

# **BEXHILL SCHOOLS**

## *Section 1 (Volume 39.1)*

### **CHURCH & STATE SCHOOLS**

St Peter's - Holliers Hill

St Mark's - Little Common

Sidley – All Saints School

St Peter's Girls and Infants - Barrack Road

St Mary Magdalene Catholic Church School - Magdalene Road

St Barnabas Infants - Western Road [now the Library]

St Barnabas Boys - Reginald Road

Down School [later King Offa]

### **STATE SCHOOL REORGANISATION IN THE 1930S**

St Barnabas Girls and Infants Down Secondary Modern School

### **INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

Sandown      St Ives              Pendragon      Beehive \* (see also elsewhere)

Holmwood    Charters Towers    Wrestwood      St John's Girls' School

Winceby House    Mayfield    Colwell Court (Pages Avenue)

Ancaster House Preparatory School

Normandale (Collington Rise)

Beechmont [ex Danecourt] (Collington Lane West)

St Francis (Westdown Road)

Effingham House / Seafield / Falconbury ... demolished

Thornbank (Portsdown Lodge)

# CHURCH & STATE SCHOOLS

A short history of the church schools founded in the second half of the 19th century needs to be mentioned before the development of education in the town up to the Second World War.

By the 1880s, the National Schools, under the auspices of the Church of England, were to be found at: –.

**Hollier's Hill** **St Peter's** was opened in 1853 and was a mixed school for boys and girls but a girls only department was opened in 1862 and an infants in 1872. It was then designated a "mixed" school and was also the first school for public elementary education. The building was closed as an educational establishment in 1940 with the advent of the Second World War and evacuation.

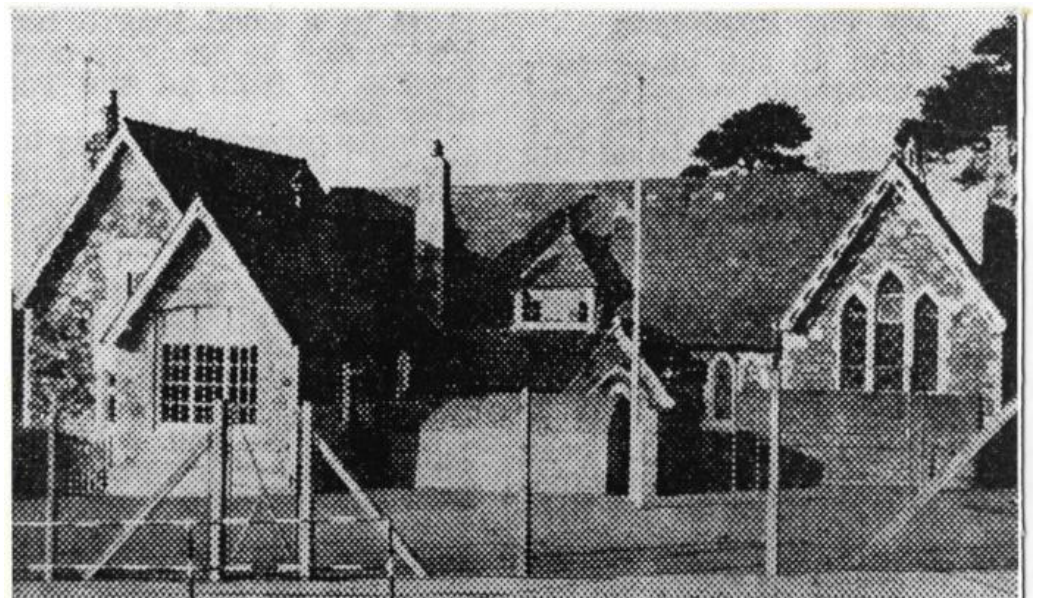


In 1881 the population of Bexhill was 2,000+ and by 1891 had risen to 5,500; additional educational provision was necessary and extra schools were built in the following areas together with the original three schools (above) they provided education through the 1930s to the Second World War or beyond.

*Hollier's Hill, St Peter's*

**Little Common, St Mark's** opened in 1855 and was enlarged in 1890; it had an offshoot at Normans Bay. The original St Mark's school building was closed in 1961 when the present Little Common School (not church aided) was built. The old building next to St Mark's church was demolished and is now the car park.

The old building next to St Mark's church was demolished and is now the car park. All three of the original Church schools were, therefore, operating into, during and past 1930s



**The old St. Mark's school, opened in 1855 and now demolished**

*Little Common, St Mark's*



*Sidley, All Saints School*

All Saints School was opened in 1865 and enlarged in 1910.

The original school was part of the building on the left of the photograph (with the porch) and the right-hand side building added later.

All Saints became an infants only school and currently the building houses Robert Mitchell school. A new All Saints Infants school was built to the south of the old building.



