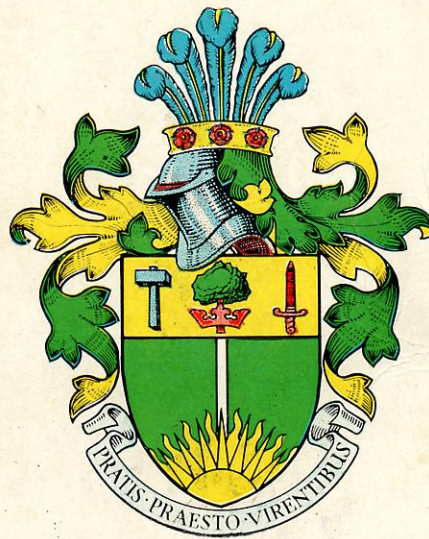


Education in



EAST GRINSTEAD

E D U C A T I O N
I N
E A S T G R I N S T E A D

I N
M E M O R Y O F

M R S . S T E L L A L O O K E R , O . B . E . ,

Founder Chairman of the Governors of Imberhorne County
Secondary School
Chairman of the Governors of East Grinstead Grammar School
Governor of Sackville County Secondary School
Manager of Forest Row C.E. Primary School

by

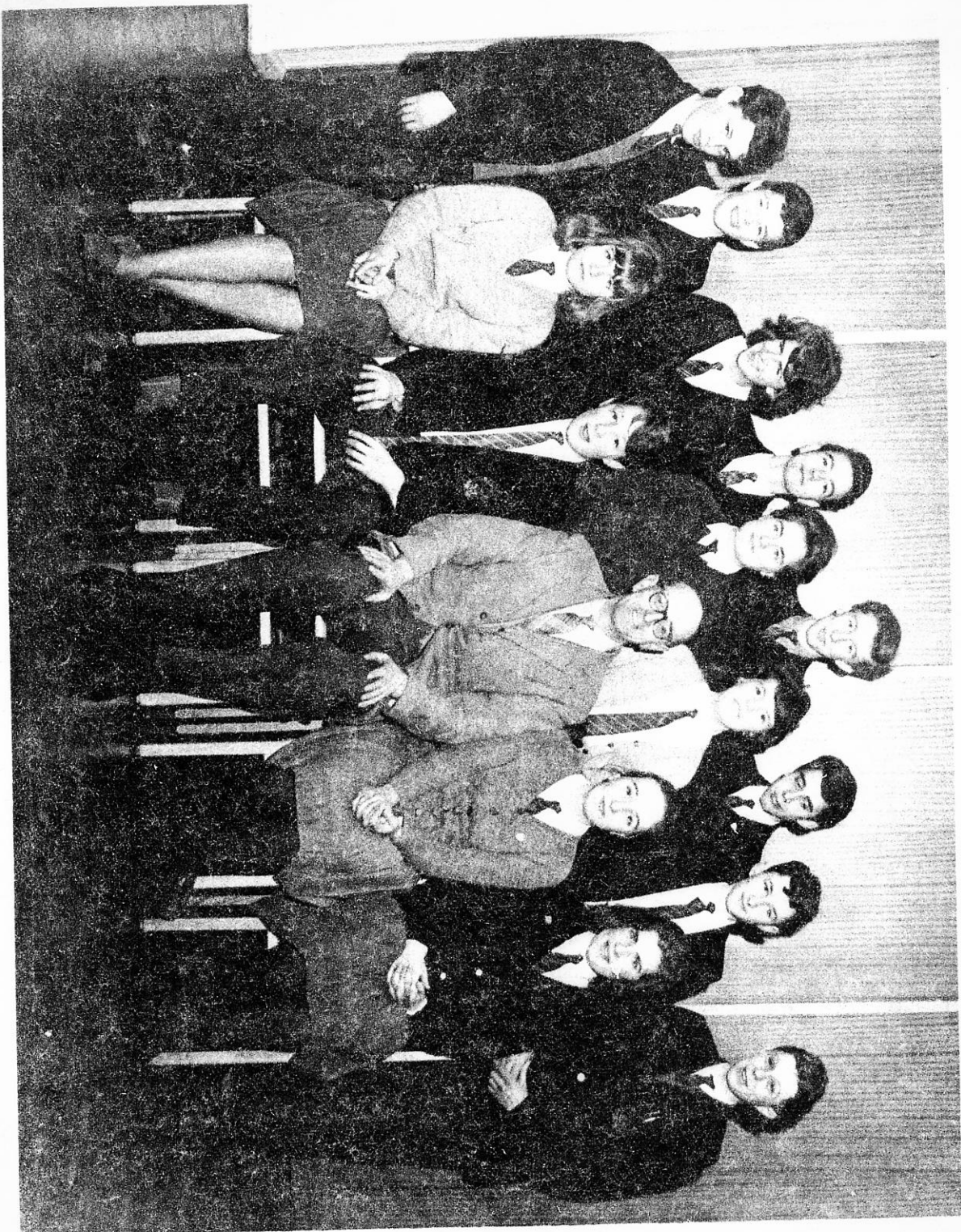
Pupils of Imberhorne County Secondary School

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The Team at Imberhorne Secondary School

F O R E W O R D

By Professor the Rev. John Marsh, M.A., C.B.E.

Principal

Mansfield College, Oxford.

I am honoured to be asked to write a foreword to this interesting book. Politicians and educationalists often remind their public that there have been immense advances in education during the last one hundred years, and the public has a general sense that this is true. But the best way of realizing the advances that have been made is to take a particular instance of a given town and see what the story of education has been like in the last one hundred years. It has given me immense pleasure to know that the pupils of Imberhorne School have had the initiative and vision to set down something of the story of education in East Grinstead. I would like to offer my own congratulations to the Headmaster, to Mr. Whittle and the scholars for undertaking such an enterprise and for carrying it through to such good effect. I am happy to think that the schools with which I was associated at the beginning of my own life are proving themselves to be still very much in the van of educational enterprise and advance.

INTRODUCTION

J. Whittle

Mrs. Looker was more than a governor of Imberhorne School; she was a very good friend to us all. More than one of the teachers still at the school, who helped to open it in 1959, can testify that she had an open ear for personal as well as school problems. Hers was no detached interest. If Imberhorne was hurt, so was she; if the school rejoiced, she joined in.

When a school magazine was first mooted she wrote a most generous foreword to it. She spoke of the value of good writing and of her hopes that some of the contributors would become authors. She was delighted when this hope came true before she died. A copy of Graham Poore's "Railways of East Grinstead" was sent to her and drew from her a letter of thanks and encouragement, one of the last letters she wrote a few days before the end. But that was Mrs. Looker - encouragement to the last.

If an inanimate object can be said to have life, then that object is a book; and there can be no better way to remember one who devoted so much of her life to the schools of East Grinstead than to issue a survey of education in the town in her memory.

The denigrators of modern youth are many. Perhaps they would like to answer this question. What would you have done if at the age of fifteen you had been asked to interview the Deputy Chief Education Officer, or to beard the Head of the local Grammar School in his den?

That is precisely what a team of fifteen year olds has done in the past four months. They have visited every school in the town and a few in the district around, much of it in their own time. Every one was a volunteer. If any reader should quibble about style or content, let him answer the question.

To all the Heads of the Schools concerned a very hearty thank you is given for co-operation so freely offered and to many others outside the schools who have helped in many ways. Much has been learned, but one thing has stood out - how interdependent we are, one with another, the Infants with the Juniors, the Juniors with the Seniors and the Seniors with each other, and vice versa. Indeed the title "Members One Of Another" was nearly adopted for the book. Mrs. Looker would have liked that.

THE DEPUTY EDUCATION OFFICER FOR EAST SUSSEX

TALKS OF THE FUTURE

"CHEQUER MEAD TO TAKE OVER SACKVILLE BUILDINGS", SAYS

MR. J. R. JONES IN AN INTERVIEW WITH HILARY ROBE,

SUSAN LINDFIELD AND LYNDIA DAVIS.

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On January 15th at the school, a team of reporters interviewed the Deputy Chief Education Officer, Mr J.R. Jones. He gave them information that has been compiled to make the following report.

First of all Mr Jones told them about the primary schools of East Grinstead. In the near future it is planned that Chequer Mead Primary School will take over the buildings to be vacated when Sackville moves to Lewes Road. The present Chequer Mead buildings will be used as a youth club. A new kitchen will be built for Chequer Mead, and new lavatories added.

