

1910

THE "BOROUGH" GUIDE
TO

ORPINGTON
(KENT).

ISSUED WITH THE APPROVAL OF THE
ORPINGTON PARISH COUNCIL.



Including
A MAP OF THE DISTRICT AND
14 ILLUSTRATIONS.

No. 212.

The "Borough" Pocket Guides

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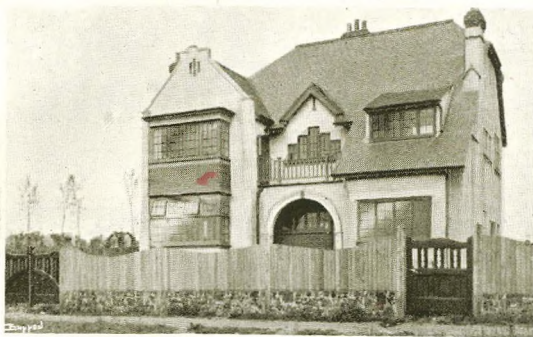
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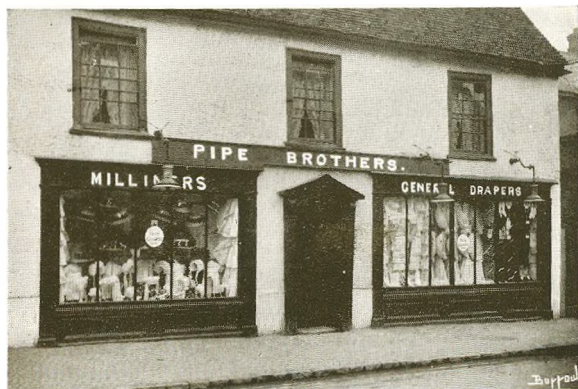
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THE "BOROUGH" GUIDE *c. 1910*



Specially Compiled by FRANCIS W. AUSTIN



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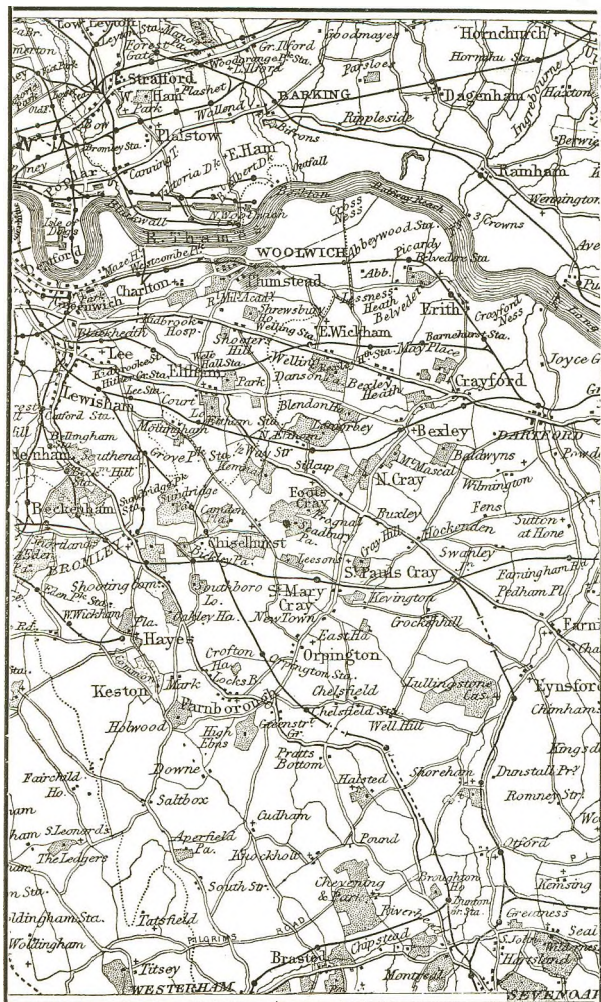
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C. L. Bruce, Photo.

MOORFIELD ROAD, ORPINGTON.

