

Southbourne County Primary School

FESTIVAL
PAGEANT 1951

EPISODES IN THE HISTORY
OF BOURNE





Mr Biddlecombe - Headmaster

Prinsted Board School was built mid 1860s and was used as a school until mid 1960s.

Prior to the name Southbourne the area was known as Prinsted. It was renamed Southbourne Council School in 1876 when national school management changed.

St. Johns Church was completed in 1876 and became the Chapelry of Southbourne in the Parish of Westbourne. The first vicar, Rev. John F.E. Holloway was appointed in 1878.

The Pageant Programme was given me by Mark Everson and I believe any notes/underlines would be his.

It was performed on the school field, which is where Glebe House and The Retreat are now.

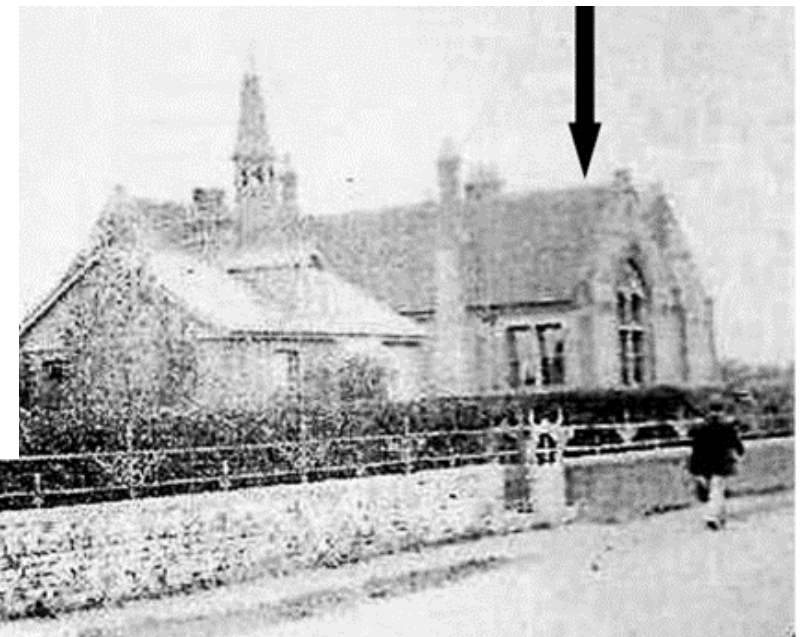
This was where fetes and football matches were held.

All the children were included in the performance.

I can recognise many names including Mark who was a sailor in Episode 5 and guess what David Holman was a Smuggler in Episode 13.

The School was where the Social Club is now.

The picture of the school below is the only one I have and I've marked it with an arrow.



A SHORT HISTORY OF BOURNE

with characters portrayed and scenes mimed
by pupils of Southbourne Primary School.

Foreword

This book is the text of a Pageant produced in July 1951 in the School sports field, with a cast of nearly 300 children.

The historic events portrayed were as nearly authentic as possible. As stated in the prologue we tried to ensure that everything heard during the production was true, and that everything seen was as near the original as we could make it.

Equipping so many children was a very difficult task. Many thanks are due to the parents—the mothers who made, or loaned beautiful clothes often for other children besides their own, and the fathers who made soldiers' shields, headgear, etc. etc.

Gratitude too, is expressed to C. Brundrett, Esq., for the loan of much Sea Scout equipment; to Major R. A. J. Wiggins, R.A.O.C., Gosport, for lending us the toy horses; and to Messrs. A. and S. Bulbeck for the horse and cart.

CORON S. BIDDLECOMBE,
Headmaster.

We begin our story at least 50,000 years ago, when men roamed the forests in fear of mighty beasts. This land was having the opposite of a heat wave at that time. In fact for hundreds of years we were in the fourth wave of an ice age which gripped us with its glaciers and frozen wastes right from the far north down to the River Thames.

So we in this village of Bourne were just outside the ice line. It was very cold though, and the **Early Stone Age Men** lived in caves in the downs at Walderton, Goodwood, etc., only a few miles from here.

They could light fires to keep themselves warm, but they knew nothing of weaving cloth, farming the land, or making tools of metal.

Mammoths, wild beasts like elephants but many times larger, roamed here in search of their prey; so did the sabre-toothed tiger, and other fearsome beasts.

The only weapons the stone age men had were wooden spears, wooden clubs, and sharp edged stones which we now call fist hatchets. They had not even learned to tie these stones to wooden handles and so make chopper like weapons. But they did learn to kill smaller animals and to defend themselves against the bigger ones. Many of these fist hatchets and bones of wild animals have been found at Nutbourne, less than half a mile from our school. Skeletons of mammoths have been found in the sands at Selsey and in caves in the Isle of Wight.

FIRST EPISODE: The Early Stone Age Men, by children from the Remove, arranged by Mr. F. W. Hillier.

Chief	...	...	...	FREDERICK WILLIAMSON
Chief's Son	...	...	...	<u>GRAHAM HANCOCK</u>
Chief's Wife	...	...	...	PATRICIA BARTLETT
Women:	...	...	...	GLORIA NUTLEY VALERIE REDHOUSE DAPHNE PETERS HILARY DAVISON
Hunters	...	...	...	GORDON JONES EDWARD KINGSWELL MICHAEL JELLEY <u>PETER CAVE</u>
Children	...	...	...	JENNIFER CHAPMAN MICHAEL GODDARD MALCOLM MEADS

"This is how the Early Stone Age Men looked. See their wild, savage, unkempt appearance, small stature, crouching movement—as they go along banded together hunting for food.

Ah! It looks as though Mrs. Stoneage doesn't like to be left alone in front of the cave.

Go back mother where it's safest. No, she cringes but won't go back. Ah well, how like a woman!

See, the youngest, a mere lad of thirteen, has been ordered back to stay with and protect the womenfolk.

The remainder stalk their prey, approach it and with loud whoops and shouts throw their spears to despatch it."

Men and women lived like this, here in Bourne, for thousands of years in spite of cold, hunger, danger from wild beasts, and raids from other tribes.

About 15,000 years ago, we began to have a warmer climate, and another race of people, the **New Stone Age Men**, settled here from Europe to which we were then joined. These people were much more civilised. They didn't chip their stones to make sharp edged weapons, but made grinding stones and ground them to a fine degree of sharpness.

Then they tied them to handles to make stone axes, and pointed pieces to poles to make spears. Also they made pottery, tamed wild animals for domestic purposes and so had dogs, pigs, cows, etc. They could even weave a rough kind of cloth.