A new primary school for the Hurst-an-Clays district is proposed, which should have classes of thirty. The date cannot be given because the Ministry of Education has not yet approved the scheme.

It is planned ultimately to extend the school at Halsford Park by making it into two schools; one for infants and a separate one for juniors, under separate head teachers.

No further secondary school developments are envisaged for East Grinstead in the immediate future. Imberhorne and Sackville are to be roughly the same size, with approximately six hundred pupils each, with a yearly intake of about one hundred and twenty. The Grammar School should have an annual intake of eighty pupils.

When asked if there were any plans to enlarge Imberhorne, Mr Jones replied that there were not, but at the moment the school is slightly larger than planned. The increasing secondary school population should be taken by the new Sackville School, which will be larger than the present one.

The primary schools are getting larger, which means another so-called bulge will hit the secondary schools. The Grammar School would take one-fifth of the secondary school pupils.

It is unlikely that we shall have a technical college in East Grinstead, for the town is served by the Crawley Technical College. If the town grows

phenomenally the situation would have to be reviewed, and East Grinstead might then have its own college. To anticipate the future a site next to the new Sackville has been purchased for a County College which would provide compulsory part-time education for young people under eighteen years of age under a section of the Education Act which has not yet been implemented.

Mr Jones was asked if the Newsom Report would affect the schools of East Grinstead. He said it would in regard to raising school leaving age to sixteen. This was recommended for pupils entering secondary schools in 1965 who would be due to leave in 1970. It is also possible that we may get a longer working day from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., instead of from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. In some schools certainly at Imberhorne, this already applies to a limited degree, because some classes are held from 4.30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Mr Jones was then asked about abolishing the eleven plus. He said that the eleven plus or some other form of selection cannot be abolished whilst we have separate forms of secondary schools. He added that a Comprehensive school for East Grinstead is not being contemplated.

If the eleven plus external examination was abolished by the East Sussex authority, it might have to arrange tests in the Primary Schools over the last three years of a child's life there. The Head Teacher would have to draw up an order of merit and if doubt arose in any particular case, outside judgement, probably from County Hall, would have to be arranged and further tests would be necessary, arranged by the Head of the Grammar School. These arrangements seem cumbersome when compared with the eleven plus examinations as at present held.

The first C.S.E. examinations should be ready by June 1965. This is a new examination for Secondary Schools. Mr Jones thinks that this is rather short notice to prepare for such an important educational development and teething troubles may be expected in the first year. Panels of teachers are used in the process of arranging the syllabuses for the examination.

The C.S.E. might ultimately be a substitute for the G.C.E. at 'O' level but not at 'A' level. Mr Jones said that the new examination would not, to begin with, have the status of the G.C.E., but it is hoped that it will achieve a high standard of its own, and in time, replace the G.C.E.

The syllabus will be designed for the top 60% of the Secondary School population. The top 20% should, for the time being, take the G.C.E., the second 20% should take the C.S.E. in four or five subjects, whilst the third 20% should take it in one, two or three subjects. In subsequent years, additional subjects could be taken and added to the certificate. The lower 40% would most likely not take any examination. The

syllabus will not be designed for the 60% taking the examination at the minimum age.

Whilst stressing the importance of the C.S.E. and the G.C.E. in Secondary School life, Mr. Jones definitely had the opinion that preparation for them should not shape the whole education a school has to offer. Education is for life and not primarily for examinations.

When asked about the shortage of staff in schools, Mr. Jones said the future supply of teachers was a very difficult problem. Even now, 56% of the fifteen-sixteen age group is staying for further education in East Sussex Schools and more teachers are needed at this moment, let alone later when the leaving age is raised. More teachers are being trained, but it is unlikely that enough will be trained in time for the increased school leaving age. The next ten or so years are bound to be very difficult and tax the ingenuity of the local authority and the teachers.

LT.-COL. WOODS BALLARD, C.I.E., M.B.E.

ACTING CHAIRMAN OF IMBERHORNE SCHOOL

by Hilary Robe

Colonel Woods Ballard is a Manager of the local primary school and has been a governor of Imberhorne since it opened. The governors of Imberhorne meet at least once a term and discuss the interests of the school, staff and pupils, and try to help the local authority to fulfil their obligations under the Education Act. When asked if he thought that the work of the governors would continue in its present form Colonel Woods Ballard replied that he was sure it would; the governors took a part in choosing staff, as they know the requirements of the school.

In the opinion of Colonel Woods Ballard the present trends on education are all for the good of the pupil as they cater far better than ever before for children of different abilities. When asked if the eleven plus should be abolished he replied that if it were something similar would have to be put in its place.

On leaving, my general impression was that here was an ideal person to be a governor. With his wide and varied experience in the Army and in civil life, his progressive ideas and his youthful outlook on life, he is an outstanding member of the community. We are glad to have his service at Imberhorne.

EAST GRINSTEAD COUNTY GRAMMAR SCHOOL

INTERVIEW WITH MR. PIKE

by Susan Lindfield

As I sat in the chair in Mr. Pike's office I had a feeling that I should come away with a remarkable story of educational achievement. I was not disappointed.

First, I asked Mr. Pike about the history of the Grammar School. The school is not an old foundation; it started its life in 1928 with the title of East Grinstead County School, under the headship of Mr. R. L. Treble, B.Sc. By 1938 it had grown to two forms in each of the first five years, with a small sixth year. Mr. Dawes, M.A., B.Sc. was then Headmaster, though for the war period when Mr. Dawes was on active service, Mr. T. W. Scott, B.A. was acting Headmaster. After demobilisation Mr. Dawes returned and remained as Headmaster until his retirement in 1961, when Mr. J. C. Pike, M.A. took over.

In 1946 technical courses for third and fourth year boys were added; some of the pupils coming from Sackville County School. This section was enlarged in 1953 when a new technical wing was built.

1953 also saw the enlargement of the school with a third stream for boys and girls. A very significant development at this time was the establishment of a commercial course for fourth and fifth form pupils.

In 1958 the title East Grinstead County Grammar School was adopted. Now in 1963 the school shows the general trend for pupils to stay beyond the normal leaving age for one third are over fifteen years of age, and ninety-eight are taking advanced courses in the Sixth Form.

Altogether there are 535 pupils on the roll. The school is full up in some of the classes although there is room for more pupils in the second year. Pupils come from a large area around East Grinstead. This area forms a semi-circle and includes Groombridge, touches Tunbridge Wells, Crawley Down, Turners Hill and Nutley. Pupils also come from Surrey in the East Grinstead Postal District.

Mr. Pike does not think the range of buildings is adequate. The hall is too small and so is the gym. He could also use another laboratory and an extension to the kitchen and dining-hall. In time a new wing might be added to the school and a tower containing a science laboratory. The new wing has been included in the 1966-67 building programme, and should have three laboratories in phase one and five or six laboratories in phase two.

I asked Mr. Pike what he thought about abolishing the eleven plus. He said that there must be some sort of selection because each pupil must take the best course available according to his or her ability. He did not like the idea of children in the same family being sent to different schools. I asked him what he would put in its place if it were abolished. He suggested that everybody should go to the same school to begin with, and then they should take some sort of test.

I asked about the possibility of a Comprehensive School in East Grinstead and if he would be in favour of it. He said it would not be possible because of the new Sackville School being built. He would be more in favour of two Comprehensive Schools, one taking children to the age of sixteen and a separate school taking children over sixteen.

The educational aims of the Grammar School are much broader than the mere passing of examinations, vital though these are. Mr. Pike summarized the aims thus:- pupils are expected to leave school thinking clearly. They should be able to get on well with people they like and dislike. Also they should believe in world government and have tastes in Music, Drama, Woodwork, Metalwork, etc. Pupils stay to an age of eighteen and a half and some to nineteen and a half. Others can leave at sixteen and a half. They can go on to Training Colleges and Universities. They have been very satisfied with recent examination results at 'O' level. The new University of Sussex has helped applicants and nearly everyone who wanted a University place got one.

A few of the old Imberhorne pupils have gone to the Grammar School. I asked if Mr. Pike thought that this transfer was a good thing and if it would have been better if the transfer had come earlier. Mr. Pike said it had already proved to be a good thing for those who had come later to the Grammar School. The transfer would not have been a good thing if done earlier, because the pupils then were not doing well and there would have been no point in transferring them.

The classes are not really streamed according to ability. Individual time-tables are set for older pupils. Latin, German and Spanish are taught. The system of individual time-tables is much better because pupils are happier working at chosen subjects.