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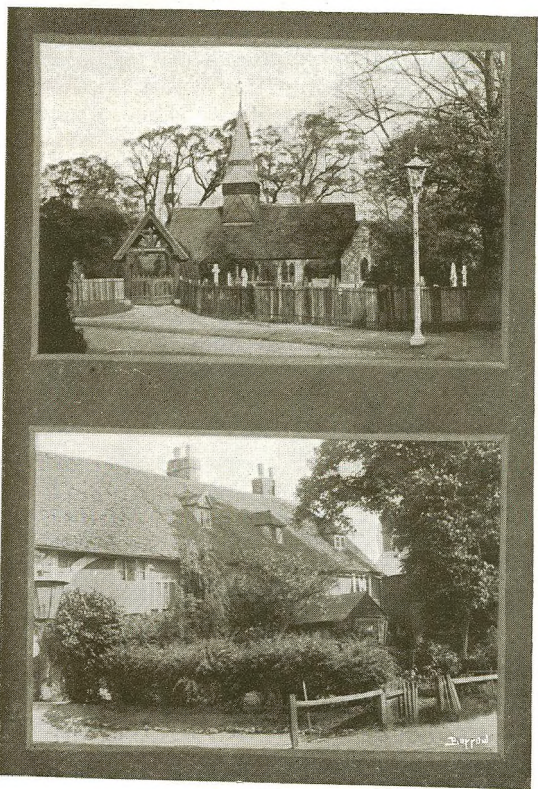
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HIGH STREET,
ORPINGTON.



*W. Ansell & C. L. Bruce,
Photos.*

- (1) FOOT'S CRAY CHURCH.
- (2) OLD HOUSES, GREEN
STREET GREEN, ORPINGTON.

TELEPHONE 22 CRAY.

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Sanitary Engineer,
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Drains and Sanitary Appliances of all kinds Examined, Tested, and Reported upon.

Plans prepared for construction, if necessary, and the work carried out on modern, scientific, hygienic principles.

Agent for the Guardian Assurance Company.



Orpington (Kent).

Population, 5,000 to 6,000.

Early Closing Day, Thursday.

Miles from London, (Cannon Street), $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Fares from Charing Cross: $2/4$, $1/6$, $1/2\frac{1}{2}$.

Return tickets for eight days: 1st, $4/-$; 2nd, $3/-$.

Season tickets, £20, £16. Cheap tickets are also issued several times during the week from Orpington.

Duration of journey from Cannon Street varies from 24 minutes upwards, there being also an excellent train service from London Bridge, Waterloo Junction, and Charing Cross stations, as also from the Chatham system termini of St. Paul's, Holborn Viaduct and Victoria, thereby making Orpington most easy of access.

In fact, with its service to the various termini in the different parts of London, and to the junctions *en route*, Orpington is probably as readily accessible from all parts of the Metropolis as any country district around, whilst the tube and underground connections with the termini bring the suburbs north of the Thames within convenient reach.

HISTORY AND SITUATION.

Orpington takes its name from a contraction of the Saxon *Dorþentune*. Records of the place go back to as far as the Domesday Book, where we are told of the different manors in the parish, viz., Great Orpington, Crofton, East Hall and Mayvil or Mayfield, and at the present time there are still traces of the old time Orpington. But for those who feel interested in its past history, there is "The Story of Orpington from Olden Times to the Present Day," written by the Rev. F. Chenevix Trench, M.A., late Vicar of Orpington, and much of interest will be found in this racy story by those who care to dive into the past. Suffice it to say the Harts and the Dykes have long been associated with this district of Kent, the present descendant