Near Goodwood is Trundle Hill, which was once an extensive village of the New Stone Age Men. The settlement of huts was surrounded by an earthen wall and ditch, the outline of which has since been traced through aerial photographs. Nearby is a long "barrow" (tumulus) or burial place.

Time prevents us from depicting a scene of these people or of the **Celts**, our ancestors, who came here about 2,000 B.C. They in their turn were much more civilised than the New Stone Age Men. They had bronze tools, boats, better clothing, rough dwellings houses, carts, fighting chariots, etc.

Time passes to the time that Christ Our Lord was born, and the **Romans** landed with their trained soldiers to try and capture this country and make it part of their Empire.

The Celts along the coast here were helped by others from inland, and they all fought strenuously for their homes. Do you remember Queen Boadicea? Well she

fought in Essex, as many a Celtic chieftain fought here. And it was a long time before at last they were beaten. Most escaped by fleeing to the mountains of Wales, Scotland, etc., where their descendants live to this day.

Others stayed behind and worked under their new masters the Romans, who called our land by the name BRITANIA from which, of course, we get the words Britain and Briton. So the **Britons were only Celts** under a new name. They worshipped strange gods, and their priests, the Druids, held sacrifices. Only three miles away at Kingley Vale are some very old yew trees under which they performed their rites. The spot is known as Druid's Walk, while at the top of the hill are "round barrows," where ancient Celtic kings are reputed to have been buried.

SECOND EPISODE. Here we give a rough idea of how a Roman looked in his chariot, when engaged in one of the hundreds of skirmishes with the Britons along these shores.

As defensive equipment he wore a helmet, a leather corselet stopping midway between the waist and the knees, and a shield.

The spear was used as a battle opened, being hurled into the ranks of the enemy at short range. We are not sure if charioteers fought in this way. It is certain, however, that they each carried, points upwards, a heavy short sword. When not in action, it was worn girded high on the right side.

Roman Soldier JOHN BULBECK (1a)

Our new rulers governed us firmly but very well for 400 years. They built a fine road for us from Portchester to Regnum (Chichester) where as Stane Street it continued in a straight line over the Downs to Londinium (London).

Unfortunately at the end of this time the Romans had to leave us to defend their own land.

This left us at the mercy of bands of pirates from Denmark called **Saxons**. They were very fierce and came sailing in their great "keels" up our rivers and creeks and landing at villages which they pillaged and burned before going back to sea. Later they would come again and sometimes stay in a place and settle.

Our third episode shows how this County got its name, a contraction of South Saxons giving us Sussex, just as the land of the East Saxons became Essex.

So this is the **Birth of Sussex** in the year 477.

Regnum (now named Chichester), that strongly walled city of the Romans,

seems to have held its own for more than half a century against the Saxon pirates, even though the Roman soldiers had returned to Rome.

But one day in the year 477, up the winding creeks near Chichester Harbour came four long "keels" sailing. In the first was a fierce Viking chief, Aella, a Saxon from Denmark. The other boats were led by his three sons, Cymen, Wlencing and Cissa. Each boat was crammed with men armed to the teeth.

EPISODE 3. Saxon Vikings by children of Class 3b in charge of Miss E. H. Allen.

Thomas Aylen, Eric Ayling, Terence Barnes, Nelson Fradgely, William French, Guy Kent Francis, John Ford, Robin Hunter, Douglas Luff, Hugh Pearce, Jeffrey Pierce, Edward Puddock, Keith Rogers, Christopher Ryder, Melvin Searle, Ian Stillman, Peter Sturgess, John Verrier, Ieuan Davies, Mervyn Walker.

"This is how the Saxons looked as they landed at Sidlesham (7 miles from here). Shouting their battle cry, sword or axe in hand and shield on arm, they marched on Regnum which, after a fierce fight, was stormed, sacked and burned."

Aella went on to complete his conquest of the land henceforth to be called Sussex while Wlencing gave the name to Lancing. Cissa, the youngest son, was left behind at Regnum as chief. When he had restored order after the fire he held a great feast or "ceaster." From that day Regnum had a new name—Cissa's Ceaster—**CHICHESTER**.

Soon the whole of Britain was conquered by the Saxons, who ruled us for 400 years until King Alfred, one of our greatest monarchs (and a Saxon one, too) died in the year 901. He had spent much of his life fighting Danish Vikings and Northmen from Norway and Denmark. These were pirates who plundered our shores just as the Saxons had.

On Alfred's death his son Edward became king of England. But the Danes continued to invade us and at last, in 1017, overthrew the English, and **Canute, a Dane, became king**.

He divided the country among four great earls, the most trusted of whom was Godwin, Earl of Wessex, whom we shall see later.

Canute proved a wise ruler, treating Danes and English fairly. He gave England nearly twenty years of settled government. (By the way, his daughter is buried at Bosham Church).

He was so wise that his courtiers thought him, or pretended to think him a god. The following scene is reputed to have taken place at Bosham, although Southampton also claims the site.

EPISODES 4, 5 and 6, by children of Class 1b, etc., produced by Mr. G. J. Hollingdale.

Fourth: Canute and the Waves.

King Canute	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Barry Tatham
Courtiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Alan White, Colin Snowdon
Soldiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Brian Forster, David Hitchman
Saxon Countryman	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Michael Gilbert
Saxon Children	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Inigo Everson, Shirley Diabie, Pamela Middleton

“The scene is by the shore at Bosham over 900 years ago. A few children are playing and a Saxon countryman is standing a little way off watching them. King Canute, with some of his courtiers, is walking near the shore. As the soldiers approach they drive back the children who go and stand near the man.

“The courtiers are telling the King how great he is, but Canute, because he is truly great, is not duped by their flattery. As they stand to watch the incoming tide he reproves them but it is suggested that he had authority even over the waves. To show them their folly a chair is brought from the nearby Church, and the King, surrounded by his flatterers, seats himself near the water’s edge. As the tide creeps nearer Canute commands it to halt, but the waters come on with quickening pace and the courtiers step back a yard or two. But the king orders them forward and laughs at their discomfiture.

“Still laughing, he allows them to carry him on his chair back to dry land. As they pass, the children also laugh at the courtiers, one of whom turns and shakes his fist at them.”

A few years have passed and in 1042 the succession passed back to Ethelred’s son Edward, a weak king but known as the Confessor for his piety.

Earl Godwin, a friend of Canute, had a large house at Bosham. All Bourne (including Thorney) and much of the country round Chichester belonged to him.

King Edward the Confessor was forced to allow three of the earldoms to pass under the control of Godwin. Thus he and his sons ruled almost the whole of England against the wish of Edward, who preferred the Normans. These Norman friends of the King persuaded him to banish Godwin, and so in 1051 he summoned him to London where his council intended to proclaim him an outlaw with all his family and his army.