On the subject of 'Teaching Machines' Mr. Pike said he would like them at the school, because anything like that is useful to pupil's education.

On the sports side the school has its own fields. They have hockey, tennis, netball and rounders for the girls; and rugby, cricket and basketball are for the boys. Athletics are for boys and girls and also the trampoline that comes for six week periods at a time. A swimming pool is to be built soon.

There is a strong social side to the Grammar School. Throughout the year there are many dances, and at Christmas there are form parties. There is also a choir, and plays are produced. The Grammar School also has its own magazine.

SACKVILLE COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL

by Susan Read

Public Education in East Grinstead is one hundred years old. Prior to 1861 any children wanting education apart from that provided by the Free Grammar School had to go to Forest Row which was at that time part of the local parish.

In 1861 the present Sackville Buildings were opened as National or Church Schools on what was then known as the Slaughterhouse Mead. The land and much of the money to start the school was given by Lady Amherst. The school was for the children of the labouring and poorer classes only. The vicar and churchwardens were the trustees.

After a transition period during which the School was closed, accommodation was provided for 473 scholars. Sackville was a Church School just from January 1st, 1861, to June 17th, 1875.

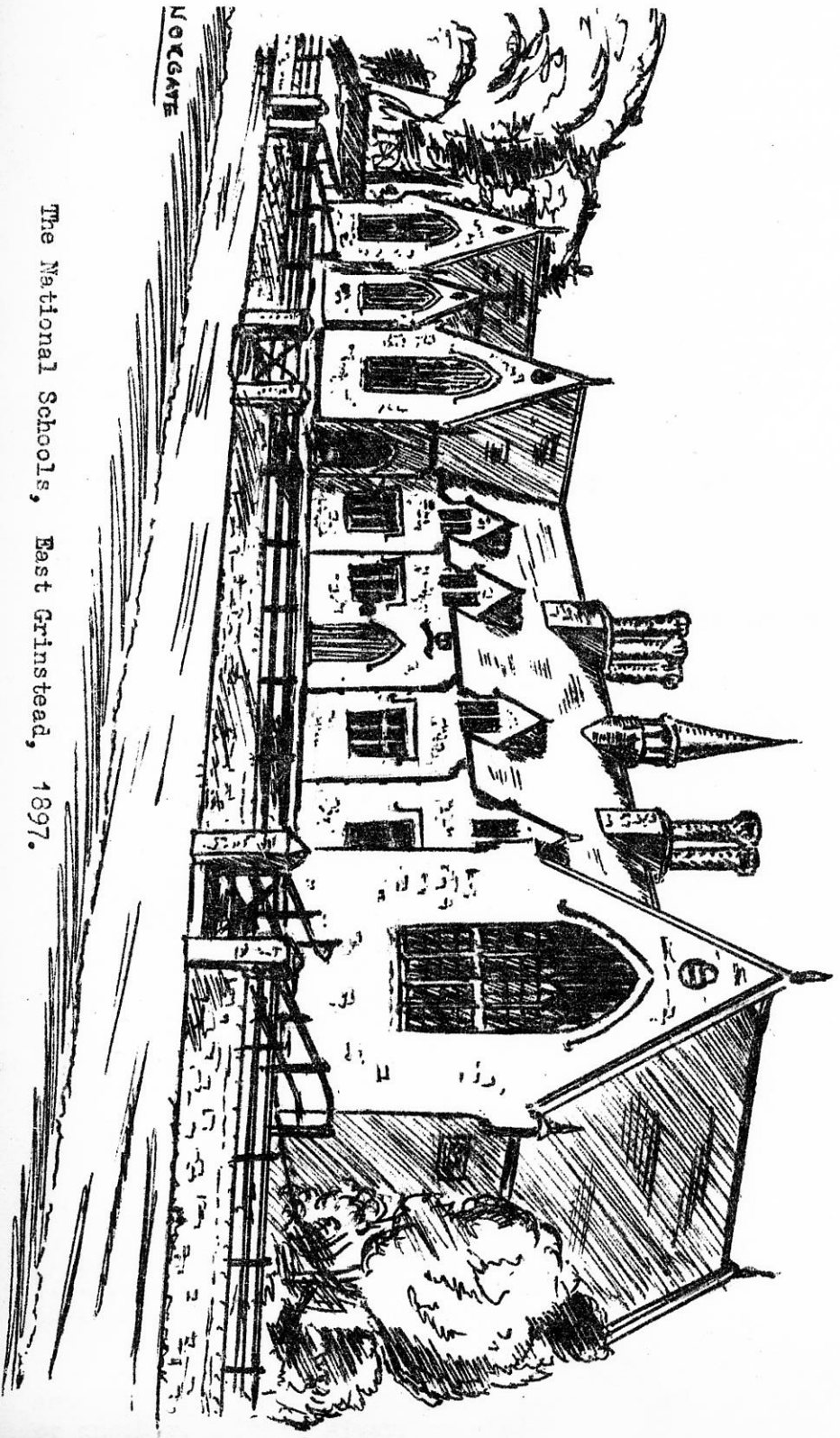
September 28th, 1875, the schools having "been closed for a time", a School Board was formed. Sackville remained a Board School until 1902, when the County Council took over. Henceforth, with sundry changes and re-organisations, it was and is a Council School.

At the present, Sackville has four hundred pupils on roll, and the school is full.

In 1959, when Imberhorne was opened, Sackville lost five hundred of its eight hundred pupils. The school was then able to convert four classrooms into a hall. As it is at the moment, the School has only a small stage; and no gymnasium, metal workshops, or playing fields of its own.

The pupils of Sackville come from the Southern and Eastern parts of East Grinstead and the surrounding villages, which are, Forest Row, Ashurst Wood, Hammerwood, Holtye and Blackham.

The classes are streamed according to ability (A, B and C) except for the last year. An increasing number of pupils stay on at school until they are sixteen or seventeen. When asked, should the school leaving age be raised, Mr. Neave replied that he was not sure. In his view, people need as much education as possible, but, he said, this was often supplied in a better way, in a job. Children, he considered, only benefit by staying on, if it is first their own wish to do so, and secondly their parents' desire.



The National Schools, East Grinstead, 1897.

Mr. Neave's main educational aims are at present to give an all round education. That is, to give those who have ability, every chance of getting somewhere with it, usually by preparing for examinations.

When asked his views on the retention or abolition of the eleven plus, Mr. Neave asked what was meant by abolition. He said that if it were abolished, children would still have to be selected for different kinds of secondary education unless the present system was replaced by Comprehensive Schools.

Mr. Neave will be very glad to move to his new school buildings where, he said, due to great improvements, i.e. having a metal work shop, gymnasium, better laboratories etc., the work of his pupils should be even better than it is now. In the new building, though, they will be more spread out than they are at present. This, I think, is one of the things that he regrets, and will miss the homely atmosphere of the present school. A new building could mean being on a less personal relationship with the pupils.

When asked whether he thought that the School's examination results were satisfactory, he said that bearing in mind the school's great difficulties, the results were good. The pupils, he said, had not the same chance in an old building; for instance, they have never been able to enter anyone for metalwork, and very few for physics and chemistry, because of the lack of suitable facilities. However, Sackville had been one of the first secondary modern schools in the County to develop G.C.E. courses.

Sackville being a smaller school, also has staffing problems; for example, if one member of staff is away, there may be no replacement for teaching examination children as there would be in a larger school.

A previous pupil of Sackville, after taking an advanced course elsewhere, is now at King's College, London University, studying for an Honours degree in physics. Next year, it is hoped that another will enter Wye College, London University, to study horticulture.

With regard to the Newsom Report, Mr. Neave said that some of the suggestions were already being carried out, in that pupils visit during the day, factories, shops, etc. This is done, so as to give them a wider view of the work-a-day world and is chiefly for those not taking examinations. But he pointed out many schools were carrying out similar projects.

Wireless programmes have been used at Sackville almost as long as the B.B.C. has broadcast them. In recent years T.V. programmes have added their variety to the school's work.

In spite of the great difficulties Sackville has had to face, clubs and societies have flourished, there being as many as twelve of one sort or another. Drama always has had a high place of honour; sometimes at

Easter eight or more plays have been produced for the annual festival. This year for Christmas, a play written by Miss Emptage, a teacher at the school, was appreciated.