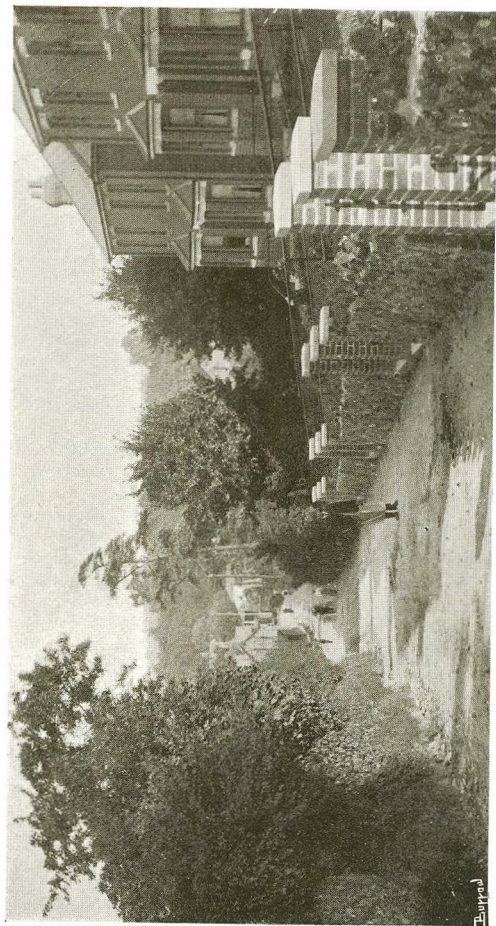
being Sir William Hart Dyke, the ex-member for 40 years for the Parliamentary division. By name this residential district is probably, in comparison with its size, more widely known than any in the Kingdom (as "the place where the fowls come from" although in reality their home is St. Mary Cray), but it is deservedly worthy of a more intimate and closer acquaintance.

RURAL SURROUNDINGS.

Most picturesquely situated near the head of the Cray Valley, which has been (and rightly) described as one of the most beautiful parts of Kent, Orpington to-day is a most charming healthful district, placed amidst rural surroundings, and giving that requisite change and rest which are essential to the business man in these strenuous days, and its rapid growth is abundant proof of its attractions as a residential district. But, in spite of the development of Orpington in recent years, the most critical and exacting lover of nature's beauties cannot say that the charm of this delightful district has been lost.

The nightingale still frequents the neighbourhood and may be heard sending forth his melodious notes on a summer's night within a few minutes of the High Street. The stranger has difficulty in realising the proximity of the Metropolis, the district having so successfully preserved its rural nature, whilst at the same time providing for the demand of its increasing population. The fruit growing industry and the hop gardens have naturally been disturbed, but, from the residential point of view, this is not a detraction, the influx of "pickers" thus being avoided, and the district not now holding forth any inducement to the "hopper."

Upon leaving the Station, one is met by views typical of rural England, the old village being hidden away in the dip of the valley, whilst on the higher ground the more recent development of detached residences has taken place. To fully appreciate the advantages of Orpington, one should leave Cannon Street on a stifling summer's day, for, upon emerging from the train, one breathes freely and realizes that here is a health-giving and bracing air. For the tired and worn city toiler, here is



C. L. Bruce, Photo.

BROOM HILL, ORPINGTON.

nature's remedy ready at hand, and with the purer air, and the charming views on every hand, life is freed of its turmoils and worries. So that to those seeking rest and quietude from the strife of livelihood, Orpington undoubtedly holds forth great attractions, and to those who may not be sufficiently fortunate to reside here, a few hours of leisure spent in the district will be as balm to the tired toiler.

RESIDENTIAL ADVANTAGES.

Undoubtedly the attractions held out by Orpington **to the resident** are very great, and it is not surprising that the district is more sought after every year. It is probably unique in its situation, insomuch that, whilst being on the main line of the S.E. & C.R., it is not on the main roads, but lies between the two main roads from London to the Coast, viz., the main Sevenoaks road to Tunbridge Wells and Hastings on the West, and the Farningham road to Dover on the east, thus making it especially attractive to the motorist, whilst the city man is catered for by the train service to and from the newly built Orpington station, which is practically a junction for the Charing Cross and Victoria termini.

The residential estates now being developed, with due regard to the rural surroundings and in good taste, surround the Golf Links and almost adjoin the railway, whilst avoiding the arteries of the main roads, and this, in view of the motor and dust nuisance, is a feature enhancing the claims of Orpington; thus the objection to many convenient and attractive districts is absent in the claims of Orpington. To the resident investing in property, Orpington is immune from the spread of suburban villas, and the invasion of electric trams, so detrimental to property, as immediately between Orpington and London is Chislehurst, the character of which, as a residential district, is redoubtable and acts as a check and barrier to the deterioration of the district. At the same time, enquiry reveals the fact that the estates in the district have been judiciously and carefully restricted as to building values, thus protecting the householder, as the restrictions are invariable owing to their running with the land.