But Godwin had already made off south to Thorney, while two of his sons fled to Dublin.

THE FIFTH EPISODE shows Godwin’s departure from Thorney to Flanders.

Earl Godwin	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Elizabeth Williams
Gytha, his wife	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Janet Aylen
Sweyn and Tosti (his sons)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Anthony Lingard, Peter Ryder
Judith (Tosti’s wife)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Christine Godden
Soldiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Reg Parker, David Cave, Derek Todd
Sailors...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Mark Everson, David Munday
Saxon men and women	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Marianne Todd, Betty Blandford, Pamela Coles, Dorothy Moss, Mary Lewis.

“Earl Godwin’s wife Gytha and his daughter-in-law Judith, of Flanders, are at Thorney expecting the Earl to arrive at any moment. His ship is already on its way from Bosham to the quay at Thorney.

“It is evening and a number of villagers are about. Earl Godwin and his sons arrive and enter the house, the soldiers waiting outside. Suddenly there is a shout —“The Earl’s Ship!” Villagers hasten to the quayside.

“A soldier enters the house to inform Earl Godwin. He and his wife and family make their way to the quay, where they watch the villagers help load the ship.

“There is a hurry and much shouting to get everything on board, as the tide is nearly at the full.

“At last all is ready and the Earl and his family board the ship. As the tide turns it sails out into the Channel on its way to Flanders.

“The villagers turn back to their homes and one Saxon says to another, “So he’s gone and there’s the harrowing to finish to-morrow.”

A few years later the Normans, under William the Conqueror, landed at Hastings and defeated King Harold (who was the son of Godwin).

So England became Norman. William was strict but just, and he ruled us well, even if he did raise our rents. He set his clerics to make a book giving details of how every piece of land in England was used, and who the tenants were. This great book is called the Domesday Book. In it we are told who lived in Bourne in those days and what was paid as rent.

Our SIXTH EPISODE shows A Rent Day in Bourne in the year 1100.

Earl of Arundel	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Michael Jeffries
Monk	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Terry Trise
Soldiers	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Eric Edwards, Jimmy Morgan
Serving-men	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Maureen Tricker, Pamela Young, Susan Harris, Gwenda Bennett
Freemen	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Robina Backshall, June Russell, Deanna Darby, Margaret Rustell, Cynthia Davies, Elizabeth Barnes, Shirley Aburrow, Freda Jones

“Under Norman rule, Bourne and Thorney has passed into the possession of Robert de Montgomerie, Earl of Arundel.

“Here you see the Earl coming in person. With him are some of his knights and a monk, who is also a scribe, or one of the very few persons who could read and write in those days. The Earl has come to the Meeting Place so that he may receive the dues or rents from his tenants, the freemen of the neighbourhood.

“Here they come.

“The first, from Westbourne, brings ten eggs.

“The second carries a chaplet of roses for Prinsted.

“The next two are bringing oysters for Emsworth (Newtibrigge).

“The fifth a cup of hazel nuts for Nutbourne.

“The next two have cockles for Pilsey Isle.

“And the last brings sea lavender from Thorney’s shore.

“The Earl of Arundel then says ‘The Moot is ended. Let our people dance.’

“Then follows a folk dance—Gathering Peascods’, performed by the eight freemen. As it is finishing the Earl and his party leave the scene, his men carrying the rents.”

By the way, the title of Earl of Arundel is now held by the Duke of Norfolk, the First Gentleman of England, who lives in Arundel Castle.

His coat of arms shows a white horse. That is why so many inns in West Sussex are named “The White Horse.”

Our school once had a weather vane in the shape of a horse instead of a cock.

Over the North door of Westbourne Church (a 12th Century building) one can still see the carving of a horse.

THE STORY OF A SAINT

We should honour and revere all Saints we know, but we should be particularly proud of this one because he is our own Sussex saint, and because he thought more of the common people than the nobles.

He is St. Richard, of Chichester (1197—1253).

Born rich, he gave up everything to study for the Church. As Bishop of Chichester he protected the poor from unjust taxation and spent most of his time travelling barefoot throughout the diocese giving help and comfort wherever he could. Almost certainly he would have visited all parts of Bourne, where he would preach in a simple way, play with the children who loved him, eat and sleep with the most humble and, the next day, go on to the next village.

To-day we are going to show you how Richard of Wyche became Bishop.

In the year 1244, Ralph Neville, Bishop of Chichester, died.

The Canons of the Cathedral chose Robert Passelow to be his successor. He was by all accounts a very objectionable person who took from the poor, but made presents to the rich. Unfortunately King Henry III also liked him because he suggested ways of taxing the people.

(Procession in readiness for Episode 7 begins).

However, the Archbishop of Canterbury did NOT like him; and he ordered enquiries to be made. He found that Robert Passelow was an ignorant unfit person. So he nominated Richard as Bishop instead, and hoped the Pope would prefer him.

Imagine King Henry’s rage. He wanted a money grabbing priest not a protector of the poor. So he sent to the Pope demanding Passelow as Bishop.

The Pope was in a difficult position. In the end he appointed Richard but Henry would not agree for two years, and not until the Pope threatened him with excommunication.

EPISODES 7—9. The Story of St. Richard, produced by Mrs. A. Ward and acted by children from 1a.

Trevor Young	St. Richard
David Owen	King Henry
Pat Eastment	Queen
Patrick Cummins	} Courtiers
Laurie Terry	
Tony Humble	
Nita Ward	} Queen’s attendants
Jillian Squelch	
Enid Freeman	
Janet Brading	
Clifford Haskins	Passelow A Canon of Chichester Cathedral
John Langford	} Other Canons of Chichester Cathedral
James Goddard	
Peter Russell	
Richard Baldwin	} Archbishop
Ian Bell	
Roger Cooper	
Roger Pratt	} Archbishop’s Clergy
Leonard Sargent	
Brian Southwell	Pope
Frank Edwards	} Priests of the Pope
Robin Parker	
Mervyn Bridle	

"Now we shall see unfolded before us the story of the great struggle that went on between the Church and the State before Richard was finally installed as Bishop of Chichester.

"The actual journeys depicted will only take a matter of minutes in this arena, whereas they actually took months. The whole story, too, will be completed in a very short time but really two years elapsed between Richard's election and his entry into Chichester.

"To understand the comings and goings in this episode in history so near to us, and the County of Sussex and its Cathedral, we must firmly grasp who the groups before us are, and what they represent.

