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KENT HALLS OF RESIDENCE
STOCKWELL COLLEGE
OF EDUCATION
BROMLEY
KENT



In the early years of the nineteenth century Joseph Lancaster founded a school in the Borough Road, Southwark. Here, too, monitors were trained to be teachers and a training college was established. In 1861 the women students moved to a new college in Stockwell. In 1935 this college moved to the Old Palace in Bromley, Kent.

After a long history as a voluntary college, administered by the British and Foreign School Society, Stockwell was purchased on 1st August, 1960, by the Kent County Council. On 1st April, 1965, with the creation of the new London Borough of Bromley, a Joint Education Committee was set up to govern the college.

To mark the years during which the college was governed by the representatives of Kent, the halls of residence in Wanstead Road were re-named the Kent Halls in 1968. Three large detached houses, purchased by the college after the wartime exile in Torquay, known as Petra, Copplestones and Rosewood, they were re-named OXNEY, SHEPPEY and ROMNEY. To these three were added a new hall of residence, THANET.

Oxney contains the kitchen, dining room and student television room; also the Warden's flat and flatlets for resident domestic staff. Sheppey provides accommodation for 14 men students and Romney for 16 men students. The central common room is also in Romney. Thanet provides accommodation for 75 women students, all in single study bedrooms, and has two flatlets for resident staff.

CONSULTANTS :

Thanet was designed by

F. G. FRIZZELL, A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., A.I.L.A.
in association with the Kent County Architects.

Quantity Surveyors :

Nolans, 14, Charterhouse Square, E.C.1
Mechanical and Electrical Consultants :

Stainton Jones & Partners, 21, Gloucester
Place, W.1.

Structural Engineers :

Hunter & Dunn, 34, Smith Square, S.W.1.

Main Contractor :

Galbraith Brothers, Crayford Bridge, Cray-
ford, Kent.

THANET

DETAILS OF CONSTRUCTION

This hall, completed in July 1968, is of load-bearing, brick wall and cross wall construction, carried on mass concrete strip foundations and the outer walls are of cavity form with outer leaf in Allbrook Brown facing bricks, matching those used for the new halls on the main site.

The floor slabs are of *in situ*-poured concrete, at ground level being solid with mesh reinforcement and, at first and second floor levels, of reinforced tee beam and hollow tile infill design.

The staircases are of solid, *in situ*, reinforced concrete, finished internally with plaster and with hardwood treads and risers and externally with granolithic treads and risers and with strings and soffits left fair-faced, as obtained direct from the shuttering.

The roof is of flat, timber joisted construction with covering of two-inch thick wood-wool slab insulation and asphalt.

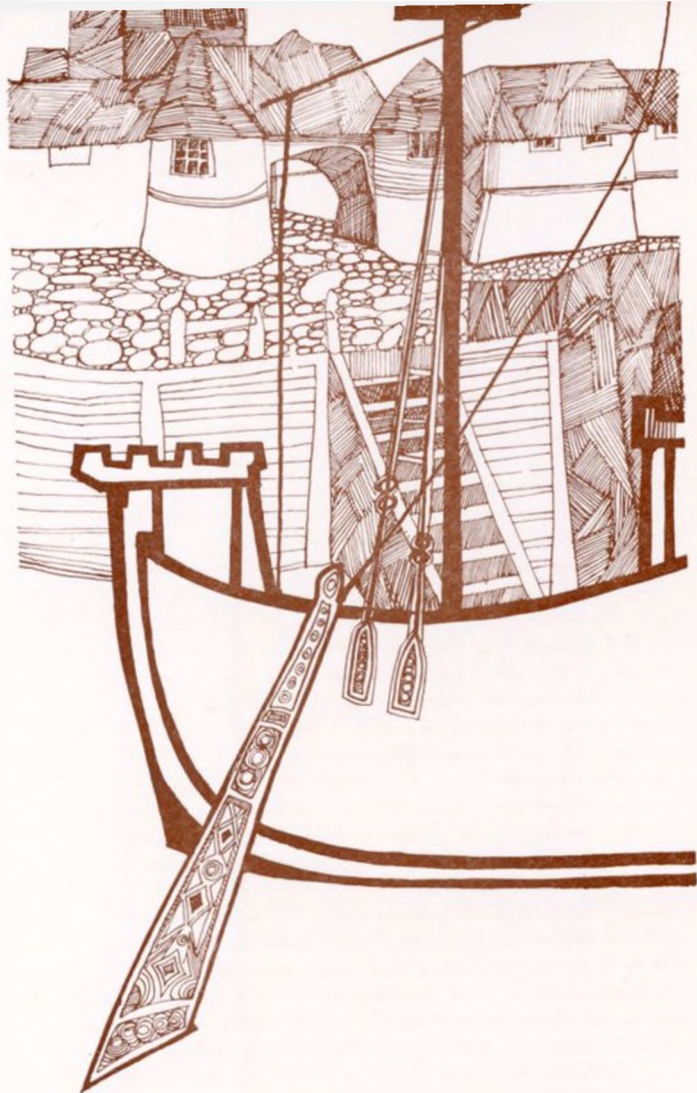
Below the main entrance hall is a basement boiler-house of reinforced concrete containing the oil-fired boiler installation which provides low pressure hot water heating and hot water to the new hall. The same installation also provides heating to the three old houses, Romney, Oxney and Sheppey, through service pipes housed in underground cross site ducts.