C. L. Bruce, Photo.

GREEN STREET GREEN VILLAGE,
NEAR ORPINGTON.



F. Redhead, Photo.

GODDINGTON, ORPINGTON.

Finally, for the resident there is every convenience ; sanitation, water supply and gas are beyond complaint, the shopping centre compares favourably with other urban districts, whilst the London Stores deliver daily ; and there are several first-class laundries. Orpington is within the Metropolitan area of the National Telephone Service, and possesses good postal facilities. The London, County and Westminster Bank, Ltd., are just completing a new building for their local branch, whilst Martin's Bank, Ltd., have also a branch. There are two local papers published weekly.

From the health point of view, Orpington has undoubtedly a big claim, as is proved by its low death-rate. It has been recommended by the London medical faculty for the relief of asthma, and the patient will here find first-class medical practitioners.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL FEATURES.

The village itself lies at a height of about 200 feet above sea-level, the slopes of the valley rising to about 300 feet, and a few quaint old cottages are still to be found along the High Street, recalling the centuries which have passed since Orpington was a hamlet clustered around its Priory.

The Priory is worthy of special mention, being one of the very few pre-Reformation rectories that have lasted down to the present day and dating back to the thirteenth century, whilst at the present time it is the home of Colonel Schletter, C.B. The house is referred to in 1270 by the then rector of Orpington, a native of Poitou, who mentions the "hall of my rectory at Orpington" ; the hall (being the most notable feature in the house) still remains, though much is of a more recent date and is in the Tudor style. Once in the keeping of the Priory of Christchurch, Canterbury, the Priory almost adjoins Orpington Parish Church, and, surrounded by a high wall, has an air of seclusion quite in keeping with its priestly origin ; in fact, the Monks' walk remains to this day.

Bark Hart is another historical house worthy of mention. This house also adjoins the church, and is believed to be built on the foundations of an older monastic building. At present it is in the



F. Redhead, Photo. HIGH ELMS, DOWNE. LORD AVEBURY'S RESIDENCE.

occupation of H. B. Howard, Esq., of the Middle Temple. Here Queen Elizabeth was entertained, and the manner in which her visit gave rise to the naming of the house is worth recording. It was in the year 1573 that Queen Elizabeth passed through Orpington on her way to Canterbury, where she was entertained by Sir Percival Hart, who, in her honour, had arranged several chambers in the house to represent a bark or ship, which so delighted the Queen that, to perpetuate the memory of the owner and the entertainment, she gave the house the name of "Bark Hart." Another account as to the manner in which the house came by its name is that the Queen passed the night here, but was so disturbed by the barking of dogs that when leaving she dubbed the House "Bark Hart." There is little doubt that "good Queen Bess" was entertained in this house, and as to the derivation of the name the reader may take which story he prefers, though, according to Hasted, the former is correct.

PLACES OF WORSHIP.

The Parish Church (All Saints').—This stands at the top of Church Hill running from High Street, and was formerly the mother church of St. Mary Cray, Hayes, Downe and Knockholt. The building dates back to the 12th century, the porch having been added in the 14th century, and the appearance of a mural pulpit is an interesting feature. Within the porch is to be found a list of vicars dating back to 1284, whilst the inscriptions on the walls and floor, and the windows, are interesting. The building is for the most part in the pure Old English style, but is notable for a fine specimen of a Norman dog-tooth arch. The churchyard is one of the prettiest in Kent, and the Rev. F. C. Trench, in his book already mentioned, refers to the fact that an Australian, "doing" England for the first time, was anxious to see a typical village churchyard, for which purpose he included Orpington in his round of sightseeing. The churchyard is most carefully kept (due in a great measure to the interest of Mr. Harrild, of the "Shirleys," who annually raises a fund for the churchyard maintenance and visitors to the churchyard will appreciate this gentleman's



ORPINGTON CHURCH.