**Barrack Road - St Peters Girls' and Infants' School** was built in 1885 (it was only the gable section shown in the first photograph, above) and enlarged by the addition of the right-hand extension in 1895. It was enlarged still further, in 1910, by the addition of the right-hand building shown in the second photograph and continued until 1956 when the new St Peter and St Paul school was built in Buckhurst Road.



The building was not closed as a school, however, but continued as **Chantry Infant School**; the older children transferring to the new school, which was the first to be built as a church-aided school for 60 years. Far right, in the photograph below, was the schoolhouse, which later became the Police Station and, now, Torfield Assessment Centre.

**Magdalen Road** – As well as the early schools being maintained and operated by the Church of England, St Mary Magdalen's Catholic Church had its own school designated as an all age school in 1910. It operated alongside the church seen in the photograph and was enlarged in 1936.



The building was on the left, through the arch, seen in the photograph below – it is now uses the church hall, school having been moved to Nazareth House in Hastings Road in 1959, when the building next to the church became totally inadequate.



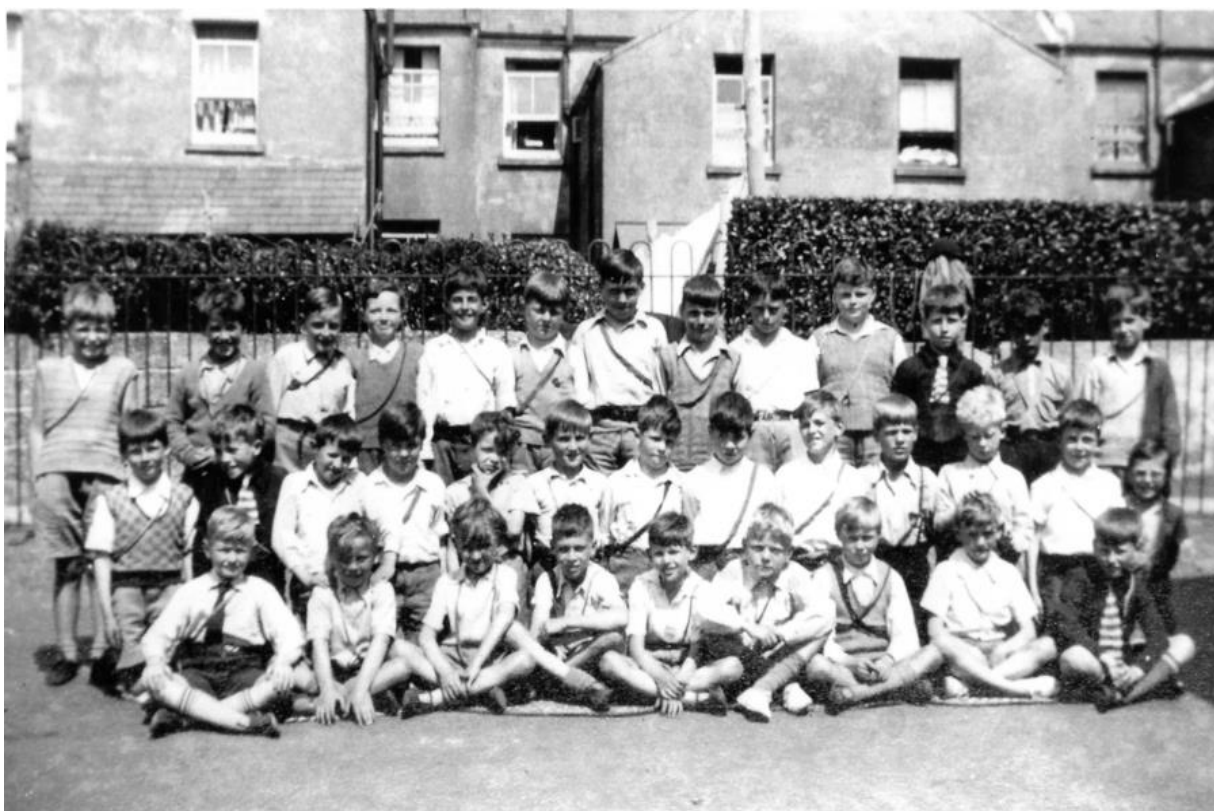
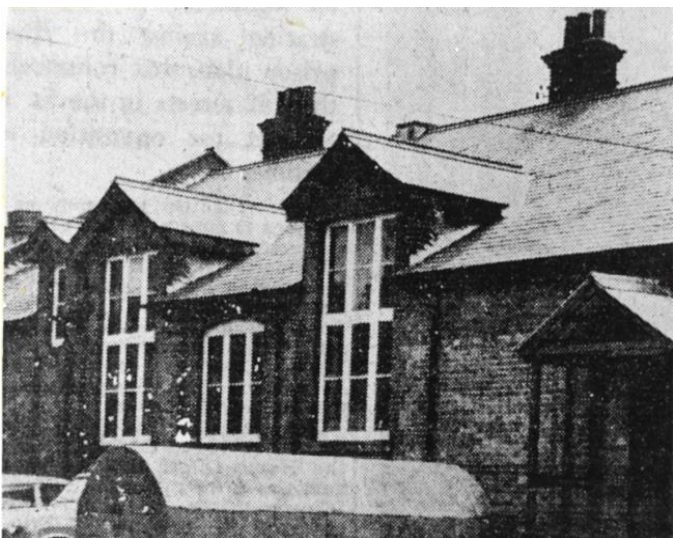
## Development South of the Railway.