The annual sports day always sees a high standard of athletics. The School has had for many years to borrow the Grammar School's ground in Windmill Lane, having no playing fields of its own. This makes the high standard all the more remarkable. Football, cricket, tennis and netball are all played in county competitions. The U.D.C. grounds are hired. Sport is one aspect of school life that will benefit greatly from the new premises in Lewes Road later in 1964. It is worth recalling that Graham Cooper, the Sussex County Cricketer, is an old Sackville boy.

Sackville is the modern name of the town's oldest state school. Its record is nothing short of marvellous when one considers the great changes that have taken place in the educational world. We can only wish Mr. Neave and his staff a future in keeping with the greatness of the past, in the new Sackville building.

IMBERHORNE COUNTY SECONDARY SCHOOL

By Lynda Davis

A smile broadened the face of Mr. Scott, Imberhorne's Headmaster when I asked him how the Newsom Report would affect his school. "There is nothing," he replied, "in the report which we at Imberhorne are not moving towards or have not already achieved."

When I asked Mr. Scott if he preferred having the school in ability streams or as it is now, he told me that Imberhorne was the fourth school he had changed from streaming. He believes that it is impossible to group children for every subject. Children that have the same ability in English often have different abilities in mathematics. He thinks that most pupils work to their best ability in the same group as their personal friends; he also thinks that in an unstreamed class that the more able can help the less able. This becomes co-operation rather than competition - Christianity in practice.

Mr. Scott said that he has only one educational aim and that is to help all pupils to become as fine men and women as possible. I then asked him to what age he hoped his pupils would stay at school. His reply was, "until school can do no more for them." He continued by saying that this would probably mean the pupils staying on until seventeen or eighteen, either at Imberhorne, a Grammar School or a Technical College.



Checking the stencils

Mr. Scott said that there would certainly be a number of pupils who would get good G.C.E. results and it is hoped that soon there will be a way to help every pupil to develop. No one must be bored with work or leisure.

I then asked Mr. Scott what plans he had for the future. He told me that he had no plans except to ensure that the school will always endeavour to become the avenue through which every pupil can proceed to a fuller life. He also wants to help the school to give a better service to parents and the community.

When I asked Mr. Scott whether he thought the school was big enough for the future he said that if he was sure that no more than one hundred and twenty pupils are registered at Imberhorne each year the size of the school is ideal. He said that there was nothing which he was not happy about but there are a few things which could be modified.

Regarding homework, Mr. Scott said that the school day is too short and homework was essential. He added that there was a kind of homework which should be done during holidays and should be designed to keep the pupil in touch with the work of the previous term. He also thinks that the Christmas holidays should be a complete break without homework. Easter holidays are a good time for revision because the summer term is broken by many social functions like Sports Day.

Talking of Sports, Mr. Scott said they ought to play a tremendous part in school life. He is convinced that not enough people get enjoyment out of playing an active part in team sports.

As for social life, Mr. Scott said that he would help this by forming societies whenever the pupils request it.

Mr. Scott, as we know, is very keen on drama. He told me that he thinks it will be successful at Imberhorne because there are a number of promising actors and actresses. Recently they have been up to London to see "The Masters" (by C. P. Snow at the Piccadilly Theatre) a play they will soon perform at school.

When I asked Mr. Scott to compare standards of education in Sussex with those in Birmingham he said that it was difficult to judge but he thinks there is very little difference.

Imberhorne is not yet five years old. The school opened in 1959 under the headship of Mr. B. M. McDermott, B.A., who stayed until Christmas 1962. During this time the school settled down with a steady pattern of hard work. For a term Mrs. France, the Deputy Head, took charge, until Mr. K. R. Scott, the present Headmaster, was able to take up his post.

Under Mr. McDermott the school was streamed for ability, but Mr. Scott

has changed all that. The first year children form the Lower School, the second and third years form the Middle School and the remainder the Upper School. No classes are streamed in the Lower and Middle Schools, the emphasis being placed on the social needs of the children. In the Upper School the pupils are given, as far as possible, a choice of subjects, so that individual preferences can be made. In the Upper Fifth and Sixth years each pupil has what is to all intents and purposes a personal timetable, designed to help to the utmost in the preparation for external examinations and life after the school period is ended.

Commercial subjects play a large part in the Upper School. Typewriting and Shorthand lessons begin in the Lower Fifth and pupils are entered for R.S.A. examinations.

The school offers a very wide range of courses. Woodwork, metalwork, needlework, domestic science and rural studies give a practical balance to the more academic subjects one expects to find in schools. French, for the moment, is the only foreign language taught.

Physical training is well looked after. The school has a well-equipped gymnasium and some ten acres of playing fields where football, hockey, cricket and tennis teams from many schools are entertained in competitive matches. Ann Preston, Imberhorne's outstanding athlete, is now a member of the Sussex County Athletic team.

The school has a flourishing magazine, the Imberhorne Advertiser, which appears from time to time on a large notice board in the corridor, and once a year in duplicated form. The most enterprising effort to date is a separate booklet, The Railways of East Grinstead, by Graham Poore, assisted by a small group of friends.

Would you like to see the school leaving age raised to sixteen?

Recently we asked the staff of Imberhorne Secondary School for their views on this vexed question. 32% of the teachers were in favour of raising it to sixteen or even more, but 24% would like to see it reduced to fourteen.

The majority, 92%, think that regardless of the statutory age, be it fourteen, fifteen or sixteen, it is better to let children stay over the normal leaving age if they wished. The staff realise the hardship that a longer stay at school could mean to parents and so many 84% would like to see financial aid given to them in the form of increased family allowances for older school children, or increased income tax concessions.

AN INTERVIEW WITH THE HEADMISTRESS OF BLACKWELL SCHOOL

by N. Ralph

I met Mrs. Duke the Headmistress of Blackwell Junior School at about two o'clock and she took me into her office.

From our questions and conversation I found that the Junior School was opened in 1955 - eight years ago - and therefore there is a short history of the school. Since then two new classrooms have been added. These were started in January 1958 and occupied in September of the same year when children from Hammer Wood School came when the latter was closed. There were one hundred children from Chequer Mead Junior School who also came to Blackwell.

This year the school is comfortably full with 293 on roll. The children come from the area of Stone Quarry and Blackwell Estates, North and West of the town, including the Brooklands Estate. There are also three Special Classes for children who need more individual teaching. These children come from schools in East Grinstead and from the surrounding villages of Crawley Down, Copthorne, Turners Hill and West Hoathly.

The children are partly streamed on ability and partly by recommendation from the teachers and Headmistress of the Infants School. In all classes radio is used in teaching.

Mrs. Duke thinks that if children have to be selected for Secondary education, then some form of examination must be taken. The tests used at present, with reports on work and progress throughout the primary school, give results that are fairly satisfactory. Many of the children who have been transferred to the Secondary Modern Schools have done well and an occasional one has continued with advanced work at the Grammar School later on.

The school buildings at the moment are satisfactory, but if anything could be added, Mrs. Duke would ask for a hard play-ground on the South side to give better shelter and warmth. Also, she would like to have the swimming pool incorporated into a covered building. A cricket table would be an advantage if added to the fairly good sports facilities. These already include three football pitches, one netball pitch and one long jump pit. Facilities for indoor games are good.

The school is adequately staffed, although Mrs. Duke feels that an extra teacher would be welcome. The juniors are, she says, in classes that are too large.

Mrs. Duke would like the school to have smaller classes so that each child could have more individual attention. She would like the school to stay small so that she could continue to know personally all her pupils and their parents.

SPECIAL EDUCATION IN EAST GRINSTEAD

It is an unfortunate fact that seven out of every hundred school children are in need of special education. For a variety of reasons they have fallen behind their fellows and cannot hope to keep up with them in academic work. Unless something is done for them school becomes increasingly a place to dread because all it can do is to show up their weaknesses. They need help.

Fortunately help is available in East Grinstead, for those of primary school age at Blackwell, and for the seniors at Sackville and Imberhorne.

The unit at Blackwell is virtually a school within a school. There are three classes for children aged seven to twelve, and as we write fifty-four children take part. They come from all the primary schools in the town, and from Crawley Down, Copthorne, West Hoathly and Turners Hill in the East Sussex Administrative area, and from Felbridge, Dormans Land and Blindley Heath in the Surrey area.

No attempt is made to force the children to catch up with others of brighter intellect. Instead they are gently urged along as fast as they are able. The small size of the classes enables the teachers to treat each child as an individual, giving each one the attention needed. In games, P.E. and other social activities the children take their rightful place with the rest of the Blackwell children.