G. A. Powell, Photos.

INTERIOR OF ORPINGTON CHURCH.

laudable undertaking), and notable for some very fine yew trees, beneath one of which Mrs. Almack, of "Almack's Rooms" is buried, and many quaint epitaphs will be found on the grave stones. The churchyard Cross was erected in 1895 by the late Mr. G. W. Burrowes, of "Ladywood," and bears the following inscription—

"In faithful remembrance of all those buried in this churchyard that are with God, whose bodies rest in unmarked graves, but whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life."

St. Paul's Church is situate at Crofton.

St. Andrew's Church is situate in the Lower Road.

The **Catholic Church** will be found at St. Joseph's Home, Farnborough, on the Sevenoaks Road, which is open to residents of the district, and Mass is conducted every Sunday.

The Nonconformist Places of Worship include the Baptist and Primitive Methodist Chapels, and at St. Mary Cray, within easy walking distance, is a Congregational Church.

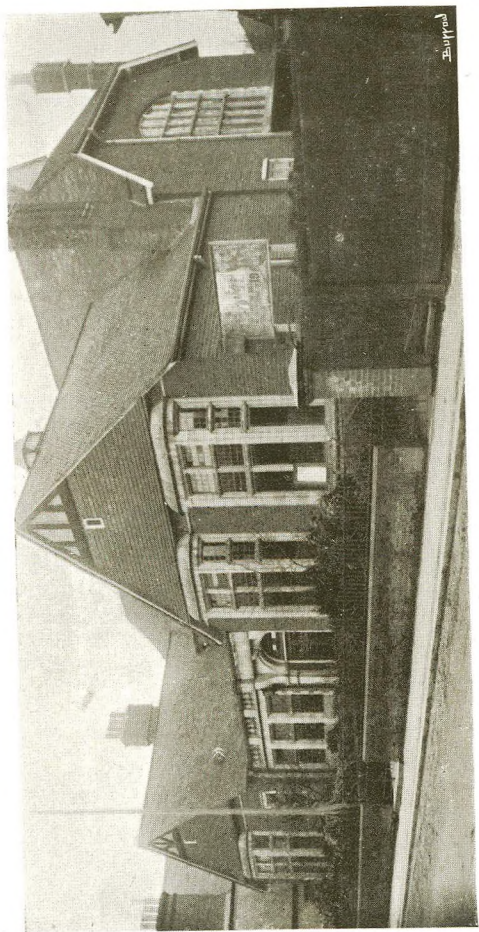
SCHOOLS.

There are several good Schools in Orpington suitable for young children, whilst at Crofton Grange the Misses Lyster conduct an excellent high grade school for young ladies. A good boys' preparatory school for the London and public schools, ably conducted by Mr. J. W. Thomas, is in the Moorfield Road, and, at the Birches, Mrs. Bowers has a school for younger children.

RECREATION.

Village Hall.—Thanks to the munificence of Mr. Alfred Brown, of "The Boundary," Orpington possesses a Village Hall, situated in the High Street, where concerts, dances and entertainments are given.

Skating Rink.—In the High Street, opposite the pond which is the source of the river Cray, a rink has been provided, and skating, which has so advanced in popularity, can be indulged in at moderate expense. The management conduct the hall on up-to-date lines, and the healthy exercise, which our erratic climate so rarely provides for, finds patrons amongst the residential population, whilst the periodical carnivals are thoroughly enjoyed.



THE VILLAGE HALL, ORPINGTON.