The water storage tanks, together with the mechanical ventilation plant serving internal rooms, are housed in roof plant rooms, constructed of lightweight, block walls, faced with weather boarding and having flat bituminous felt covered, timber roofs.

Internal finishes are simple. Walls and ceilings, generally, are finished with lightweight plaster and decorated with emulsion and floors are covered with vinyl or quarry tiles.

Windows are from the "Module 4", hot dip, galvanized steel range and are pivot hung and fitted with night ventilators. Doors are of timber, with those to study bedrooms veneered with sapele mahogany and treated with clear, egg-shell finish, polyurethane varnish.

A new transformer chamber, required by the Electricity Board, together with the refuse storage building and oil fuel tank, serving the new hall, is separately sited near the entrance to Wanstead Road. Access to the new hall, past this group of buildings, is gained over new macadam roadway and new macadam and concrete flagged paths.



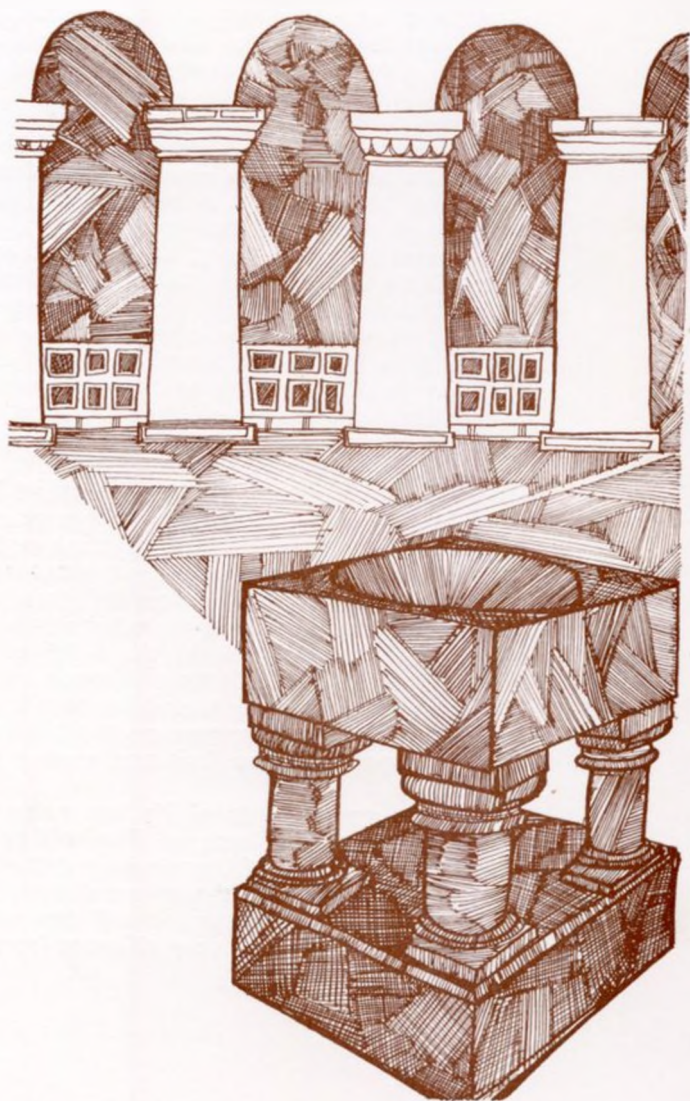
THANET

Once an island, Thanet is best remembered as the traditional site of the first Saxon settlement in Britain, and as the meeting-place in 597 of St. Augustine and Ethelbert of Kent.