The King Henry III and his court are in the centre. His queen is on his left and ladies and gentlemen of the court are in attendance. On the king's right are clergymen and canons representing Chichester and the Cathedral.

"At a little distance away is the Archbishop of Canterbury with some of his clergy.

"On the opposite side of the arena, on the king's left, is a group which represents the Pope and the power of the Church...Note should be made of the simplicity of the humble servants of God and the regal pomp and show of the king and the Pope.

"Our story now begins:—

Ralph Neville, of Chichester, is dead; a new Bishop has to be appointed. We see the canons confer and choose one, Robert Passelow, an ignorant unjust priest to be the successor. He is taken from Chichester in solemn procession to the king.

"The group of clergy kneel before the king, who questions their visit, and shows great pleasure at the choice.

"At the same time we see the Archbishop letting his clergy know that he is NOT pleased at the election but prefers one Richard—a man noted already for his piety and devotion.

"Passelow and his followers return to Chichester and are met by a messenger from the Archbishop summoning them back to Henry.

"Two processions now approach, each taking a different route. These journeys would be taken on foot over the Downs and along the stony roads, some of which still remain; e.g. the old Stane Street from Chichester to London.

"In the presence of the king, Passelow is questioned, found to be unsuitable, and is sent back to Chichester by the Archbishop, who now presents Richard.

"Richard is left with Henry, who does not want this pious devout man as a bishop, and he shows great anger at the choice. He laughs and mocks at him, and his courtiers join in. Richard presents his petition to the king but it is thrown down in disgust. Richard picks it up when the king points to the Pope. So he journeys to the Pope, kneels before him and presents his papers—which are accepted.

"The Pope gives him his mitre and crook.

"Richard makes to go back to Chichester but hesitates because he sees the forbidding hand of the king. He appeals to the Pope, who threatens Henry.

"The king is seen to relent and he gives a sign to Richard to make for Chichester.

"Richard humbly returns and is received by the Archbishop and clergy, who lift the high cross and go in solemn procession to the Cathedral."

Richard's goodness and piety were well known in this country. Many miracles were attributed to him.

Here we depict one that happened in Chichester. It is recorded as having taken place during the Saint's lifetime.

EPISODE 8. The Healing of the Paralytic Boy, by children of Classes 1 and 3b.

Garry Duguid	Paralytic boy
John Bulbeck	Mayor of Chichester
Christine Haskins	} Women and children of the crowd
Maureen Searle	
Lesley Burch	
Brenda Jones	
Linda Boxall	
Patsy Crasweller	
Pat Lewis	
Sheila Lenihan	
Linda Crasweller	
Beatrice Mengham	
Andrea Hurt	} Men of the crowd
John Anderson	
Graham Ackerman	
Roger Whiting	} Canons of Chichester Cathedral
Trevor Young	
Peter Russell	
John Langford	
James Goddard	
Richard Baldwin	

"We shall see the Mayor of Chichester leading a boy ill-shapen with paralysis. Doctors and medicine were unknown in those days and the Mayor has heard of Richard's wonderful powers.

"The two are joined on the way by men, women and children who gaze questioningly when they see the Mayor with the boy. Slowly they make their way to Richard, who is seen talking to a group of brother clergy. The Bishop looks at the lad and then puts his drinking cup to the sick boy's lips. He then lifts his hands as in prayer, and we see the boy slowly become upright and well.

"The crowd gaze in awe and when they see the miracle performed they kneel before Richard, who tells them by pointing upward that God, not he, has made the boy well. When the boy kneels before him, he kisses the hem of his robe.

"The Bishop gives the boy back to the Mayor and sends them home. The crowd rises and follows, leaping and shouting.

"Richard and the clergy go off."

And here is another miracle that is said to have taken place after the Saint's death.

Near Wyche—Richard's birthplace, were some wells which flowed with salt water. After his death he was made a Saint and on his feast day, April 3rd, garlands were hung on the wells and revels were held by the Christians.

Many years after, the Puritans stopped these revelries and the water dried up. Later the revellers defied the Puritans and once more danced on St. Richard's Feast day.

We will now take you back to the village of Wyche and give you our impression of the whole incident.

EPISODE 9. The Miracle of the Wells by children of Classes 1a and 2.

John Anderson	} Men at the wells
Graham Ackerman ...	...	...	...
Roger Whiting ...	...	...	...
Jill Tricker	} Puritans
Margaret Watts ...	...	...	...
Virginia Tyler ...	...	...	...
Jacqueline Newland ...	...	...	...
Ann Armitage ...	...	...	...
Pauline Greenwood ...	...	...	...
Rosemary Boxall ...	...	...	...
Edna Crawte ...	...	...	...
Rosemary Pople	} Dancers
Lorraine Horne ...	...	...	...
Mary Wakeford ...	...	...	...
Phyllis Moran ...	...	...	...
Felicity Lockyer ...	...	...	...
Thelma Walton	} St. Richard
Suzanne Williams ...	...	...	...
Susan Moulton ...	...	...	...
Josephine Hobbs ...	...	...	...
Freda Whiting ...	...	...	...
Trevor Young	} Canons of Chichester Cathedral
Peter Russell ...	...	...	...
James Goddard ...	...	...	...
John Langford ...	...	...	...
Richard Baldwin	

"In front of you, you see the Salt Wells. It is April 3rd, some time in the 17th Century and a crowd of men, women and children dance in. One is carrying a garland of flowers and it is placed by one of the wells. The children dance and a man

saunters to a well, dips in a mug, brings up water and throws it away. He repeats this several times.

"A group of Puritans stride in, lift their hands in disgust at the dancers and drive them off. They gather talking round the wells and one takes a mug to draw water. There is none! The other well is tried. That too is dry!

"They have been watched by the dancers who, after a brief colloquy return and drive back the Puritans, refusing to allow them to spoil their festivity. The men too return to the well, and again one stoops idly with the mug in his hand. He lowers it and it comes up full! He tells a friend to try the other well. Yes! That too contains water!

"While they are animatedly discussing this strange happening they turn and see St. Richard and some brother clergy. Remembering it is his feast day, they point to him excitedly—he has performed a miracle! St. Richard comes to them and they gather round him.

"He lifts his cross and all together they reverently repeat St. Richard's prayer:-

Day by day, dear Lord,
Of Thee, three things I pray,
To see Thee more clearly,
To love Thee more dearly
To follow Thee more nearly,
Day by day.

SIMON COTES.

A local story that does not appear to be very well-known is the tale of how Hermitage got its name. Just over 400 years ago at the beginning of the 16th Century, a strange figure could have been seen walking along the road through the village of Emsworth.

EPISODE 10. How Hermitage Got Its Name by children of Class 2 and produced by Mr. F. Waldron.