The need for more school places, and with the development of the new town south of the railway, lead to the construction of additional schools in: –

**Western Road** St Barnabas Infants' in 1893 and Girls' in 1897 on the left.. The building is now the public library (photo on right), as, with the outbreak of the Second World War, the school closed and never re-opened.



**Reginald Road** St Barnabas boys in 1898. This school operated until 1956 when the new school in Buckhurst road was opened. The photograph on the left, below, shows the school before the air raid shelters situated to the north of the building, were demolished; the middle photograph shows it today (2006) and that, on the right, shows the building being used as a printer's premises (2006).



*St Barnabas Boys' School Photograph, in Reginald Road taken in 1938/9*

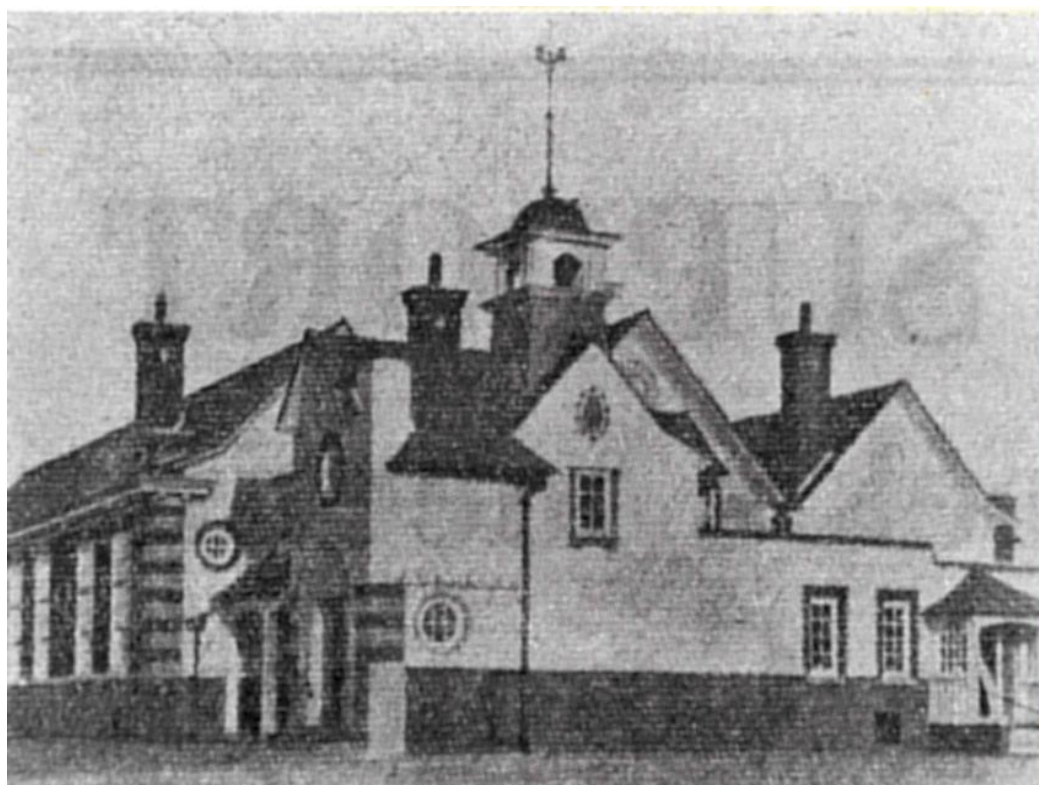


## ***Memories of St Barnabas in Reginald Road***

*We lived in Terminus Villas in Bexhill and our back door was nearly opposite the school Reginald road; when it was playtime on the mornings, in the wintertime, closer take over a cup of cocoa for my son to drink . . . - Mrs A. Guile, Heathfield*

However, in spite of the above development, the rapid increase in population from 5,500 in 1891 to just over 12,000 in 1901 created further crises in the educational field. This coincided with the granting of the Corporation Charter in 1902, so that its own Education Committee came into being and with it, the building of further school accommodation. This was to cater for the influx in the “new” part of the town – southwards and westwards – and so the Down Score came into being and was the first school not under church auspices.

