the gravestone of a Saxon child, built into the tower of the Church of St. Peter, to remind us of the Saxon settlement.

Even the church of St. Peter, first founded by the Saxons, was rebuilt in stone by the Normans, who gave it a tower and added an aisle to the nave. But we have not come to Bexhill to live among the past. To do that we must go further along the coast to Hastings, to Winchelsea and to Rye, "our ports of stranded pride". Or, better still, to Pevensey, where in September 1066, William, Duke of Normandy, landed on an open beach.

The sea has left Pevensey. And the walls of the Roman town which were there when William landed, and the walls of the Norman fortress, whose building he ordered, now stand almost a mile inland. From Pevensey, laying waste the land which was Harold's earldom, the Normans marched to Hastings. Men, women and children, cattle and property - the Normans destroyed all, hoping to draw Harold into battle at an early date.

They succeeded, and a chance arrow finding its mark in Harold's eye, towards six in the evening of October 13th, 1066 gave victory to William and his Norman-French adventurers; enslaved Saxon England for 300 years, and almost destroyed the continuity of English History.

The site of the famous battle, the most important in English history, lies inland seven miles from Hastings. It is marked by the ruins of Battle Abbey, whose high altar was built on the very spot where floated Harold's banner, the fighting man of Wessex. The altar stone still stands, though among ruins and rankly growing vegetation. It is said that, before he slept on the night of the Battle of Hastings, William gave orders that a monastery should be built whose monks should offer much-needed prayers for the souls of the Norman dead.

In 1540 the monastery was dissolved, some part of the buildings demolished, the remainder turned into a house but the Church was preserved, as the parish Church of Battle.

However much of a ruffian William I may have been, he was a capable soldier, and, from landing, took care to leave open a way of retreat. He had brought with him from Normandy, prefabricated, a wooden castle which was erected at Hastings and occupied. This was intended to cover his retreat, should withdrawal be necessary. After victory the wooden walls were

replaced by stone and Hasting's castle took its place in a chain of fortresses intended to guard the main ports of entry from Dover to Portsmouth along the South Coast. These castles were backed by strategically placed fortresses blocking the main roads from the ports to London. Examples of these are to be seen at Canterbury, Rochester, Lewes, Arundel and Corfe. Each follows the Norman plan of castle building. There is an artificial hill, crowned with a towering stone keep, overlooking a courtyard which is ringed by a curtain wall, which, in its turn, is protected by a moat. The moat might be dry, or filled from a neighbouring spring.

In days before gunpowder such fortresses were formidable. In 1226 Bedford Castle held out through the summer though garrisoned only by twelve knights and a mere seventy men-at-arms against the whole feudal levy of England. Most of them, in fact, have no military history until the days of the Civil War between King Charles and his Parliament.

NATURE NOTES.

On our coach journey from Northampton to Bexhill we shall pass through different types of scenery. If you look at your surroundings with the eye of a naturalist you will notice how the trees and flowers, and possibly the birds and animals, of one district differ from those of another.

Plants and animals arrange themselves into communities in much the same way as do people in towns and cities. They live in the places in which they are found because the conditions there suit them. They have ADAPTED themselves to their ENVIRONMENT. A close relationship exists between the scenery of a district and the nature of its rocks or soil. To the practised eye a casual glance at the scene will reveal the nature of the soil almost as accurately as a close inspection.

During our stay at Bexhill we shall make a study of the ECOLOGY of the Wealden Coast and, on our longer excursions out of Bexhill, we shall have opportunities to compare it with that of the broad rolling Downs of chalk, the broad clay valley of the Weald and the sands of the Forest Ridges.

You will not know the names of all the trees, flowers, moths, butterflies, birds, etc. which we shall encounter. The photographs, charts and reference books provided will help you to identify those you do not know and tell you more about those you can already recognise. Make good use of these aids and ask questions.

THE SEASHORE.