G. A. Powell, Photo.

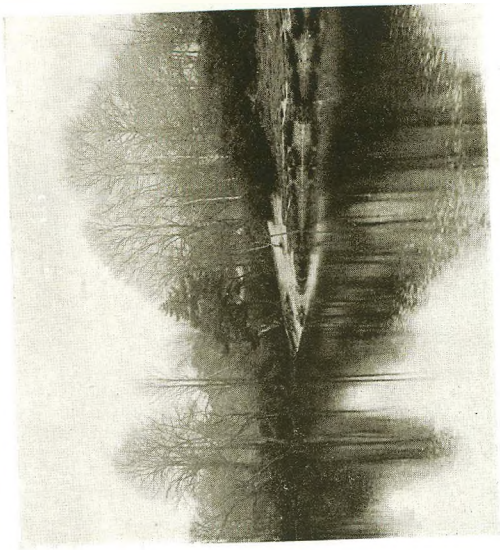
Golf Links. At the time of writing, a full course of 18 holes is being laid out and nearing completion, on the Knoll Estate, to the design of Mr. Harold H. Hilton, the well-known ex-amateur and open champion, and international player. The course is being laid out in an efficient manner, and the services of Peter Lees, the well-known green-keeper, have been requisitioned for the laying out of the greens. There is no doubt that these links will provide an excellent test of the game, whilst their open and beautiful situation will greatly add to the attraction and pleasure. The ground is admirably suited to the purpose, being of a light sandy nature, thus ensuring a dry course during the winter months, an advantage which so many inland courses lamentably lack. The undulations of the ground, a brook, trees and hedges form the hazards, whilst the course is being bunkered with skill and care. The golfer will not only find here an excellent game, but a most charming environment and beautiful air. A commodious and attractive Club House (replete with every convenience) planned to be built by Mr. F. W. Austin, Architect, has received the approval of the local Council, and will shortly be erected within five minutes' walk of the Station, on an eminence commanding extensive views of the links and of the country for miles around. The club is open to visitors, the usual green fees being charged, and any particulars may be had from the Hon. Secretary, Mr. A. Wright. It is of interest to Golfers to know that on the Knoll Estate there are some very desirable residences erected, particulars of which will be found in our advertising pages.

Tennis.—There are three clubs, and several courts are laid out in connection with the Golf Club. The Hon. Secretary of the Orpington Lawn Tennis and Bowling Club is Mr. J. A. F. Simpson, "Staffa," Orpington; of the Hillview Lawn Tennis Club, Mr. J. W. Thomas, Moorfield Road; and of the Buff Orpington Tennis Club, Miss Dora Pocknall, "Pentre," Orpington.

Cricket.—Full particulars of the Cricket Club may be obtained of the Secretary, Mr. P. G. Townsend, Fairly House, Orpington.



W. Ansell, Photo. SCADS HILL, ORPINGTON.



F. Redhead, Photo. FISH PONDS, KESTON.

Football.—Orpington boasts of a very successful amateur team, and their games are well patronised by a good local following.

Recreation Ground.—There is a small common on Broom Hill, and the matter of providing a recreation ground has been brought before the Council, several prominent residents having offered substantial subscriptions towards the cost of securing suitable ground, and it is hoped that this desirable addition to Orpington will shortly be obtained.

VARIED CLAIMS OF THE DISTRICT.

In a district such as this, the motorist, cyclist, and pedestrian will never tire of the attractions, and the metropolitan motorist or cyclist who does not know Orpington should make a point of passing through this district. Approaching Orpington by way of Chislehurst, the adjoining parish, one passes through St. Paul's Cray Common,—profusely wooded and forming a welcome shade in the hot summer days. The silver birch here it would be difficult to surpass for luxuriance and beauty, and even in the winter the scene is far from being desolate or dreary, the silver trunks giving a cheerful appearance to the winter's landscape. In the early spring and autumn, the bracken and gorse add to the charm of the common, and it is therefore not to be wondered at that Orpington residents find this such an agreeable place for afternoon pic-nics.

Leaving the common, one comes to "Ladywood" on the right, a most imposing mansion in beautifully-kept grounds. A little further is Scad's Hill, and here one obtains a panoramic view of Orpington and the surrounding country, whilst to the right is the Golf Course, and on an eminence may be noticed a very fine specimen of a pine tree. Thus viewing Orpington for the first time, one cannot but be impressed by its delightful situation, and attracted by its pleasant houses, with their red-tiled roofs.

It is not the aim of this guide to give the many pleasant rides which the cyclist resident in the district may indulge in. Suffice it to say that some perfectly charming country is within easy distance, and by carefully choosing the various routes the more difficult hills can be avoided by slight detours.



*C. L. Bruce & W. Ansell,
Photos.*

- (1) WEST HILL, NEAR
ORPINGTON.
- (2) FROGNAL AVENUE,
FOOTS CRAY.