### **Down School**



***The photograph shows the first part of the Down School, as completed in 1907, and before the present Down Infant School was added in 1912.***

The first part of the Down School was completed in 1907 at a cost of over £7,000 and it catered for 160 infants and girls through to 14 years of age. The boys were still housed in Reginald Road.

This school population steadily increased from its opening through the 1930s until the outbreak of the Second World War when a new era began.

As quoted in the logbook of the Down School for 1937/8 “ . . . . . The school roll is now 335, and approaching the end of the 1930s the school is severely overcrowded”. Remember, there were no extra huts as there are now!

The two photographs below show the second part of the school, added in 1912. It ran Southwards from the gabled entrance, with the bell tower and weathervane aloft, has seen comparing the “old” and the present photographs.



The exteriors of the Down Junior School (now King Offa's) and Down Infants' have changed little since they were built.

## Some entries in the Down School (Now King Offa) logbook for the 1930s

In each year entries were made recording participation in Hastings Musical Festival (e.g. teams of girls took part in Country Dance competition), and Town Inter-school sports.

The school was closed regularly when children went on Sunday School treats and when Girl Guide rallies took place on the premises.

Open evenings, at the end of Autumn Terms, attracted 300/400 people (including Town Councillors, members of the Bexhill Town Council Education Committee, parents and friends).

*Empire Day (May 24th) ; children visited the Playhouse Cinema to see films connected to the Empire e.g. "Rhodes of Africa" usually at the invitation of the current Mayor of Bexhill.*

29.11.34 School closed for wedding of H.R.H. Duke of Kent.

6.11.35 School closed for wedding of H.R.H. Duke of Gloucester

### 1935

6, 7, 8 May School closed; Silver Jubilee of the reign of their Majesties King George and Queen Mary.

7 May Children entertained as follows; in the morning they went to the Playhouse to see the film "25 Years a King"; in the afternoon – the country fair in Egerton Park, then tea and conjuring entertainment at the de la Warr Pavilion.

12 Dec School closed for the opening of the de la Warr pavilion.

### 1936

January The timetable has been somewhat suspended to allow for the broadcast of the declaration of the accession of His Majesty King Edward VIII.

11.5.36 Dinner canteen started – 110 children took advantage.

### 1937

6th May Mayor, Mayoress and other councillors attended the school for the distribution of Correlation Souvenir books and coins.

12 – 14 May Celebrations for the Coronation of King George VI.

Friday morning at the Playhouse to see the film "House of Windsor".

Saturday matinee variety performance at the de la Warr Pavilion.

Late 1930s ". . . Older children were sent to temporary premises at the Methodist Chapel in Bell Hill, due to overcrowding at the school but this was interrupted when severe weather caused the temperature of the accommodation to fall to 36° F. Children were brought back to the school and the temporary accommodation was closed".

"There were difficulties of organisation which must persist until the Authorities ruled in program provides adequate senior school accommodation. Insufficient space makes a hall class unavoidable and considerable overcrowded in some classes can only be eliminated by undesirable promotion".

18.9.39 School re-opened to accommodate evacuees from London with subsequent alteration to school year arrangements.

Morning session:

9-12.30 School occupied by Creek Road., LCC Boys' School.

9.30-11.30 Our children to various centres (occupational) at Girl Guide Hut, Malet Hall, Christ Church, etc.

Afternoon session from 1-4.30 p.m.

Time table modified to suit arrangements.

9.10.39 Afternoon session altered from 1.30 to 4.30.

1.12.39 Afternoon session altered from 1.15 to 3.30.

The Creek Road children were re-evacuated in June 1940.

Ts Downs School was evacuated to Letchworth in July 1940 (304 children) and recommenced in Bexhill in November, 1941.

## **Memories of the Down Council School:**

*Our headmaster was Mr Hyde, a rather remote figure who emerged for daily assembly. His deputy was Mr Cross. I remember Miss Duffy best – she kept us for two years – at one time sixty of us! Just imagine the howls of protest now. She spent the winter muffled in a coat with a huge further collar, her nose shrouded in a handkerchief, the latter occasionally stowed away somewhere up her skirt . . . Mr Burbridge took us for music, where we roared out items from the National Song Book. . . Mr Jones, the Welsh boyo must have taken the boys for PE and games, and he had a large fan club amongst the girls!*

*Playtime activities in the girls' playground;*

*Skipping (many varieties)*

*Marbles, known as “alleys”*

*Chain-tag*

*Film stars*

*Cigarette Cards (played in pairs)*

*One would roll up a card and stand it on end with another card balanced on the top. The other player would flick her own card from a distance of several feet to try to dislodge the balanced card. If successful she kept the both cards if not she lost hers.*