Simon Cotes ...	...	Richard Francis
Ladies of Fashion ...	...	Ann Armitage
		Susan Moulton
Soldiers ...	...	Eric Mahy
		Nicholas Haskins
Beggars ...	...	Douglas Stent
		Peter O'Donohue
Priest ...	...	Peter Ackerman
Nun ...	...	Barbara Hollingdale

Pilgrims	John Crawte Virginia Tyler Alan Cutler Felicity Lockyer
Pedlar	Christopher Lucas

"This man was dressed in a rough robe of coarse material secured at the waist with a long black girdle from which hung his money bag. Poor though he appeared to be, he gave alms willingly to those who were in need. On his shoulders he bore a pack which carried all his worldly possessions and in his right hand he carried a stout oak staff.

On the outskirts of the village he found that he had to pick his way carefully across the muddy boulder-strewn mouth of the River Ems. There was no bridge across the water—nothing to mark the one safe path for travellers. It was just the place for which he had been looking.

"Here, like St. Christopher, he could spend the rest of his life aiding weary travellers across the stream. On the far side, at the top of the hill, he built his rough cell with timber hewn from the nearby woods. Later from the same source he cut stakes to drive into the mud to mark the gravel path. Finally he built a crude footbridge, dry enough at low tide but soon covered when the waters began to rise.

"Here is a small band of travellers on the way to Chichester. They would appear to be a gentleman, his wife, two children, and a serving man.

"**"Ho there!"** calls the gentleman imperiously. **"Come and help us over this beastly stream. Hurry there!"**

"**But Simon Cotes does not hurry. He does not come at all. He is no man's slave to be ordered hither and thither.**

"**So the servant, poor man, is sent to find a way, or perhaps to persuade the Hermit to change his mind. This the latter eventually does, but only because he hears the younger child crying as if afraid. He crosses quickly, picks up the little one, consoles it, and leading, takes the family to the other side.**"

Background music and singing—"O Happy Band of Pilgrims."

"No sooner had Simon settled himself to meditation than a Pilgrim band appear, on their way to Canterbury. He needs no calling, but strides quickly to meet them. There he halts to converse. These are folk after his own heart. Anyway he loves to gossip and get what news he can from the wayfarers he sees.

"Do you see those two ladies nearest the water? They are richly attired in correct 15th and 16th Century attire."

The dresses were long and flowing with a low off-the-shoulder neckline and a skirt that trailed along the ground. They were trimmed at the neck and bottom with a narrow band of ermine. The head-dresses were tall and conical, but covered with stiff white linen which hung from the top of the hat in long folds.

"Then those soldiers—one is a Sussex Artilleryman of the 16th Century, the other one of the early trained bands—the Home Guard of 400 years ago"

Talking of Artillery, the guns for England's army and navy were made of Sussex iron ore and forged by Sussex blacksmiths in the forests of the Sussex Weald using charcoal as fuel instead of coal.

"Ah, now the Pilgrim band are safely over the stream and moving towards Chichester, where they will sleep to-night. Simon Cotes waves to them from the door of his chapel on the hill—later called Hermitage Hill in his memory."

Pilgrims go off to same background hymn.

So at any hour of the day or night, Simon was there to guide and help all travellers. Daily he worshipped God in the chapel he himself built. And thus he spent his life in prayer and in the service of his fellow men. Even at his death he did not forget his work, for he willed that his quite extensive possessions should be used to maintain the bridge he had built and to help support some worthy hermit who would carry on what he had begun.

It is perhaps worthy of note that he did not leave his possessions to the care of the Church, but to the Earl of Arundel. Perhaps he was afraid that King Henry VIII would take it in his raids on wealthy church funds.

In spite of this, however, we should remember that Henry VIII was a really great king, who among other achievements made England's navy the greatest in the world. By the end of his reign we had seventy-five men o' war.

NOTE:—Sussex lowland roads were notorious for their shocking condition; therefore travellers would not be numerous.

In this district the mud was sometimes so deep that it was impossible to drive any kind of vehicle through it. Coaches would turn on to the farmed land, the passengers would alight, and local peasants would help the horses by turning the coach wheels.

Horsemen and pedestrians, including pilgrims, kept to the open country, the paths on the Downs.

KING CHARLES II AT RACTON

It is the proud boast of Sussex that a great and dramatic scene of English history was played within its boundaries. For it was across the Sussex Downs that the picturesque fugitive Charles II made good his escape to France from the pursuing Roundheads.

Charles, after being crowned king in Scotland, was heavily defeated by the

Cromwellian army at Worcester on the 3rd September, 1651, exactly 300 years ago. After several miraculous escapes from the searching Roundhead soldiers—on one occasion you remember he hid in an oak tree—he made his way to Bristol dressed as a woman. But being unable to secure a passage in a ship he turned S.E. towards the sheltered harbours of Sussex.

Disguised as the servant of John Ashburnham, a Sussex gentleman, he made his way through southwest England towards the village of Heale near Salisbury, which he finally reached in October. There he stayed with friends in hiding.

Lord Wilmot, a Royalist, had a friend at Racton House, which was a mile and a half from Westbourne, and which was later destroyed—a friend by the name of Colonel Gunter. The Roundheads already knew Gunter and had fined him £200 for helping Royalists, but in spite of this Lord Wilmot felt he was the man to get King Charles out of England.

Two Episodes by Class 3a and 1a, produced by Mr. P. Jones.

Prince Charles	Barry Heighway
Colonel Gunter, Royalist, of Racton House	Enid Freeman
Women of the house at Racton	Rosalie Blandford Julia Palmer
People of the time—Cavalier	Judith Fry
Cavalier Woman	Hilda Horn
Puritan	Neil Farquharson
Puritan Woman	Nita Ward
Seamen at Emsworth	John Rye Anthony Cooper Antony Gray
Fishermen at Langstone	Brian Shuker David Parr
Workers on the land	Jeremy Young Anthony Daines Kenneth Hasell
Roundhead Soldiers	Peter Williams Anthony Hotham Robin Asby David Garvey

EPISODE 11. The Attempt to find a Boat at Emsworth or Langstone.

“The following day, a Wednesday, Gunter and his servant, John Day, who has many links with the sea, ride out through Westbourne to Emsworth.

“On their way they pass a Cavalier Lady and Gentleman with whom Gunter has slight acquaintance. Then later a Puritan Lady and Gentleman, all of them blissfully ignorant of the importance of Gunter’s mission.