The island site had the advantage of isolating the Christian missionaries and their teachings until the King could form a judgment on them: Ethelbert was convinced, and Augustine moved to the mainland to make Canterbury the centre of his work. Some time later, a monastery was established on the island, giving its name to Minster-in-Thanet.

The modern contrast is striking. Thanet now lies within the influence of Greater London. Its rich farmlands serve a national market, and coast and countryside alike have been invaded by speculative building. Some elegant terraces of late eighteenth and early nineteenth century houses survive as reminders of the days when visitors came by sea to Margate and Ramsgate to indulge in the new cult of sea bathing. Later, when railways had been completed between Thanet and London, there followed the era of the day tripper, and the seaside boarding house. Today's residents are different again; many have come here in retirement, but an increasing number commute daily to work in London.

Despite all these changes it is the sea which continues to mould the landscapes of Thanet. The waves still cut into the chalk cliffs and undermine the promenades. Landslides threaten the bungalows of Herne Bay as earlier erosion destroyed the Roman and mediaeval settlements at Reculver. Pebbles and silt carried by the sea blocked the waterway which in Roman times linked the forts at Reculver and Richborough. It was silt collecting round wrecks in the Stour estuary which doomed the Cinque Port of Sandwich, the ultimate stage by which Thanet became part of the mainland of Kent.



SHEPPEY

Sheppey had its religious house too, a convent at Minster-in-Sheppey. According to Asser, the biographer of Alfred the Great, the saxon name of the island "is to be interpreted the island of the sheep. It remained until recent times a real island, whose inhabitants maintained a ferry to enable them to "go into England". They went further afield too: in the seventeenth century more than one Sheppey seaman had sailed to Greenland. Edward III built a royal castle at Queenborough, and although the castle itself was pulled down in the seventeenth century, the tiny borough retained its inflated privileges, and sent its own two members to the House of Commons until 1832. Not surprisingly, it was notorious before that date for the debasement of its politics: Defoe, in the early 18th century commented on the fact that the men of Queenborough earned their living by keeping ale-houses, dredging for oysters and selling their votes.

Something of this decay hangs round Queenborough today: the decline of its port and the closure of Sheerness naval dockyard have created problems not yet fully overcome by the establishment here of a new industrial estate. However, much of Sheppey retains its rural and insular character, despite the building of the Kingsferry bridge. Cattle and sheep still graze on the rich marshlands, and freedom from late frosts has helped farmers on the higher parts of Sheppey to grow fruit and market garden crops.

But a new pattern of life has come to the northern coast of Sheppey. The holiday camps and caravan sites of Leysdown and the bungalows of Minster are the outward signs of this new prosperity. Sheppey is still dependent on the sea, but in ways very different from those of earlier centuries.



ROMNEY

Romney Marsh has always had a strong character of its own. Its remoteness gave its people a reputation for secrecy and a tradition of independence. The Marsh, went the old saying, brought "Wealth but not Health" to its inhabitants: the wealth lay in the flocks and herds that grazed it, which were "immense", said William Cobbett in 1823. This respectable source of profit was supplemented, particularly in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, by a flourishing smuggling trade: wool was shipped out and brandy and lace brought in by Marshmen of all social ranks.

In the Middle Ages, the town of New Romney flourished as a Cinque Port: alterations in the coast-line brought decline, but the dying port continued to retain its privileges and its pride and sent its two "barons" to Parliament until 1832. Fields and houses beside the magnificent Norman nave of New Romney church mark the site of the mediaeval harbour. Ships sailed up the Rother estuary between the headlands of Little and Great Stone, and tied up beside what is now the churchyard wall.

The reclamation of Romney Marsh had begun much earlier. Old Romney church survives to mark the site of an older harbour on the line of Rhee Wall. Much of the marsh north of this had been reclaimed in Roman times. Piece-meal "inning" of the southern parts of the marsh came later; Walland Marsh and Wittersham level at the foot of the Isle of Oxney were finally drained during the fifteenth century. Later still, walls and embankments were built between Oxney and the uplands to the west.

OXNEY

Oxney itself is the least known of these Kent "islands". Its woods and fields rise up from open flats and pastures. Sheltered and smiling, it is a landscape of orchards and hop gardens. Houses and farms resemble those in neighbouring Winchelsea and Appledore. Mellow brick and white clapboard cottages, oasthouses and a windmill survive almost unaltered, and the inn names—The Ewe and Lamb; The Ferry Inn—commemorate the long association with Romney Marsh.