*Ball games, endless varieties. Some were played against the white bricks at the end of the building.*

*Statues*

*Swapping stamps and cigarette cards.*

*Hopscotch (2 varieties)*

*All these activities were wonderful for co-ordination and general knowledge though we didn't regard them as such at the time.*

*One dinner-our activity, which would have been outlawed had it been discovered, was to crawl through the storm water pipe which ran underground for about 60 yards under Little Common road and emerged at Pilbeam's Corner. Only the bravest accomplish this hazardous and daring feat.*

*Another extremely anti-social activity was standing for as long as possible in the clouds of smoke while course was being burned on the Down. Imagine the impact of a group of smoke-saturated children arriving for afternoon lessons!*

*The highlight of my final year was the school outing to Windsor Castle, and then down-River to Hampton Court. We chartered a steam-train from Bexhill West Station (where Fryers auction rooms are at the present time, 2018), and river boat to Hampton Court.*

*By Marion Muggridge (nee Hatton), Potmans Lane, Bexhill*

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## **STATE SCHOOL RE-ORGANISATION IN THE 1930s**

The 1930s was a crucial time for education generally and for Bexhill in particular. By 1930 “the time had arrived when proposals for re-organisation of the whole of the public elementary schools should be taken in hand without further delay”, as stated by the Bexhill Town Council.

Although the 1902 Education Act enabled local authorities to provide secondary education, almost half a century elapsed before such a school was provided in Bexhill.

The Bexhill Town Council bought land on open space west of the town behind the Down Schools where the High School now stands. Cuts in Government grants (things don't change – there was a recession then, too!) Led to a five-year delay in building. By this time severe overcrowding was being experienced in all schools, elementary education, up to 14, was carried out under one roof and education was stretched to the limits. However, a 50% grant became available in 1937.

With the advent of mixed senior schools to cater for 11-14 year-olds, the closure of St Peter's Boys' School, in Hollier's Hill, and St Barnabas Girls' and Infants' (on the corner of Sackville Road and Western Road which is, now, the library) in the “new” part of the town south of the railway was imminent, but, in the event, the outbreak of the Second World War forced their closures.

Approval for the senior schools was given in 1938, to accommodate 400 girls and 400 boys and this was made even more urgent by the raising of the school leaving age from 14 to 15 in 1939.

Even with the outbreak of war, building went ahead but not until 1943 was part of the building ready for scholastic use. The building is virtually the same at the present time but, in 1965, the school was converted to a co-educational establishment as Down Secondary Modern School.

## **SCHOOLS OPERATING IN THE 1930S**

- 1) Schools which opened in the middle of the 19th century and were still operating in the 1930s - All Saints, Sidley; St Mark's, Little Common; St Peter's, Hollier's Hill.
- 2) Schools which opened at the end of the 19th century or at the beginning of the 20th century: –  
  
St Peters, Barrack Road; St Barnabas, Western Road; St Barnabas, Reginald Road; St Mary Magdalen (RC), Magdalen Road; the Down school
- 3) Secondary School (11 – 15 year-olds) built during the Second World War
- 4) Grammar School (in existence since 1926)
- 5) Larger Independent Schools functioning in the 1930s: –  
  
Hastings Road Area  
Collington Avenue Area  
Collington Lane Area

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## **GRAMMAR SCHOOLS**

There were no Grammar Schools at the beginning of this century in the town so scholarship or fee-paying children eligible for secondary education had to travel to Rye, Lewis, Hastings or Eastbourne, all of which had flourishing grammar schools.

The delay in building the Grammar schools was due to the First World War, and the difficulty in obtaining a site. 60 boys and 56 girls commenced in 1926, in accommodation for 200 of each. The heads of the Grammar Schools were, then, Miss Davies and Mr Lamb who continued through the 1930s.

### ***Memories of Bexhill Grammar School***

*I went to the Bexhill Grammar School from 1931 to 1936; they were happy days with the truly dedicated teaching staff.*

*I went to see Sir Alan Cobham's Flying Circus when he came to a Little Common Recreation Ground, and a competition to judge the height and speed of a plane flying overhead was won by Mr T. B. Williams (History and Sports master) who came over and gave his prize to me – a ticket for a free flight.*

*When the good times at school ended, a number of ex-pupils from the Boys and Girls School got together to form their own club, aptly named "The Joie de Vivre club". Activities included football, cricket, water-polo, camping, rambling, dancing, roller-skating, hockey, etc . . . . Some very keen members travelled from Hastings, Burwash, Sedlescombe, and Boreham Street to attend meetings. Dennis ("Spud") Houghton, who later became the Town Mayor, was one of the club's most ardent members. - Ted Mephram, New Park Avenue, Bexhill*

An extract quoted in L. J. Bartley's book, "The Story of Bexhill", said "until this time the educational outlook in the town was almost entirely parochial . . . . They provided no link with, and had little interest in, the hinterland. Perhaps this particularly accounts for the failure to establish mutual concern which would have widened the outlook of the new town and made it more effective a centre of East Sussex life".