A few pupils in the special classes may be retained at Blackwell for a year beyond the normal time to move to the secondary schools. A few others may be transferred at any age to boarding schools, if they are likely to benefit by the change. The boys go to St. Mary's at Horam, and the girls to St. Anne's at Lewes. Their transfer is, of course, with parental agreement.

At the secondary schools there are special classes to take over where the primary schools leave off. Again for games and all social activities they are always with their friends, as indeed they are for many of the practical subjects.

It is in English and arithmetic that their need is greatest, and here, as well as in kindred lessons, they work individually, each one forging ahead at his own speed, with no one left behind. They become valuable members of the school, and by the time they leave they are ready to play their part in the greater life outside. It is a pleasure to meet them.

HALSFORD PARK SCHOOL

by Glynn Goodwin

On Friday, the 13th December, I went to Halsford Park School to interview Miss Murray, the Headmistress. She gave me a brief history of the school. It opened in September 1958 with 130 children, four teachers, a clerical assistant and a school keeper. Numbers have gone up every term until now there are 310 children ranging from the age of five to eleven, with nine teachers. The school is not over crowded.

All the dinners are cooked on the premises. Miss Murray says they are excellent, but wishes the school had a dining hall.

The children come from a very enclosed area comprising the estates of Imberherne and Halsford and down London Road as far as Halsford Croft.

Miss Murray feels that the eleven plus is very good and it would be a great burden on the work of the teachers if it were abolished. She feels that, on the whole the eleven plus works fairly.

When I asked if the schools eleven plus results were as good as she could wish for, Miss Murray replied that she thought the right children go to the Grammar School and the method of selection is satisfactory.

She feels that the school buildings are very satisfactory. They were built for infants, but now juniors use them. A separate dining hall would top the list of improvements Miss Murray would make, because at the present moment they have to eat in the Assembly Hall. A general store room would be her second choice followed by more cupboard space.

Miss Murray does not "stream" for ability because the school is not big enough. Each teacher is responsible for his or her form and teaches most subjects. There is no specialization at Halsford Park.

There are, Miss Murray feels, enough teachers at Halsford Park and she says the East Sussex County Council are very generous in this matter.

The school uses radio programmes but not television. The sports consist of the usual ones such as football, cricket, netball, rounders and athletics in the summer.

After we had talked for some while Miss Murray showed me around the school. What a happy place it seemed! The children were smiling and courteous, and the atmosphere spoke of a school where discipline was good and yet not repressive. Even paintwork told its own story for after five years the school looks as though it had opened its doors only last week.

Halsford Park has many years in front of it. It is a worthy successor to the older schools of East Grinstead.

CHEQUER MEAD

by Tony Thomas and Christopher Gurney

So often we think of the present Sackville buildings as being the oldest school in East Grinstead, and we are right, but at the same time we usually forget that tucked away in a corner is Chequer Mead, a school which has grown out of the same original school as the present Sackville. So Chequer Mead Primary School in its origin dates back to 1859, built on what was then known as Slaughterhouse Mead.

Fortunately the lovelier name of nearby Chequer Mead, for long the home of East Grinstead Cricket Club, was adopted for the name of the school. The actual name is taken from the Old Chequer Inn which stood where now we find Barclays Bank.

In 1876 there were three schools on the premises, boys, girls and infants. In 1927 the school was reorganised and became two schools, one senior (the present Sackville) and the other junior and infant, (the present Chequer Mead). In 1955 many of its pupils were sent to form the nucleus of the now Blackwell Primary School. Mrs. Duke, then the Head of Chequer Mead became Head of the new school.

To find how the school was getting along we went to see the present Headmistress, Miss Feltwell. She told us there are about 150 children on roll. At the moment Chequer Mead is comfortably full, but if more children were enrolled, there is enough room for them.

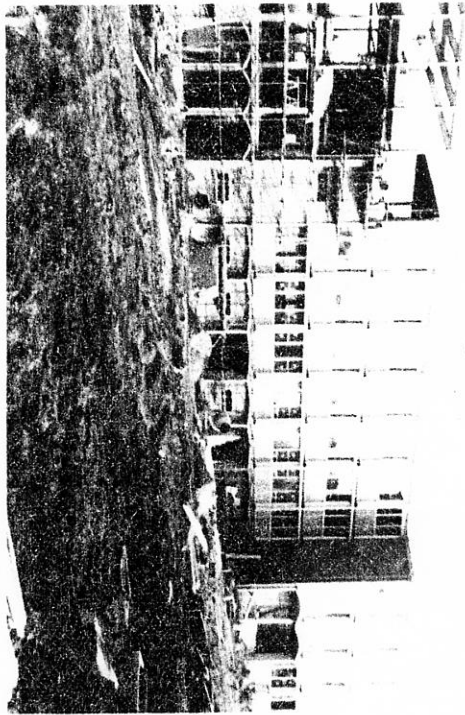
Most of these children come from the surrounding districts, some from the borders of West Hoathly, and down the Lewes Road as far as Worsted Avenue.

When asked if she had any views on the retention or abolition of the eleven plus Miss Feltwell replied that she thought some form of selection test would be necessary. One substitute would be the Comprehensive School system, but even this would need some form of selection inside the school.

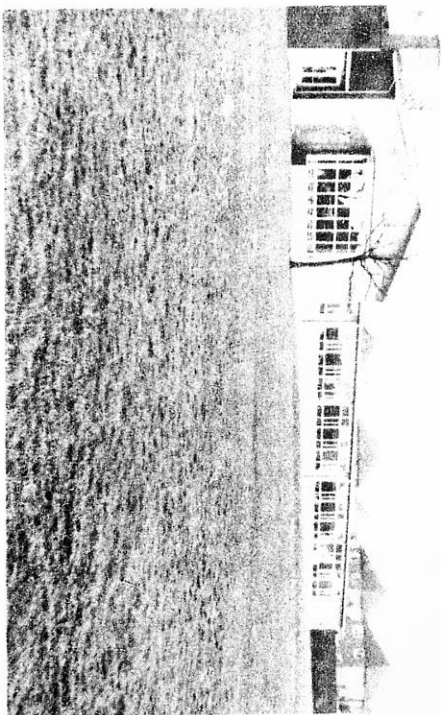
Miss Feltwell said that in the main children go to the school to which they are best fitted. The selection is a fair one although there are bound to be border line cases. However, it is better to be at the top of a Modern School than to struggle at the bottom of a Grammar School.

At some schools the children are streamed for ability but at Chequer Mead they are in classes according to age.

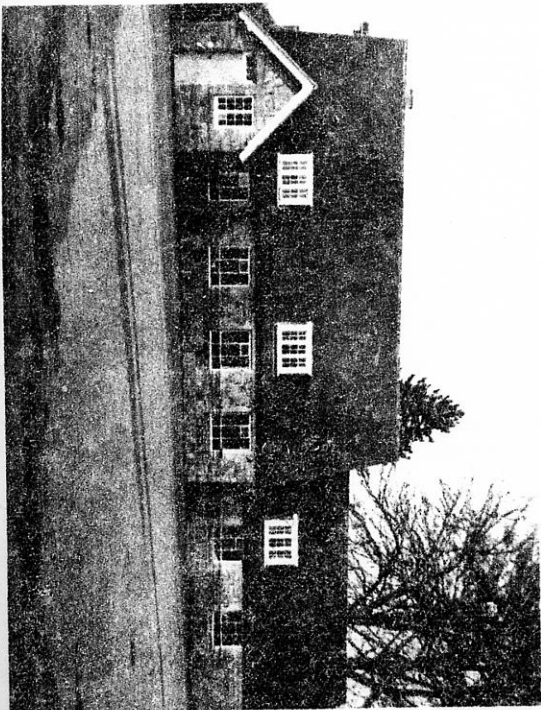
The teacher supply at Chequer Mead is good, and Miss Feltwell has a full staff.



The New Sackville takes shape



Halsford Park Primary



Chequer Moad is the only primary school in the district to use Television. At the moment they can only receive B.B.C. Miss Feltwell thinks that the television programmes are well worth while. They also make good use of radio selections.

Miss Feltwell has mixed feelings about the proposed raising of the school leaving age as she feels that for most it would be good but for some it might be unnecessary.

Religion should play a big part in education to-day, Miss Feltwell declares, as we are supposed to be a Christian country.

The old buildings Chequer moad has to use cramp the style of the teaching staff. Lack of an Assembly Hall prevents them from having daily assemblies and they have to make do with a once-a-week meeting in the near-by Parish Hall. This involves road crossing and that is not good with a large number of young children. However, this particular headache will disappear when they move into the present Sackville Secondary School buildings, a move scheduled to take place after Mr. Neave's school goes to the Lewes Road.