The motorist will find enjoyable rides, and as the roads are, generally speaking, excellent, the main roads with their ever increasing traffic and motorist's troubles can be avoided. Rides to Eastbourne, Hastings, Folkestone, Dover, Walmer and Deal bring the coast within easy reach, whilst Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire afford good ground for inland drives through charming lanes away from the main roads.

WALKS IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

For the pedestrian, Orpington caters in no small degree, the adjoining country being rich in footpaths and affording some of the most beautiful rambles through the "Garden of England." A few of the shorter rambles may be shortly referred to, but the true lover of rural scenery will no doubt prefer to make his own acquaintance with the unbeaten footpaths and lanes.

A walk to **Chislehurst** will give some idea of the beauty of the surrounding country, and one of many ways it can be reached is by taking the footpath leading from Broomhill, crossing the Keswick Road on the Knoll Estate and continuing to the railway. Having crossed the footbridge the path immediately in front should be taken, which emerges in the Crofton Lane, where one can find the bridle-path to Chislehurst, which can be easily followed. All who have travelled on the South Eastern main line will not have failed to notice the charm of Chislehurst, and upon a closer acquaintance of the country around, the Rambler will not be disappointed. At Chislehurst the common should be made for, lying on the easterly side of the railway on the summit of the hill, and here will be found the road for returning to Orpington. Chislehurst Common practically adjoins St. Paul's Cray Common, already referred to, and by following the road across the common Broomhill is eventually reached again, and the pedestrian will have accomplished a delightful walk which never fails to charm. Should a longer walk be wished for, when Chislehurst Common is reached the path may be taken leading to the old church of St. Nicholas, and proceeding through the churchyard to a small lane, leaving the church on the right. The lych-gate and inscription thereon

are worth notice. In the lane, turn to the left, crossing the road and continuing along a lane almost opposite until the "Sidney Arms," Perry Street, is reached, prior to which a junction of roads is passed. After reaching a high garden wall on the left, take the field path to the right, continuing by way of Scadbury Park, Frognall, where a carriage drive is crossed, and continue straight along the path through the orchards and fields to a wood where a cart-way leads to the left. Open country being gained by this cart-way, a path will be seen leading direct to St. Mary Cray. From St. Mary Cray the road to Orpington may be taken, or the more pleasant footpath leading to Orpington Church. The pedestrian has here some guide to the country between Orpington and Chislehurst, and many delightful walks can be planned out with a knowledge of these paths and lanes, the beauties of which are almost beyond description.

Chelsfield, a small village lying southward of Orpington, also provides another delightful walk. The church spire is plainly visible from amongst a cluster of trees on the hills, and may be easily reached by a footpath leading from the High Street immediately facing Station Road. The path ascends the whole way, and is easily followed, whilst the views to be obtained on looking backward are delightful. At the end of the footpath one takes the road to the right, continuing to Chelsfield Church after which Goddington Lane, leading back into Orpington may be taken, or the road continued past Chelsfield Station leading into Green Street Green, where the main Sevenoaks Road leads to Orpington on the right.

After these rambles, pedestrians will doubtless find their appetites whetted and be encouraged to further explore the district, and their efforts will be well repaid by some of the most beautiful rural scenery it is possible to find within miles of London. In fact, it is well-known that the borders of Kent and Surrey contain some of the most enchanting districts, and lovers of the country will undoubtedly find Orpington a most attractive and delightful district. For other walks in the district see page 32.

TO HOUSE HUNTERS.

For Particulars of all the available Houses (furnished and unfurnished), Shops, Land, etc., in Orpington, make application to—

AUSTINS

HOUSE, LAND, AND ESTATE AGENTS,

Station Rd., ORPINGTON.

(Opposite Maxwell Hotel).

Telephone 16 Gray.

Full Particulars will be immediately furnished.



The Knoll Estate.