Grammar education was not provided until 1926, providing access to University education.

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## **INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

At the end of the last century, the construction of the coastal railway was an important factor in the development of Bexhill. The population increased from 20,000+ to 12,000+ in just 20 years. A rash of Private schools appeared; often family concerns or started by members of the clergy. This was especially so, where education was concerned, when the town and county became more important than the church.

By 1895 there were 16 Private schools, mostly single-sex establishments. Into the 20th century they catered for the ever-increasing middle-class, immigrants and children of colonials working overseas. The larger independent schools provided



excellent sports facilities - and who could forget the distinctive “crocodiles” of children, dressed in blazers and straw boaters, on a town visit or going to church?

When it was built Bexhill Station boasted one of the longest platforms. This was generally assumed to cater to the nobility visiting the De La Warr family at frequent intervals but elderly people who attended some of the private schools maintain that the long platform was to accommodate all the trunks and other luggage which arrived all at once from the pupils returning after holidays!

**Sandown** The school was established as Seafield in 1890, changing its name to Sandown in 1905 and continuing until World War II

**St Ives** Established in 1908, the school thrived until World War II when it was evacuated.

**Pendragon** This took over the St Ives building after World War II.

**Beehive** This school was situated in Dorset Road from 1900 until the outbreak of World War II. When the school returned after the war it moved to Broadoak Manor.

A bungalow at the corner of Magdalen and Dorset roads, opposite Ashdown Road, housed the chapel for the school.

**Others included: –**

**Effingham House** ) All demolished after the Second World War

**Seafield** ) to make way for housing developments

**Falconbury** ) between Collington Lane West and Cooden sea road

)

**Thornbank** Moved from Bexhill with Second World War, not returning after the war. It was situated where Thorndene and Thornbank flats now stand.

**Portsdown Lodge** A school in Cooden Sea Road, later the Post Office Engineering Management Centre (1964).

**Mayfield** Acquired by the Misses Leigh in 1935 it continued until the 1960s when the sisters gave up the school. The building itself was demolished during the past few years (2016).

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## **HASTINGS ROAD**

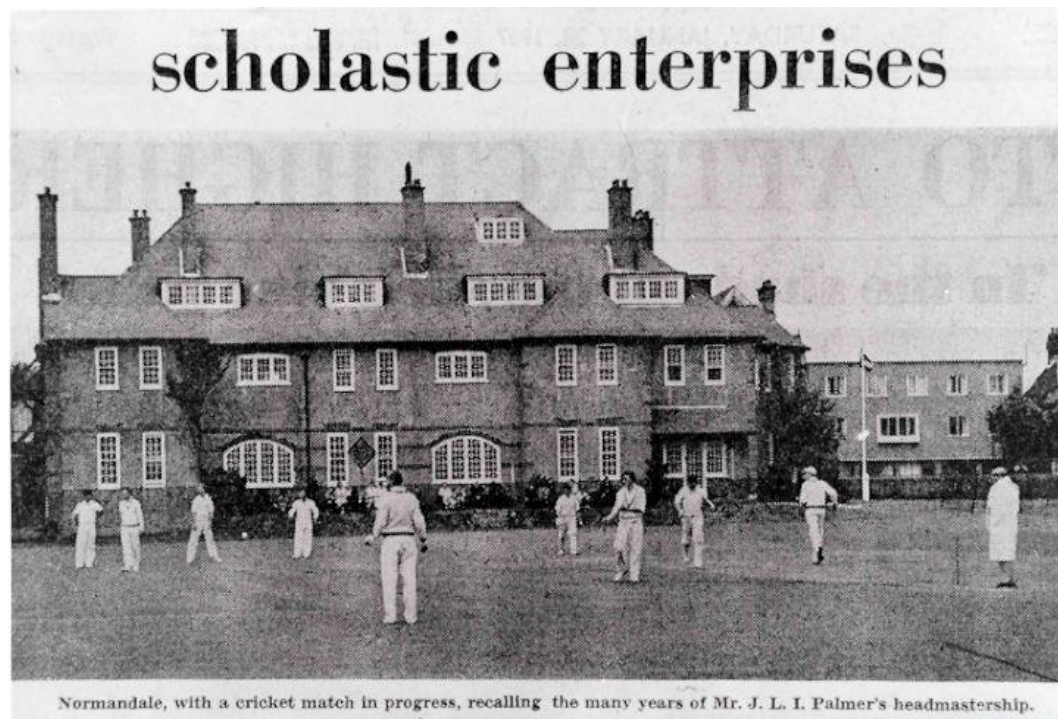


**Holmwood** The first private school to be built in the Hastings Road area. Founded by the Burbidge family, it was later Worthingholme, then Wilton House and, eventually, the building became part of Charters Towers.