“At Emsworth, Day finds a group of fishermen working on their boat. He introduces them to his master, who shows interest in their craft. He questions them,

saying he needs a boat urgently. What reason he gives we do not know, but the boat is damaged and cannot be used. The Colonel offers money, but the men explain they just have no boat. Reluctantly the Colonel and Day leave the fishermen and continue their search. They ride to Langstone, where local fishermen are repairing nets.

“It is about an hour later and here they are approaching Langstone. Once more they pass a Cavalier. Then Day notices a party of Roundhead soldiers approaching. They decide to avoid them. The soldiers having passed, they continue on their way.

“Here the story is much the same. There is no boat available. Again they offer money but again it is of no use. Disheartened, they return to Racton to report their failure to Lord Wilmot.”

So Gunter and his man Day go to Chichester. There they sought a man named Mansel and pleaded for his help. On the promise of £50 (probably more than £1,000 of our money) he agreed to try. The only ship he could think of was on its way along the coast to Shoreham. So to Shoreham all four hastened, Lord Wilmot, Colonel Gunter, Day and Mansel. There they were introduced to the ship’s master, Nicholas Tattershall, who for £60 agreed to keep his ship at an hour’s notice to sail with the king abroad.

Mansel stayed at Shoreham. The others returned to Racton to arrange the next part of the escape.

EPISODE 12. How King Charles stayed at Racton.

“We do not even know why the king broke his journey here. We think, however, it was for rest and refreshment. It may even have been to hide from Roundhead soldiers who were in the vicinity. But we are going to attempt to show you what we think may have happened.

“Here we have Charles II dressed as a Puritan with close cropped hair, enjoying a brief rest in the parlour of Racton House. With him is his friend Lord Wilmot, also dressed as a Puritan, and Colonel Gunter. Outside loyal eyes and ears keep watch for the possible approach of danger. Presently a Roundhead appears—two, three, four!

“The king must be warned! But where to hide him? Under the table? No. Where? Ah, the chimney!

“The soldiers search . . . without finding him.

“Not knowing how near they are to success they withdraw and go on their way.

“When at last it is safe the king comes out and with hasty farewells he and his friends continue their journey across the Downs.”

The last few hours that Charles spent in England were in travelling in fear and haste via Kingley Vale, Stoke Clump, Halmaker and Slindon Park to Arundel and

finally to Shoreham, which was reached in the early hours of the day after leaving Racton.

At 8 a.m. he had left this country and was on his way to France and exile.

It is worth noting that Colonel Gunter died before 1660, when Charles was restored to the throne of England. Gunter had been overwhelmed by debts incurred in the King's service. His widow was granted £200 a year pension as was also Mansel.

Gramophone Recording.

Maypole Music.

COUNTRY DANCES, etc., taught by Mrs. A. Ward and Miss E. H. Allen, and the Maypole Dance taught by Mrs. B. L. Cornfoot.

Country Dance. Cobblers Jig. Class 3a.

Christine Ward, Pamela Jeffries, Barbara Hollingdale, Angela Courtney, Catherine Berwick, Susan Horwood, Enid Turner, Jeanette Boxall, Carol Burling, Jennifer Puddock, Barbara Power, Janet Freeland.

17th Century Action Song. Come Lasses and Lads

Freda Whiting, Susan Moulton, Mary Wakeford, Felicity Lockyer, Josephine Hobbs, Phyllis Moran, Thelma Walton } Girls Dancers

John Rye, Derek French, Tony Mellish, Eric Mahy, Peter Williams, Brian Collins, Peter Ackerman. } Boy Dancers

Richard Francis, Nicholas Haskins, John Crawte, Judith Fry, Christine Haskins, Maureen Searle, Jillian Squelch. } Men and women in the crowd.

The Maypole. Class 5

Christine Holland, Marilyn Hewer, Rosalie Mellish, Marion Davies, Yvonne Leaning, June Empringham, Linda Hendy, Doreen Forster, Philip Oakley, Jimmy Strudwick, Derek Newland, Leslie Hasell, James Barker, Ross Farquharson, Alan Stent, Michael Smith.

Country Dance. Cross Hands. Class 2.

Jill Tricker, Edna Crawte, Jacqueline Newland, Rosemary Pople, Suzanne Williamson, Susan Moulton, Felicity Lockyer, Phyllis Moran, Pauline Greenwood, Virginia Tyler, Ann Armitage, Loraine Horne, Josephine Hobbs, Freda Whiting.

Country Dance. The Triumph. Class 1a.

Nita Ward, Jillian Squelch, Enid Freeman, Pat Eastment, Janet Brading, Christine Haskins, Judith Fry, Lesley Burch, Wendy Twine, Myrtle Hutchins, Maureen Searle, Hilda Horn.

The "Triumph," one of the finest and most stately of English Dances belongs by tradition only to Sussex.

EPISODE 13. The Smugglers of Prinsted by children from Classes 1a, 1b and Remove and produced by Mr. F. W. Hillier.

A history of Bourne would not be complete without a smuggling episode.

Smugglers! What a romantic word. It brings visions of all manner of exciting adventures. Who were the first? No one knows. From what we hear too, we haven't had the last!

In the early days wool was smuggled to Flanders and returned in the same way as cloth. Then silks, spirits, tobacco, etc., came into the country secretly to evade the duties.

Chichester Harbour, with its vast expanses of mud, reeds and marsh lands has innumerable hiding places for men or goods. When excise men were stationed round the coast, this area needed special watching.

There used to be an extensive smuggling racket in French brandy. At dusk men carried the small casks on their backs from the harbour to a tunnel in the chalk downs. In north Chichester is Brandy-hole Lane and nearby, these tunnels have been found. Once on the other side of the Downs, ponies would be used for a quicker disposal of the spirits.

Smugglers met cunning with cunning. To-day we will show you what happened once at Prinsted when the tide was out.

Smuggler	...	...	...	...	...	<u>David Holman</u>
Customs Officer	...	...	...	...	...	Richard Baldwin
Assistant Officer	...	...	...	...	...	Robin Cox
Squire	...	...	...	...	...	<u>Reginald Parker</u>
Fishermen	...	...	...	...	...	David Compton Terence Wilkins Brian Joy John Mellor Brian Foster
Fishermen's Wives	...	...	...	...	...	<u>Joan Upfield</u> <u>Daphne Peters</u>
Girls	...	...	...	...	...	Kathleen Bailey Pamela Gardner Ann Joy
Small Boys	...	...	...	...	...	<u>Robert Holman</u> James Cogger

"In the distance boats can be seen passing up and down the main channel.

"Ah, is that something moving out on the mud? Surely it is an animal. No, it's a man cockling. He carries a basket on his arm and wears mud pattens so that he can walk easily over the squelching mud. He moves around crouching at his work looking like some huge ape.