One of Miss Feltwell's dearest wishes is to have a playing field, for at the moment their playing field is rented from East Court. The distance this ground is from the school, makes the facility far from first class. Unfortunately nothing can be done about it.

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL

by Susan Lindfield

Originally, St. Mary's School began as North End School, in the buildings now used by the East Sussex L.E.A. for adult education, at North End. It was opened in 1885 by the Rev. S. P. Macartney. At that time there were 55 pupils. The school moved on February 11th, 1955 to its present site and had fifty to sixty pupils. The new premises were officially opened in 1956 by Mrs. Emmet, M.P. for East Grinstead.

It now has 133 pupils and is a Church of England School. The old North End School had two classrooms. St. Mary's now has four classrooms and a canteen built around the old Church Hall.

Miss Emy showed me some old log books that were used in 1885 at North End. Every book in the School, about a dozen, was listed, which shows how lucky pupils of to-day are in having thousands of books to choose from.

At the moment the school is full up. There is no definite catchment area for St. Mary's. Pupils can come from anywhere, if their parents agree to sending their children to a Church School.

I asked Miss Emy what part Religious Education should play in a Junior School, such as St. Mary's. She said it ought to play an important part, not just as one subject that is taught every day, but as a subject that comes into everything. Christian principles are most important.

Miss Emy would like to expand the school, but as it is a Church School there are many difficulties. If the money was available two more classrooms would be added. The school is not streamed according to ability. There are four classes of infants and juniors. The first class is for children up to the age of six. The second class for the six plus to eight year olds. The third is for first and second year juniors and a few slower older children. The fourth is the bulk of third year and fourth year juniors.

Since St. Mary's has an infants as well as a junior department, the children are at every stage of educational development. By their final year it is expected that those children who are of obvious academic ability will be accepted for Grammar School education. One very interesting feature is that in the upper class the children begin to learn French.

Miss Emy thinks that the eleven plus is a good means of selection for secondary education in the present circumstances. With the schools as they are in East Grinstead, only a large Comprehensive School would be the answer to the abolition of the eleven plus. If it were abolished Miss Emy would like either the idea of a Comprehensive School or the idea that all children should go to a secondary school until fifteen, and then those who wished to continue their education at a higher level would proceed to another school. This method is called The Mason Plan (after the Director of Education, Mr. Stuart Mason).

St. Mary's has had satisfactory results from the eleven plus examinations and with the possible exception of one pupil, Miss Emy thinks that in the ten years she has been there, the children have gone to the secondary schools best suited to them.

I asked Miss Emy if the school had as many teachers as she would like to have. She says they have got as many as there is room for, including one part-timer. I asked if the raising of the leaving age to sixteen would affect the staff shortage, since some teachers might leave junior schools for secondary schools. Miss Emy said it would, and the only solution would be to let children stay on if they wanted to, but not to compel them.

The school has no television, but sound radio is well used. Programmes such as "Music and Movement", "Time and Tune", "Rhythm and Melody",

"History" and "Junior Science", are used. They are very interesting and factual.

The sports facilities of the school include a field, used for football and cricket, and a playground for rounders.

There is not much social side to the school. Occasionally plays are produced and some children play recorders. Concerts are also produced and the money raised goes in the main to approved Charities.

IMBERHORNE ST. PETER'S ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL

The present St. Peter's R. C. School was founded in 1885. From 1879-1885 there was no school in the town for children of Catholic parents and St. Peter's was opened to meet the need.

1885 was before the days of state education as we know it, and like the other old-established schools of East Grinstead, St. Peter's was under the patronage of a local benefactor, in this case Sir Edward and Lady Margaret Blount of near-by Imberhorne Manor.

The original school was in one of the houses on the Imberhorne Estate. By 1889 the school had twenty-one pupils on roll. On roll to-day - 143.

Modern extensions were erected in 1958, the school now being voluntary aided by the East Sussex L.E.A. It is now for infants and juniors.

The present Headmaster is Mr. J. D. Rowlinson who has been in charge of Imberhorne St. Peter's since 1956.

Since the school is primarily for Roman Catholics and is the only one in the district, pupils are brought from a much wider area than normally would be the case, some coming from places as far apart as Blindley Heath and Hartfield.

The children are grouped in classes according to age. The numbers are too small to make streaming for ability justifiable.

At the moment the school has no television but radio broadcast lessons are used regularly. Sports facilities include a football, cricket and netball pitches. No indoor gymnasium is available, but in 1967 it is hoped that a new hall will be built which can be used for P.E. and dancing.

Mr. Rowlinson is of the opinion that over the age of fifteen education should be voluntary. He also said that Religious Education should play an essential part in all schools, as indeed it does at St. Peter's.

BALDWINS HILL SCHOOL

by Ann Keith

The school started on January 12th 1864, as part of what was known as Lowdell's Charity. This makes Baldwins Hill School one of the oldest in the area we are covering in this survey.

There were 36 pupils on roll when it started as an all range school. I continued as such until 1936 when it became a Junior School. The present buildings date from 1898 when the management passed into the hands of the Surrey Authority.

Now there are 98 children on roll, and this seems to be the only school in the district with room for more. Last term there were 116 children on roll.

The children come mainly from the area immediately surrounding the school. They have one child who comes from Godstone. Being on the border they take children from both Sussex and Surrey.

The school is small and it has no hall or gymnasium, and the lavatories are outside. When asked if there was any chance of any improvements Mr. Rumble said there was not. The prayers are taken in a classroom owing to lack of space. To get to the Head's study, whichever way you go, you have to disturb a class.

The sports facilities are very good. They have a playing field in which there is room for football and hockey pitches.

The children are divided into four classes; they are grouped in the class according to age and ability. In one class there might be children of eight and eleven and then they are grouped accordingly.

When I asked Mr. Rumble for his views on the eleven plus, he said that if we must have the eleven plus it should be selective and not competitive. He also said that his eleven plus results were as good as he expected and the children went to the appropriate school according to ability.

There is a shortage of teachers but even so they do have classes of twenty-five.

Radio is used a little but not television.

When I asked Mr. Rumble if there was any unfulfilled, dearly cherished wish that he had for his school, he replied that he wished it was much bigger because then it would be much more manageable.

FELBRIDGE COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL

by G. Godwin

From my recent interview with Miss Goble, the Head teacher of Felbridge County Primary School, I learned that the school was founded in 1783 by James Eyvlyn a descendant of the famous diarist. At this time it was a Dame School.

In 1871 the present buildings were taken over to be run by the Church. It was then acquired by the Surrey Council after the Education Act of 1927.

The school consists of three classrooms, one office, a kitchen and a sixteenth century house. As the toilets are outside, Miss Goble would like new ones added to the school. She would also like a new canteen; at present the classrooms are used.

Although the school seems small, I was told that there were 77 pupils and that there was still plenty of room.

Miss Goble told me that she did not stream for ability as she thought that pupils found their own level and kept to it.

Miss Goble said that although she could do with more teachers, her eleven plus results were quite satisfactory. I also asked Miss Goble if she thought that any of her eleven plus failures would have done well at the Grammar School, but she thought not. Miss Goble said she was in favour of the Comprehensive School System of Secondary Education, which would do away with the eleven plus. Although the school buildings are old, the teachers are in touch with all the newest ideas in teaching, for tape recording, radio and film shows are used.

There is plenty of room for sport in the spacious field and tree lined glade. There is also a large open air stage in a natural setting.

With its long history and pleasant setting added to progressive ideas in education I hope that this grand village school will continue for many years to come.

COPTHORNE C. E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

by Hilary Robe

As part of our survey of local schools I went to Copthorne to see Mr. Parkes the new Headmaster. First of all he told me some of the history of his school.

The school was opened in 1879 and consisted of two classrooms. For twenty-one years the Rev. Gray was a manager of the school. Outside the school is a plaque commemorating the opening of the school. In those days children often took a week off to help their parents during the hop-picking season. On those occasions, few children were left at school.

The summer holiday was then non-existent but something called a harvest holiday was held; for example, in 1879 it extended from August 2nd to September 2nd.

In 1894 there were two classrooms and 174 pupils; these pupils were taught by two teachers and a pupil teacher.

In 1958 the enrolled children dropped to 114. From 1959 the children left after the eleven plus to go to the new Imberhorne School.

The school has developed in many ways since 1879; the main development being its size, in number of children and buildings. At one time few children stayed to school meals, but now there are 140 children taking meals and two sittings are needed.