## COLLINGTON AVENUE

This area developed very quickly with the opening of the road from Bexhill West, in 1902 (now, in 2018, Fryer's Auction Showrooms in Terminus Avenue), the schools in the Collington Avenue area being built with close proximity to both the stations and the rapidly developing "New" town.

**Normandale** Founded in 1902, this was well-known as one of the independent schools that provided first-class sports facilities. It thrived during the 1930s and amalgamated with Harewood in 1963 – remember the dark green and mauve blazers? Normandale was sited where the road called Normandale is now.



**Harewood** (No photo available) This boys' school was established in 1922 and continued as such into the 1960s. The original Proprietor and headmaster was Horace Everard Whicker, from Guernsey, who died in 1927. The school was subsequently bought by Mr. M. J. C. Phillips.

**Ancaster House** First part built in 1898, extended in 1914. A preparatory school, Ancaster Gate, started in 1935 by the Burrows family of whom Miss Burrows, who died in 1933, was the best known. She was a local benefactor, sponsoring schemes for the unemployed. With Mrs Meads, a fellow councillor (later to become Mayor) she did much for education in the town in the 1930s.



The photograph shows some of the original buildings, still in use today, within the Charters-Ancaster complex.



## Charters Towers

This school came to Bexhill from East Grinstead in 1934. It returned to the town in 1948 and became a public school. The photograph shows the oldest part of the school built next to the defunct Holmwood School, which was incorporated into the Charters Towers collection of buildings (see to the extreme right of the photograph and see above – Holmwood).



**Wrestwood** This building was erected in 1897 and between the wars was home to Lindores School which did not return to the town after the evacuation in the Second World War. Since the Second World War, the building has been occupied by St Mary's School for the Handicapped. The photograph shows the rear elevation of the building.



**St John's** A girls' school situated where the former Hastings and Thanet Building Society was built, now, in 2016, occupied by Thrift House, the Health Authority. This school was one of the many which did not return to the town after the evacuation in the Second World War.





**Colwell Court** Situated in Pages Avenue, it was linked with St John's in Collington Avenue from 1935 to 1958 when it became the holiday home for spastics.

**Some other independent schools of note that existed in the 1930s include:**



**Winceby House** This school moved to Cooden from Hastings Road in 1927 and held public school status. It was run by the Misses Wilson for over 50 years until the 1960s. The building, as built in Cooden, is recognisable as that taken over by the ILEA in the 1960s, on the retirement of the Misses Wilson. This building became defunct in the 1980s, biting the dust for yet more development.



**Collington Rise** That school was situated in the road which now bears the same name. It closed with the outbreak of the Second World War. After the war, the building was taken over by the Workers Education Association as a holiday home and more recently it has been changed to private accommodation. The school's chapel was housed in what is now the Nursery School in Birkdale.

## **COLLINGTON LANE WEST**

**Lake House School** In time, the building of independent schools crept westwards and several well-known establishments were built on the Collington Lane West area.

The first educational building in the area was Beechmont, formerly Danecourt School and renamed in the 1930s, transferring from the Woodsgate Park district.

It later became the property of the Girls' Life Brigade, as Lake House, having ceased to function as a school with the outbreak of the Second World War. It is now, once again, changing its function to private accommodation.





**St Francis** In West down Road, this was a private mansion until 1920 after which it had a variety of educational uses:

- i) An exclusive school for German children.
- ii) Used by the Down School in the First World War when the down school was used as a military hospital.
- iii) 1920 – Garth Place School.
- iv) 1938 – Nursery School
- v) Opened as St Francis School in 1946.

The photograph shows all that is left of the school – the ornate entrance which has been converted to private accommodation. The whole school site is now new development.



## **DECLINE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS**

World War II struck a grievous blow to the independent schools. Sudden evacuation severed many links built up over the years between “town and gown” and also between scholastic and family connections. Economic conditions, improved state education, and loss of support sources, made the path for independent schools much more difficult but there is no doubt that they contributed to town and civic advancement during the 1930s.

