

REDOUBT  
TOWER  
EASTBOURNE



THE  
MODEL VILLAGE  
and  
BLUE TEMPLE  
GROTTO  
and  
AQUARIUM

**SOUVENIR  
GUIDE  
BOOK**

### **Key to numbering of models :**

1. Town Wall and Falcons Gate
2. Old Cottages
3. The "Star and Garter"
4. Town Hall
5. Bessie's Bun Shop
6. Abbey Hotel
7. Alms Houses
8. Bridge House
9. The Abbey Meadows
10. Kingsmere Castle
11. Kingston Agnes Point-to-Point
12. Bridget's Mill
13. The Manor
14. Grecian-style Building
15. Home Farm
16. Bassett Falls and Gleneagle Caves
17. Lodge to the Manor House
18. Haileybourne College
19. Friars Bridge

F3

## The Redoubt Tower

**T**HE Tower was one of a series of fortified towers built mainly along the Kent and Sussex coast in 1804 as a defence against the threatened invasion of Britain by Napoleon Bonaparte. Its design was based on that of the fortress of Cape Mortello, Corsica, the capture of which proved so difficult and costly to our own forces in 1794. It had accommodation for 350 men, with provisions and water for several weeks, and was used

again for housing troops during the First and Second World Wars, but its only real enemy has been the sea, for until the sea wall was extended it was seriously threatened by coastal erosion. The freehold of the Tower was sold to the Eastbourne Corporation by the Army Council in 1924 for £150.

We can only hazard a guess at the sergeant-major's reaction if he could see his parade ground now!

## The Model Village

**W**HATEVER that worthy gentleman's reaction might have been, we feel sure he would have relished some of the difficulties encountered during the construction of the Model Village: not least of which was the fact that there was no top soil on the site and, furthermore, no access for lorries directly onto the site. It was estimated that in order to cover the area to a depth of 18 in., 500 cubic yards (100 lorry loads) of soil would be required, all of which had to be barrowed manually across the bridge over the moat and tipped over the parapet, and then distributed. Another of the snags was the proximity of the site to the sea. It was intended to cloak the walls with *Cupressus macrocarpa*, a shrub generally reckoned to be resistant to salt winds, and more than 200 of these were planted but, unfortunately, during very rough weather the entire site is drenched

with salt spray carried over the 20-ft.-high parapet by the winds, and of the original planting of *Macrocarpa* only two survived. Therefore, if the keener of the horticulturalists among our visitors are not impressed by the standard of gardening or choice of shrubs and flowers, we ask your indulgence and assure you that we are doing all we possibly can to improve the situation. (We are now working to the advice of the Royal Horticultural Society Advisory Bureau.)

The village was first planted up in the spring of 1957, and it was necessary to plant many half-grown shrubs in order to achieve the required effect for the opening on June 7 of that year. By replacing losses with smaller specimens which are easier to shelter, we hope in time to produce strains more resistant to the conditions.

Although the Model Village, like any

real counterpart, must be financially self-supporting, the primary object is not to see how much profit we can make but to give the greatest amount of pleasure to the greatest number of people. We regard that as the measure of our success.

We have tried to portray a cameo of the rural English scene before the days when man began thundering across the countryside like a thing demented, as if every second was his last (as it frequently is), and screaming through the skies faster than the speed of sound. Yet what hypocrites we are, for would any of us, if we could, halt this hectic cavalcade we call Progress? Nevertheless, pause here a moment and count the cost.

Have you ever looked across a valley scarred by factories belching smoke, pouring all manner of filth into the river, surrounded by ill-planned, badly-built

houses and all the plethora of modern living and thought how beautiful it must once have been, silent, lush and clean? True, there were inter-tribal massacres from time to time, but by today's standards these can only be regarded as "friendly."

There are many, many, instances where man's labours have considerably enhanced the landscape, where man has provided the jewel and nature the setting for that jewel: Windsor Castle from the Great Park for example. Leeds Castle, Maidstone from the lake side, Bodiam, Jeddburgh and countless others. And the list is not confined only to the magnificent. Britain abounds with beautiful little villages and country towns, and rather than copy any one of them we have tried to epitomise them all.

The site is really divisible into five sections, the country town of Market



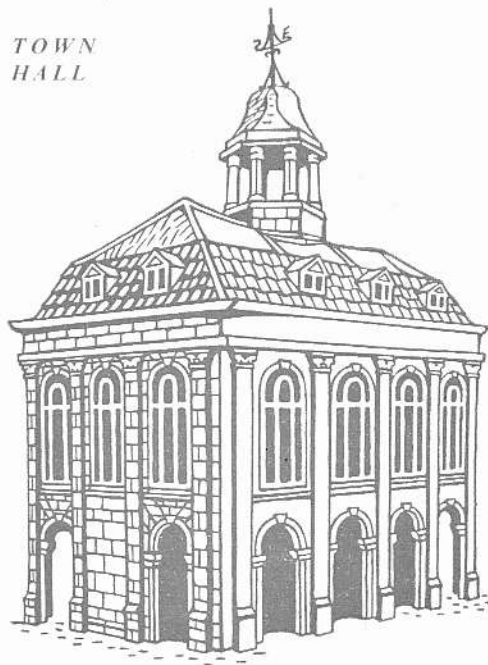
Stowborough, Fountains Abbey and the Abbey Meadows, Kingsmere Castle, Kingston Agnes Manor, the Park and Home Farm and Haileybourne College and Playing Fields.