At the moment there are 184 children on roll and in January the number will be 202, and the school could take more. Most of these children come from Copthorne but some come from Domewood, Rowfant, and Shipley Bridge.

Mr. Parkes is not keen on the eleven plus as he thinks it tends to judge a child on only one day of the year. If he had his way, a number of tests would be taken during the year under examination conditions, and these would form the basis of secondary selection.

When asked if the school buildings were satisfactory Mr. Parkes replied that they were crowded and there was no hall for assembly. The reception room was too narrow. If he could have extra rooms added he would have either a gymnasium, a hall, or a hall equipped as a gymnasium.

At Copthorne the Junior children are grouped for ability. The children with average mentality being put together and children with below average mentality being treated in the same way.

Copthorne's eleven plus results are excellent, but Mr. Parkes feels they could be better if the school had more teachers, and more accommodation. At the moment there are six full-time and one part-time teachers.

Radio is used to some extent and films are also shown, usually on Fridays. These films cover a number of topics.

At Copthorne there is a stamp club and a choir which are both held after school.

Although Mr. Parkes has been at Copthorne School only five months his dearest wish is to have modern buildings and a good playing field, as the present one is rather uneven. This should be achieved shortly as the County has instructed contractors to commence work on this project without delay.

INTERVIEW WITH THE HEADMASTER OF CRAWLEY DOWN

PRIMARY SCHOOL

by Ian Crowder

I started my interview by asking Mr. Byrom if he could give me a brief history of the school. Apparently the school was built about a century ago. It then belonged to the church and continued so until 1956. From what I gathered it still has close ties with the church. Up to 1949 Crawley Down was an all-age school.

When the school opened it had two classrooms and 146 pupils. At this time the school had a gallery running the full length of it. It has since been removed.

During the war the school was shared by two schools from London and the children from Crawley Down. They spent half the day at the Village Hall and half at the school. At that time the school field was a garden to provide a portion of the food for school meals.

The school records show that during, and before the 1914-18 war some of the children had to walk two to three miles to school each day. During the winter they had to thaw or dry out in front of large open fires. They were then given hot soup before they were fit to do any work.

Children now come to the school from Crawley Down to the borders of Copthorne, Turners Hill, Rowfant and Felbridge.

One interesting fact is that nothing has been entered into the punishment book for the last five years.

I then put what might be a sticky question to Mr. Byrom. I asked if he had any views on the retention or abolition of the eleven plus. Mr. Byrom said he preferred Comprehensive schools to separate Secondary Modern and Grammar schools. He said he thinks the teacher should be allowed to judge the children because they know the children and would know whether they were suited to one or other of the secondary systems. Mr. Byrom said the eleven plus was not the wrong examination; it was the best that could be devised. He thought it was not the examination that mattered, but the secondary education.

When asked what he would put in the place of the eleven plus he said that he would have extensive tests over a period of four or five years as part of the terminal examinations. He thought that this way he could get a better estimate of the type of secondary education the child needed.

Mr. Byrom would very much like to see a decent kitchen, an assembly hall and a study added to his school. As they are at the moment the buildings are not complete. An M.I. room would be a most welcome addition.

Mr. Byrom does not stream for ability. He thought his eleven plus results were satisfactory and he did not think any of the failures would have done well at the Grammar School.

The staffing situation at Crawley Down is good but Mr. Byrom would like a part-time teacher to help with the work. They have a radio at Crawley Down but would like a television and a tape-recorder..

Sports facilities are not good as they have only one very small field. They play football, netball, cricket and shinty.

Looking into the future, Mr. Byrom sees the raising of the school-leaving age, better buildings, new secondary systems and a greater number of University places. There should be improvements all round with opportunities for everyone.

SCHOOL MEALS IN EAST GRINSTEAD - NOW AND THEN

All the schools we have covered in our survey have school dinners, cooked and served on the premises. At the moment Sackville and Chequer Mead share the same facilities.

School meals are largely a post-war development from conditions made necessary by war-time needs. The number of children using the service grows year by year.

To find out how the service operates we spoke to Mrs. Harbour, who is in charge of school meals at Imberhorne. We were told that the service is under a County Organiser. All the provisions are ordered from County Hall. Mrs. Harbour is sent a list of recommended dishes from which she makes up a menu, planned two weeks in advance.

Work on the meals starts at 8.30 a.m. Mrs. Harbour and her twelve helpers have no small task. They prepare 560 meals a day. To give but one example of the quantities of provisions needed, Imberhorne uses 15 cwt. of potatoes a week.

Naturally the method of service varies from school to school, but at Imberhorne tables are laid for eight people, staff sitting with the pupils. Two servers from each table collect the food from the service hatches. At the moment the charge per head is one shilling.

Whilst it is true that school meals as we know them are modern, nevertheless at least one school in the area of our survey had a form of school dinner many years ago. Under the Will in 1793 of James Evelyn, benefactor and founder of Felbridge School, money was provided for the purchase of four stones of beef to be made into broth and distributed every Thursday from the beginning of November to the end of April. Believe it or not the school mistress had the job of making the broth. Miss Gobels, you had better watch out!

In addition four stones of beef was allowed to be cooked and served on Sundays during the same period. Again the school mistress was the cook. She was given 200 faggots of wood to cook by, sixpence a week as wages and one penny per head for beer and one penny for bread for all those who took part. Their numbers were to be not less than twelve or more than fourteen.

The method of distribution varied a little over the years but the meals were still being cooked and eaten at the turn of the century.

THE EVENING INSTITUTES

by Lorraine Barber

East Grinstead's Evening Institutes are based on Sackville and Imberhorne County Secondary Schools but in addition a few classes are held at East Grinstead Grammar School.

The Sackville Evening Institute formerly The East Grinstead Institute, has been established for over thirty years and its Principal is the Headmaster of the school, Mr. D. Neave, B.A. The classes of the Imberhorne Evening Institute, under the Principal Mr. J. Beale, are held in the ideal surroundings of a well-equipped modern building.

The Institutes cover a wide range of subjects both academic and practical. The subjects offered in the academic field include English, catering for the overseas visitor as well as those taking examination courses, and a variety of languages, such as French, German, Italian and Spanish.

A number of Commercial Courses are available at Sackville comprising, Shorthand, Typewriting, Book-keeping and Accounts, whilst at Imberhorne an alternative Typewriting course is held.

In the practical field Needlework classes for all stages are held at the centres and at both Sackville and Imberhorne cookery is a very popular class. An old-established and very well-attended class is that of Handicrafts and Art. This course includes every aspect of this subject.

Two special attractions of this course are the Pottery class (the pottery room at Imberhorne is equipped with two kilns) and the Painting-in-Oils class which was started last winter. For Woodwork, well-equipped workshops provide scope for every aspect of the craft. The class is open for both men and women. Toys, furniture and many other useful articles can be made.

Classes for Ballroom Dancing are held at Imberhorne. Keep-fit and Fitness Training classes are held at Sackville and Imberhorne for both men and women. The Young Ladies' Choir provides an opportunity for girls and young ladies to enjoy the pleasure of choral singing.

In addition there are a number of other classes which are mainly of interest to younger persons working for the 'O' level of G.C.E., R.S.A., and similar examinations. These are in English, Science, Technical Drawing, and Mathematics and are designed to supplement the work of the last year at normal day school.

THE ANNIVERSARY

OF THE

East-Grinsted, Ashurst-Wood, and Holtze,

Sabbath Schools,

WILL BE HELD AT

Zion Chapel, East Grinsted,

On **SUNDAY** the 15th. of **JUNE 1834:**

Two Sermons,

Will be Preached on the Occasion,

By the Rev. Edward Nicholls,

OF GODSTONE.

Services to commence in the Morning, at a quarter before Eleven; and in the Evening at a quarter past Six o'Clock.

A Hymn will be sung by the Children, before the Morning and Evening Sermons, and they will be Examined in the Afternoon, at half-past Two.

The number of Children taught is 392.

The liberality of our kind Friends is again solicited towards the support of an Institution whose benevolent and pious object is to preserve the dear Children, from the paths of vice and folly; to instruct them in the great truths of the Bible; and, under the Divine Benediction, to promote their present and future welfare.

EDUCATION IN EAST GRINSTEAD BEFORE 1861

Children, so we are told, have never loved going to school. It is not true. Before there were any schools as we know them as many as 400 young people were clamouring to get the rudiments of reading, writing and arithmetic at Zion Chapel Sunday School.