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## **MEMORIES**

*When I attended St Ives school in Hastings Road, I can remember nine schools in that particular area – Charters Towers, Ancaster House, Ancaster Gate, Beehive in Dorset Road, Devonshire House for boys, Sandown, Nazareth House the Roman Catholic orphanage, St Mary’s in Wrestwood Road and St Ives.*

*Life was quite Spartan at St Ives – we used to go to the boiler room to eat our lunch because it was warmer there and, at breakfast, we could have butter or marmalade on our bread but not both. We were greatly restricted weekends and rarely allowed out – and outings were not organised.*

*Washing of clothes was hardly hygienic by today’s standards. Garments such as blouses, pyjamas, and stockings were washed once a week, while our navy blue knickers were washed once a fortnight but knicker linings were washed every day.*

*Daphne Chesson (nee Mullen), Normans Bay*

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*I attended the Bexhill County Secondary School (later Bexhill Grammar School) from 1934 to 1940 and we girls were known as “the flannels”. The Headmistress was Miss Davies, who was a strict disciplinarian; we had no sports days, no speech days, no outings in contrast to the boys who had all these things.*

*When I was evacuated to Letchworth, at the beginning of World War II, the 6th form consisted of 8 girls (!), The teacher of being Miss Oliver, who is still alive. . . .*

*Phyllis Bannister (nee Greed), Colebrook Road, Bexhill*

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*I, also, attended St Ives and knew Daphne Chesson although it was only recently I met her again. Daphne was a boarder but I was a day pupil living in Bexhill. The boarders often went to tea with the day girls at weekends – usually to get a good feed!*

*We did anything to get out of the classroom for a diversion, however small. One such jolly activity was to go into another room where a pencil sharpener though was a fixture, sharpening their pencils so frequently that they soon became about an inch long. This did not go down well in the establishment were re-sources were not abundant.*

*I can remember a girl called Isolda Duncan who later married Peter Ustinov, and their daughter was Tamara, whose name crops up in the media now and again. I can also remember Jack and Claude Hulbert who attended the boys school along the road.*

*June Bishop (nee Davidson), St Lawrence House, Bexhill*

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*I attended St Mary Magdalen's School in Magdalen road during the 1930s. Originally the school had two classrooms and two teachers – Miss Hill, the head, and Mrs Gorman. Later a third room was built, and Mrs Gorman's daughter joined as the third teacher. I have been told the pupils who first used the third classroom had to polish their desks every Friday before they went home!*

*. . . . Being a small school, all the children knew each other, especially as there were children of large families in the school, some, like my own, having brothers and sisters in all three classes.*

*. . . . As a Catholic school, religion was high on the agenda, and strictly taught. As well as the normal subjects, sports were taught in the playground next to the school and included hockey, netball and rounders. During the summer we were taken to Bexhill Swimming Baths once a week for swimming lessons. Cookery and Woodwork were taught at what was then known as the Downs School.*

*. . . . A couple of punishments that might have been given out in those days included wearing a red tongue talking too much and a piece of wood to chew on for chewing your pencil.*

*Mrs Livia Knoll, Turkey Road, Bexhill*

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*I attended St Barnabas School in Western road (now the library) and the headmistress was Miss Kathleen Matthews; there were five classrooms, two on the ground floor, for the younger mixed classes and three on the upper floor, for the older girls.*

*The teachers concentrated on the three Rs; in fact, there were no facilities for other subjects apart from geography, history, etc., certainly no foreign languages, science or practical subjects.*

*We had turns in being monitors, and everybody liked being ink monitor, enveloped in large aprons, we escaped to the cloakroom to mix powdered ink and then went round the classroom filling inkwells. When "Miss" had left the room, pellets of blotting paper were dipped in the inkwells and with the aid of a ruler were flicked about classroom!*

*I also remember celebrating Empire Days in the Old-growth, making large Union Jacks with strips of red, white and blue cloth, usually ending up with them in the wrong order!*

*I look back on my school days with great affection.*

*Pam Walden, Bexhill Museum Custodian*

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*My mother, Flora Adam, started a small school in 1929 at Auckland House, Sidley which is now being replaced by the home for the elderly bearing the same name. She had been recently widowed in India, and came to Bexhill with five young children and began the kindergarten with friends help and advice. She also took in boarders, especially children from India. My brother, Kenneth, and I both attended Bexhill Grammar School, which was then Bexhill Secondary School . . . . My mother also gave piano and singing lessons to Bexhill people. Holidays were idyllic. We had a large garden at Auckland House and our friends and relations had happy times they are. One family, in particular, were the five Rowe children living in Hauliers Hill. Dorothy Rowe went to my mother's school – I would dearly love to contact one of them now.*

*In 1932, my mother moved to school to the marina, opposite the Delaware pavilion, and called it St Blaine . . . . Sadly, it was the time of another recession, her health deteriorated, and she had to give up the school. She died in 1937.*

*We left Bexhill in 1936, but the Bexhill connection was renewed when my husband and I started the washeteria in Sackville Road, where my son, Brian Savile is now the proprietor and lives in Little Common.*

*Mabel L. Savile (nee Adam), Truro, Cornwall .*

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*Does anyone remember Mabel Adam, later Mabel Savile, then Mabel Savile Lewis?*