"Hallo! He seems to be making straight for that weed covered bank. Maybe an eel or two are in the pool nearby. No; he sits down for a while and seems to be reaching for something. What was that flash as if the sun glinted on something

bright? Look, there it is again. Ha! ha! I wonder what it can be! Well, well! Live and let live!

Let's go back to the landing and see what is going on there. My! There seems to be a large crowd to-day. Oh dear! Dark blue uniforms. The Customs Officer and his man! Looks like trouble.

Yes! They are searching all the cocklers; and here's our friend of the mud bank! He's been seen so can't escape. And to cap it all, here's the Squire, our J.P. He doesn't like our friend, because he poaches his rabbits. It's probably through him that the customs officer is here.

Why, our cockling friend is smiling and whistling as if he is enjoying it all. What a nerve! The Squire is chatting to everybody as he moves among the groups. I do believe he is bargaining for some cockles. Now he's talking to our friend. Well I'm hanged! He's bought his cockles and is taking them away! I wonder if he knows what's in that basket? Anyway the Customs men don't like asking him if they can search it.

"Oh, they've finished searching. They don't look too pleased. What is that the officer is shouting to the mocking cocklers?—I'll catch you before long. I won't be made a fool of much longer!"

"Nasty temper he's got, hasn't he?"

"They say there's a master smuggler whom the cocklers have never met. I wonder who he is!"

Gramophone Recording - - - - - The Smugglers' Song

Our last scene in this pageant of Bourne depicts the first school here.

Following the Education Act of 1870 the Printhead Board School was opened in 1877. It consisted of two rooms, which with additions many years later, now constitute our Junior School.

EPISODE 14. OUR FIRST SCHOOL. By children of Class 4 and produced by Miss O. Z. Tanner.

Teacher: Wendy Twine (Class 1a).

Monitress: Valerie Carter.

Visitors: Peter Barnsley, Jimmy Lee, Stephen Cummins, Kathleen Haskett, Janet Cummins, Molly Smith.

Children: Dorothy Newlands, Pamela Robinson, Suzanne Wood, Jennifer Rendle, Susan Morgan, Mary Mead, Enid Jones, Margaret Harris, Yvonne Hanratty, Lorna Gale, Barbara Cassidy, Janet Bulbeck, Lesley Bailey, Susan Marchbank, Malcolm Aburrow, Anthony Broomfield, Colin Freeman, John Gilby, John Greentree, Graham Harley, Raymond Hartley, Donald Macdonald, Lionel Southwell, Ian Tomsett, Antony Collins, Brian Hampton, William Young, David Morgan, Rosalie Lenihan, Brenda Redhouse.

read 90
"At the ringing of the school bell on the opening day 74 years ago, there were 29 children who took their places in the school room.

"Miss Jane Sandys was the Schoolmistress. She had the difficult task of teaching children ranging from 5 to 14 years at the same time.

"Numbers on the register grew, and we are told that within a year about 80 children were enrolled. Perhaps there was an excuse for latecomers in those days. There were no school buses and many children had to walk long distances over muddy lanes. Absences due to bad weather were frequent, while the heating of the school-room in winter was very poor.

"The School Pence (2d. for the oldest child, and a penny for every other child in the family) was collected each week. By order of the local School Board children who had arrived without their money were sent home to fetch it.

School equipment was poor. In fact little else seems to have been supplied but a slate and we imagine, a reader. Children had to buy their own slate pencils at six a penny. Copy books were a penny each.

"As time went on many local people came, curious to see the new school. Some heard the older boys read and the little ones sing. Ah! Miss Sandy has found a naughty boy. She puts a dunce's cap on his head and stands him in the corner! Perhaps there were too many visitors for we are told that only members of the Board would henceforth be allowed.

"Drill in those days was very different from the Physical Education of to-day. Then it would seem that an excess of clothing was worn. Those poor girls! In those skirts and petticoats! And they must not show a knee! Ah, what has Miss Sandy found now? A boy so muffled up with clothing that the exercises have put him into a terrible state. He is puffing as if he will burst! She pulls off his jacket and a thick scarf, but finds she can do no more as the poor lad has been 'sewn up' for the winter!

"One day, some of the School Board paid a visit. The ladies inspected the needlework of the older girls, who were busily stitching away at their calico 'specimens.'

"At the conclusion of their visit there was some news to be given to the school—the promise of a prize for the boy or girl who had made the most progress for the year, and the good news of a whole day's treat for everybody at Adsdean!"

FINALE. March past and mass assembly of all participants to end the programme with the song "Sussex by the Sea" (words and music by W. Ward-Higgs).

GOD SAVE THE KING.

Here is a description of the Thorney of only twenty years ago.

THORNEY IN WINTER

Hampshire has Hayling—but Sussex has Thorney,
The isle of the hawthorn, the isle of the breeze,
That gathers to gale force on Chichester Harbour,
Which buffets her shores, and the roots of her trees.

Lonely her farmsteads, her church and her village,
And lonely her sands when the wild geese have flown,
The cormorant fishes far out in her waters,
A swan has come seeking her shelter alone.

Quiet, by the channels of Thorney and Emsworth,
The redshank is hunting for food in the reeds.
Then over to Pilsey, the island of shingle,
A man may walk out as the ocean recedes.

Thorney in winter is Thorney enchanted,
With dykes mute and frozen, fields windswept and brown.
Oh, Hampshire has Hayling, but Sussex has Thorney,
And Thorney is one of the gems in her crown.

Sylvia Hurd.

With acknowledgments to the author and to the editor of the Sussex County Magazine.

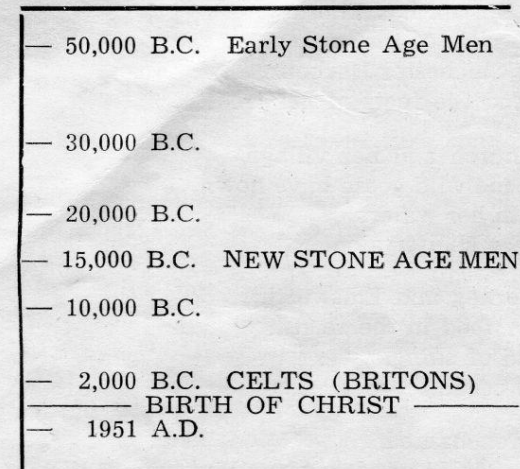
REFERENCE BOOKS

Bourne in the Past
The Story of Sussex
Sussex
The Spirit of the Downs
Downs and Weald
Sussex (Poems)
Sussex
Ancient Times
Medieval & Modern Times