The following are some of the things we may find while exploring the cliffs and the shore :-

FLOWERS AND GRASSES - Sea-pink (Thrift), Yellow-horned Poppy, Sea-Holly, Samphire, Sea-spurge, Sea-Campion, Sea-aster, Sea-shore Convolvulus, Sand-sedge and Marram grass.

SEA-WEEDS

- They are in three colour groups - GREEN, BROWN and RED. Green Sea-weeds grow close to the shore and are covered only at high tide. The brown weeds grow mostly between the tide-marks while the red ones flourish in deeper water.

SHELLS

- Razor, piddock, limpet, whelk, periwinkle, scallop, tellen, cockle, mussel, oyster.

SEA-CASES

- Whelk, skate, dog-fish.

Sandhoppers, lugworms, barnacles, limpets, sea-anemones, star fish, jelly-fish, sea-urchins, shrimps, prawns and crabs.

The organisms of the sea-shore live in the rhythm set by the tides. Twice daily the tide comes in laden with plankton. These are the mealtimes during which some of the organisms feed on this microscopic food and others feed on them. Then as the tide recedes, the life of the sea-shore settles down to another period of waiting or concealment.

HINTS ON PHOTOGRAPHY.

As this is an expensive hobby the amateur photographer should know the basic rules and follow them in the interests of economy.

THE CAMERA.

The Camera is not important - some of the finest photographs in the world have been taken with cameras which most people would regard as out-of-date and worthless.

The most essential and difficult art to learn is to hold the camera still. If you have a tripod, use it; if not, rest your camera on something solid. Don't jerk the trigger - squeeze it. If you cannot rest the camera on anything, stand with your feet apart, hold the camera firmly but not fiercely and hold your breath whilst you make the exposure.

Next, hold the camera level, particularly when photographing buildings. If you tilt the camera down the vertical walls in your subject will lean outwards; if you tilt it up, the opposite will happen.

LIGHT.

Light coming from the side or from slightly behind produces the most consistent results. Light from behind the camera produces flat, uninteresting photographs with no depth or life. Light almost opposite the camera produces the most striking results, but you must be careful not to let the sun shine directly into the lens.

All the previous hints apply to any camera. If your camera is better than a simple box or folding type i.e. if you can control your lens opening, shutter speed or focussing, you have other things to worry about. The lens and shutter speed control the exposure i.e. the amount of light which enters the camera when you take the picture. This can be easily calculated from a set of exposure tables costing about 2s. 0d. You will save the money you expend on it in a year by spoiling fewer films.

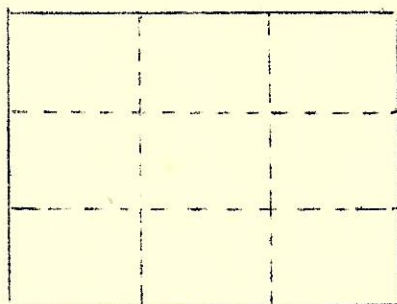
Always check the distance to your subject and see that the camera is set to this distance. A good tip is to carry a ball of twine about 24 feet long with knots

every 3 feet. This gives a quick and accurate method of measuring short distances. Anything over 24 feet you can assume as infinity - the mark like this ∞ on your focussing scale.

COMPOSITION.

This is the arrangement of your picture. Some people compose instinctively; others acquire it through years of practice. There are, however, a few simple rules that will speed proficiency.

- (1) Have one point of interest in your picture and arrange it so that if your picture were divided up like this, the point of interest would be at one of the intersections of the lines.



- (2) Do not have any line (particularly a flat horizon) which will divide your picture into two equal parts.

- (3) If you are taking a photograph of a person place him slightly to one side looking into the picture and watch your background.

A photograph of a person with a tree apparently growing out of his head is ludicrous.

Remember, the camera does not make a picture, but only sees what is in front of it: the imagination of the person behind the camera makes the picture.