Shortly after Zion opened in 1811 a school was formed. How a very devoted band of voluntary teachers undertook the task of teaching anything like 400 in premises smaller than Zion is to-day, must for ever remain a mystery. How successful they were we do not know, but they must be given credit for any of the poorer people of East Grinstead of over 100 years ago being able even to write their own names.

About 1840 a rival Sunday School was opened by the Parish Church, and in 1849 keen souls could walk as far as Forest Row to the new school there. After the opening of the National School, East Grinstead, in 1861 the need for Zion declined and gradually the school became what it is to-day, an ordinary Sunday School.

Zion's was not the only school in the town. From 1708 there was a Free Grammar School in East Grinstead founded under the endowment of Robert Payne, a member of a family which owned much property in and around the town.

The school house was part of the buildings of the Parish Church. The number of scholars varied according to funds available but in 1775 there were only ten.

From time to time the school closed, as for example in 1772 when no schoolmaster could be found, which is not surprising, as the pay offered was the princely sum of £20 a year. Again closure came in 1785 when with the Parish Church the schoolroom was destroyed. In 1808 the school had a room in the vestry of the new church, but for some reason had to go to Sackville College in 1816.

Fee paying scholars were being admitted and the number rose to 80 by 1830, 25 of whom were free of payment. Trouble struck again and the school had to close because the room at the College was no longer available. With true Christian generosity Zion allowed the use of their premises for evening classes during this period.

In 1847 the Free Grammar School moved to Cromwell House. The last schoolmaster was Mr. C. R. Duplex who had to move from Cromwell House and finally used an old building in Old Road, the Frog Hole of years gone by. Here the school closed for ever when Mr. Duplex retired in 1880.

The Payne Endowment carries on. From 1887 exhibitions have been available for boys and girls of East Grinstead and Forest Row. They still are.

EMPLOYMENT FOR SCHOOL LEAVERS

Interview with Mr. Wickison - Youth Employment Officer

by Lynda Davis and Susan Lindfield

The prospects for school-leavers in East Grinstead and district are quite good compared with those in other parts of the country. East Grinstead is mostly a residential area with some light industry which supplies a number of people with jobs. There are also clerical jobs for those people who are suitably qualified. The work that interests the boys is mainly practical work such as building, engineering, motor-engineering, factory work and shop work.

The traditional work in East Grinstead is domestic, private and institutional, outside work such as farming and market gardening, clerical work and retail selling.

The new development which may effect school-leavers in East Grinstead are the new factories in Durkins Road, the development of the Stennings site for offices and also the new offices which are to be built in Christopher Road,

Crawley New Town has a mild effect on East Grinstead as only the better qualified people go to work there, but with the growth in numbers of school-leavers in that district there is now more competition.

Only a small proportion of school-leavers go to work in other towns. Nobody needs to go out of East Grinstead to get work except those seeking technical jobs and only the people that want to, do so.

The largest number of openings for girl school-leavers is in retail distribution and domestic work but not everybody likes this sort of work. There are opportunities as telephonists, clerks and factory workers. The majority of boys prefer a job which gives them training, jobs like engineering, building and motor trades. The girls go for jobs like hairdressing, clerical and shopwork.

We then asked Mr. Wickison if G.C.E. or some other external examination is important in order to get a good job. In his opinion for certain jobs a number of G.C.E. passes in different subjects are essential but a good basic education is all right for other jobs. If any boys or girls have the chance of getting G.C.E. they ought to aim at a job that needs these qualifications.

Finally we asked Mr. Wickison what proportion of school-leavers go on to technical colleges for further education. He said that a small proportion of girls go on to full-time study of commercial subjects at a college. Many boys attend a College of Further Education on a part-time basis as part of their training in building and engineering.

FOREST ROW SCHOOL

by N. Ralph

The school was built in 1851, 19 years before compulsory education, and is on a site of one acre presented by Viscount Gage. The land belonged to the Manor of Maresfield and was given to the Church under a trust deed to provide a school for the education of the village children. The money was provided by the Church and the school was also built by the Church. The Headmaster's house was in the middle and the boys were on the east and the girls on the west. They were taught separately until 1920.

In 1935 the Local Education Authority re-organized schools to cater for senior pupils. The Church altered the school structurally for senior pupils from Forest Row and Hartfield, but still took juniors.

When the Education Act of 1944 came, the managers of the school asked the Local Education Authorities to take the school over as a "controlled" school and in 1948 this was done.

The Church was the first to realize the value of education and was a worthy pioneer, but when education became a National concern it was unable to meet the standards required. Ever since that time responsibility has been with the Local Education Authority, and things have been greatly improved.

In 1926 the parish room was used as a canteen. It was one of the first canteens in the country. The voluntary staff prepared meals at 4d. each which brought in a profit.

The Hambro Hall was built in 1933 as a memorial to Mrs. Hambro. It was used as a Domestic Science room for the girls and as a woodwork shop for the boys.

During World War Two pupils from schools in Dover and Balham came to Forest Row for their education. At this time there were 360 on roll so the Scout Hut and Womens Institute Room were used. There was little shelter, so a boy lay on the flat roof and when the flying bombs came over gave a warning whistle and the pupils dived under the desks until the 'all-clear' whistle. In 1944 some of the pupils were evacuated from 'Bomb Alley' to Cardiganshire in West Wales and returned at Christmas the same year.

The next year the Parents Association was formed and it is still functioning. It is a most useful link between the home and school.

On the 31st August, 1959 the school was re-organized again and the seniors were transferred to Sackville. Forest Row school then became

a Primary School and so continues to-day.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Jupp, the present Headmaster for sending us a booklet from which the above information was taken.

ALDERMAN MRS. STELLA MAY LOCKER O.B.E.

This address was given at her funeral by the Vicar of
East Grinstead, The Rev. H. C. F. Copsey

We are here to pay tribute to a very great lady. Mrs. Locker was blessed with abundant gifts - with charm and ability, with wisdom and kindness, with sympathy and understanding, a deep integrity, a sense of humour and a delight to work as hard as was necessary in order to make a success of all she undertook. The world in which she lived was enriched on all sides by the life of Stella May Locker; our world is greatly impoverished by her death.

Many of you who are present this afternoon knew our friend far more intimately than I knew her. You knew her as wife and mother (what a fine help-mate she must have been to her husband, at one time M.P. for S.E. Essex), you may remember her as a trained Physio-Therapist working in Ashurst Wood Red Cross Hospital during the last war. Some may even remember her work as a V.A.D. at St. George's Hospital, Malta, in the first World War.

But to most of us as we think of Mrs. Locker come memories of her devoted service in so many fields of activity during the thirty years and more since she and her husband came to live in Sussex. It is not for me to mention in detail these activities, nor the pleasure mingled with sorrow which was hers to receive (only two days after her husband's death, a letter telling her she was to be honoured with the O.B.E.) Her faith and courage then, and when her only son was killed in the R.A.F. were an example to everyone.

We remember her particularly for her great contribution in the field of Education. As a County Councillor and more recently as Alderman on East Sussex County Council, Mrs. Locker's wide knowledge and deep concern in matters relating to Education were second to none.

Still more intimately was she known and loved here in the neighbourhood of East Grinstead as Chairman of Governors of East Grinstead Grammar School, of Imberhorne Secondary Modern School, and as Chairman or Manager of various other schools, including Chailey Heritage.

It was here as a School Governor that her true character became most apparent. Not only was she a wide and able Chairman, but increasingly as I served under her I became aware of her deep concern - not only for the well-being of the school, but of her deep and costly concern, so far as lay in her power for every child in that school and for every member of the staff.

Headmasters will know better than others of the almost unlimited time she was willing to give to their problems. Typical of her friendly interest were the delightful parties she gave for new Headmasters at her home here in this village.

I have spoken enough. Yet one thing remains to be noticed. Mrs. Looker was a fine Christian lady, a loyal and devoted member of the Church of England. In our own day this Church comes in for perhaps more than it's share of criticism. But so long as it produces men and women such as our friend - those who serve the world they live in sacrificially, not counting the cost, because they first serve Almighty God - so long will men thank God for the Church, with all its faults.

So we take leave of our friend. We thank God for her life of splendid service. We commend her to the mercy and love of God "whom to serve is to reign". In the heavenly places without doubt she will receive her full reward.

May she rest in peace;
May light perpetual shine upon her;
May those who mourn be comforted.

And may we who are left ask for ourselves only this: that we may be strengthened and inspired to follow more nearly her good example.

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