J. H. Mee
Victor Cook
John H. Ford
Arthur Becket
Thornhill
Quotation & Picture Series
Ethel Meynell
J. H. Breasted
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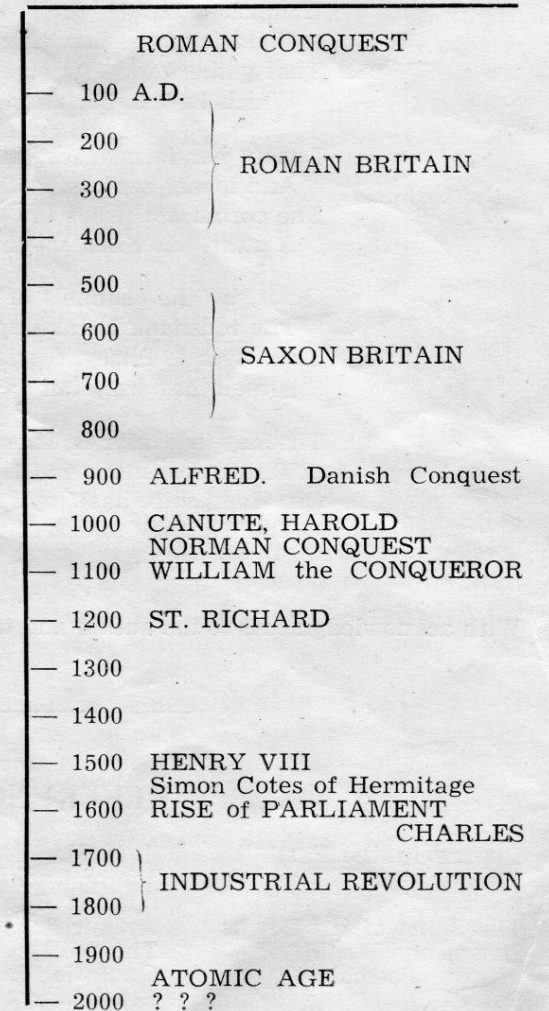
Cambridge, Hove.
Cambridge, Hove.
Knopf.
Methuen.
Christophers.
A. & C. Black.
Robert Hale.
Ginn.
Ginn.

TIME CHART to scale Inhabitants of Britain Through The Ages—1



Note the very small length of time since the birth of Christ 1951 years ago.

TIME CHART to scale Inhabitants of Britain Through The Ages—2



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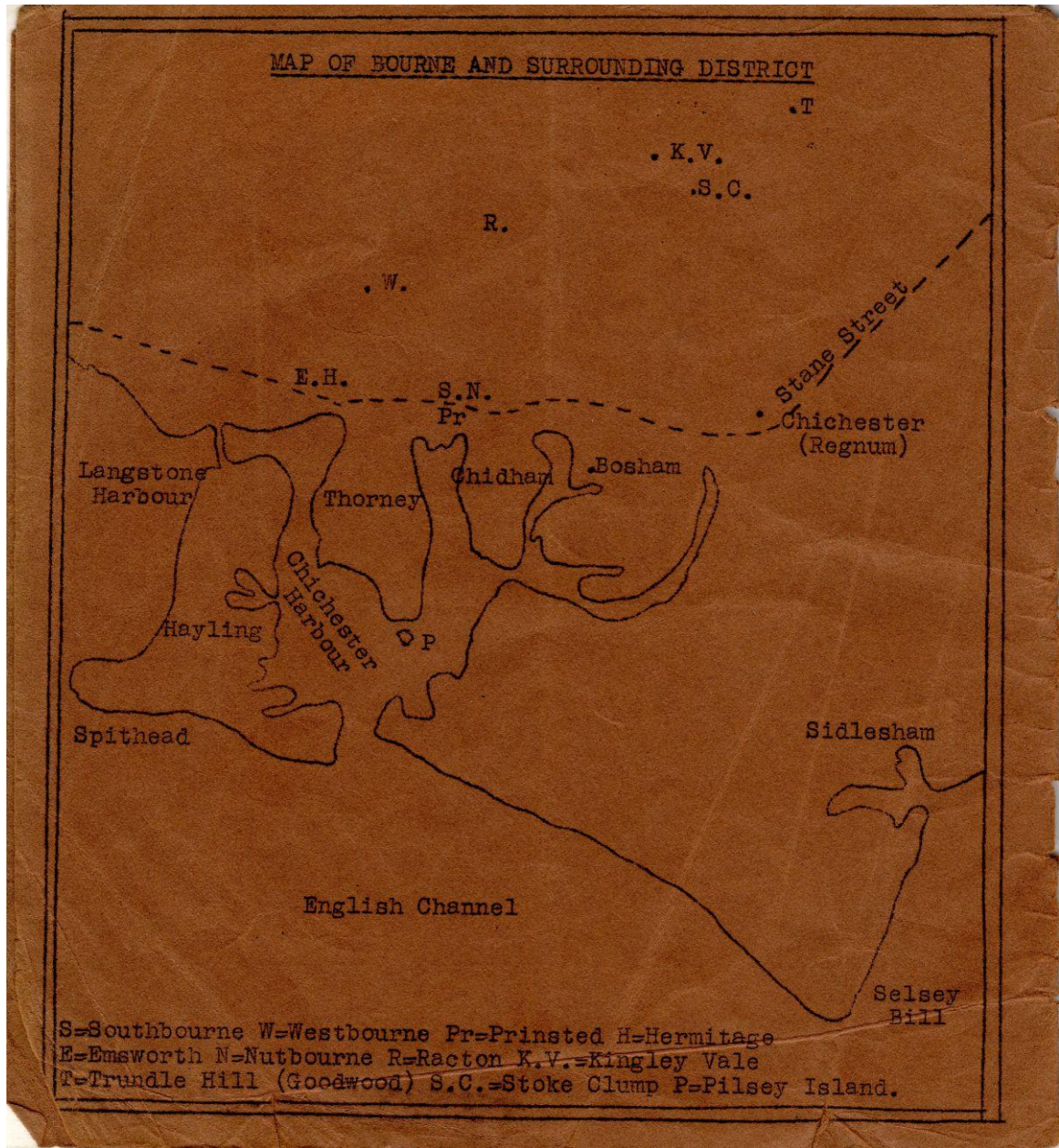
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This programme was given to me by Mark Everson who went to School here and was the organist at St. John's church for many years.

When I started to read it, I realised this was a record of the development of the area.

I recognised so many names I felt it was an important record of our local history so I scanned it and sent to the records office.

At that time I never dreamt that one day it would be available, to everyone through this website.

Ruth