The Beautiful Knoll Estate is within three minutes' walk of the Station, Shops, Post Office, Three Churches, Tennis and Cricket Clubs, and immediately adjoins the picturesque and delightful GOLF LINKS. This lovely estate is 300 feet above sea level and magnificent views of the surrounding country are obtainable from practically every point. It has been most tastefully laid out, and well made wide roads give frontage to numerous excellent building sites. Picturesque Detached Country Houses are dotted about here and there in such positions as to always retain the magnificent outlook which they now possess, chiefly across the undulating Golf Course. Artistic Residences are always in course of erection on the estate and range in price from £750 up to £2,000 freehold, and rents range from £50 per annum. The Freeholder is always prepared to submit plans for the approval of intending purchasers, and also specially prepares plans and erects houses to suit the requirements of purchasers. A word of praise due to this estate is the fact that nearly every house thereon has an undisturbed view over one of the finest Golf Links in the Country.

Built c. 1908-10.

Open in 1922.

Orpington Golf Club

(Within Five Minutes of Station).

First-Class Links of Good Length & Sporting Character.

Sandy Soil and a dry course in Winter.

Designed by Mr. Harold H. Hilton, Amateur & Open ex-Champion.
Greens Laid under superintendence of Peter Lees, Green-keeper at
Mid-Surrey Club.



These Links are nicely undulating and provide a good test of the game. Visitors, being members of recognised Golf Clubs, or introduced by members, are permitted to play on payment of Green Fees. Railway Vouchers can be obtained at the Club House upon application.

The greens are kept in excellent order by a resident green-keeper, and a professional is in attendance.

There is a commodious and handsome Club House, most pleasantly situated, commanding extensive views of the surrounding country and course.

All particulars as to Membership, Green Fees, &c, may be obtained upon application to the

HONORARY SECRETARY,
Golf Club House, : ORPINGTON, KENT.

OTHER WALKS IN THE DISTRICT.

(Continued from page 29).

Other places claiming the attention of the pedestrian may be briefly mentioned:—

Hayes, well worth a visit, and high lying common is a most exhilarating resting place, and, from this beautiful public expanse of country, the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral and the Crystal Palace may be seen on a clear day, also the higher country to the north of London. Hayes Place was for a considerable time the residence of the great Earl Chatham, whilst his son William Pitt was born there. The church in the old English style has been carefully restored, and those who enter its portals will be attracted by the beautiful examples of stained glass. "Chatham's Ride" will be noted on the common, so named owing to the frequency with which Earl Chatham used the ride, whilst the reputed remains of a Roman encampment are also to be found.

Keston is another charming spot, and also the proud possessor of a delightful common, whilst the church is most beautifully situated. In the churchyard Mrs. Craik, the author of "John Halifax, Gentleman," lies buried, and in the church itself the late Bishop Wilberforce used to preach.

Holwood Park, with its stone seat and inscription.

Downe is near by, and at "High Elms" the present Lord Avebury has his country seat; a stroll through the park is a feast of rural beauty.

West Wickham is also another village well worth attention. The Common, although not so extensive as those at Hayes and Keston, is certainly a delightful spot. The church is worthy of notice, the interior being somewhat unconventional, and at Wickham Court, almost adjoining, it is popularly supposed that Henry VIII. stayed.

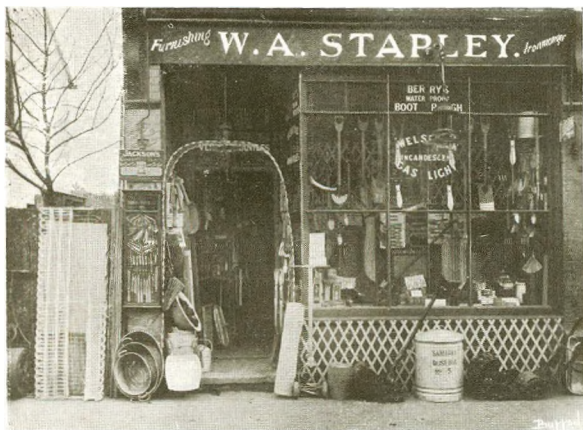
There are many other Kentish villages within walking distance of Orpington possessing distinctive attractions, and in fact the beautiful country surrounding Orpington will never tire or fail to exercise that charm which typical rural scenery has for the lover of England's verdant beauty.



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Pupils are prepared for the Examinations held by the University Local Syndicates, and

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The curriculum is a varied one, and no pains are spared to make the lessons interesting, and the instruction thorough.

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