### *Market Stowborough*

ON ENTERING Market Stowborough, we see first the ancient, fortified Town Wall and the Falcons Gate<sup>(1)</sup>. The wall at one time completely surrounded the town, but this section is now all that remains. Huddling against the wall is a row of old cottages<sup>(2)</sup>, picturesque but insanitary, which will no doubt soon be demolished to make way for a gleaming supermarket or coffee bar. Needless to say we have not far to go before we come upon that good old institution an English Pub<sup>(3)</sup>—the “Star and Garter,” and almost beside it a rather unexpected neighbour—the Gallery Van Schlosh, where old masters are bought, sold and painted whilst you wait. A short stroll along the river brings us to D’Ethwatch, Fiddlepenny & Watnoe-Bid, the estate agents, but if you are thinking of coming to live here this is a much-sought-after area and prices are high. We are now in the Square with the Town Hall<sup>(4)</sup> forming an island in the middle. A peep through the windows and we can watch a Council Meeting in session. This is not the orderly affair one would expect of such a dignified little town, because Alderman Harry Cabbage is sound asleep, and to be truthful nobody can remember him contributing anything more helpful to the meeting than a rich, sonorous snore these past 20 years.

The Ideal Home Furnishing Company is surprisingly modern in the goods it has to offer, but next door is Bessie’s Bun

TOWN  
HALL



Shop<sup>(5)</sup> and people come many miles to buy her lardy cakes, which are justly famous. Agri-Quipment Limited have very modern show-room premises for their display of tractors and farming equipment, whilst Bobby’s the well-known drapers, have a branch here to cater for the sartorial necessities of the inhabitants.

The Abbey Hotel<sup>(6)</sup> completes the Square and is noted for its excellent cuisine and comfortable, spacious accommodation. The River Lawn is a peaceful place to linger over a drink on a summer evening, watching the pleasure boats glide leisurely by, some with happy chattering youngsters and some with silent lovers.

Buttercross Lane is a delightful collection of stone and brick and weathered tiles leading down to the river and the Copper Kettle.



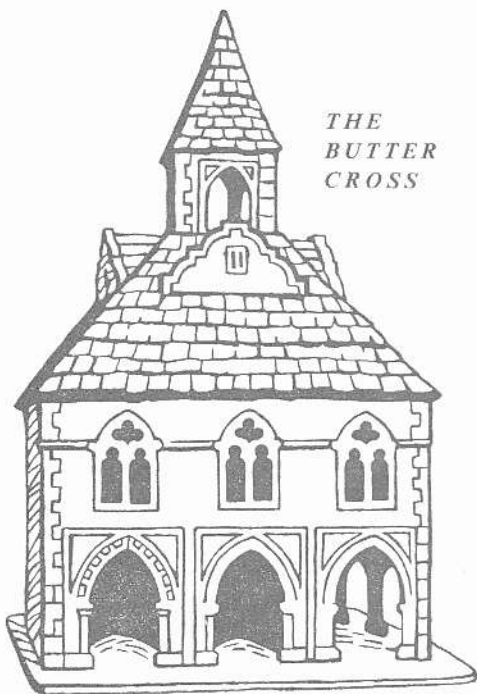
*THE ABBEY HOTEL*

Adjoining the Parish Church are the alms houses<sup>(7)</sup>. Some of the inhabitants sit dozing in the sun on the old circular

wooden seat round the ancient yew tree. It is always interesting to chat with these old people to discover what life was like here, perhaps 70 years ago. Invariably they talk of life "up at the Big House," which, in the days before super-tax, employed a hundred servants, including the gardeners and estate workers. The "Big House," by the way, is Kingston Agnes Manor, home since the 16th century of the Earls of Kingsmere.

Bridge House<sup>(8)</sup>, a large Regency house, is the comfortable home of a successful local merchant.

At this point we cross the river into the precincts of Fountains Abbey.



*THE BUTTER CROSS*

### *Fountains Abbey*

ALTHOUGH, AS most of our visitors well know, Fountains Abbey, Yorkshire, is in ruins, we have based our model of the reconstruction on research carried out by Sir W. H. St. J. Hope, and we claim this to be one of the finest architectural models in the country. The Cistercian monks can be seen about their tasks, and

more often than not they can be heard chanting in the Chapel of the Nine Altars. It will be seen that the Abbey is really on an island. The Abbey Meadows<sup>(9)</sup> is the name given by the local people to the fields surrounding the abbey.

### *Kingsmere Castle*

STROLLING ON we come to Kingsmere Castle<sup>(10)</sup>, standing proudly on a rising on the far side of the river. It is not now inhabited but is scheduled as an Ancient Monument, and a guide is available to conduct you round. It is every boy's dream castle with dank, echoing dungeons and crumbling towers, and an interesting water gate. On this particular day the Kingston Agnes point-to-point<sup>(11)</sup> meeting is being held on the field in front of Bridget's Mill<sup>(12)</sup>, and we have just been told by someone who knows somebody to put

our shirt on a certain outsider, so if you will excuse us for a moment we will join you at the next point of call.

### *Kingston Agnes Manor*

THE MANOR<sup>(13)</sup>, like so many of our stately homes where the tax collector hammers so heavily at the door, is open to the public on payment of half a crown. Whether you agree or not with the social system which permits one family to live in a house with a hundred rooms surrounded by a hundred acres of park land, whilst others live in near squalor, you would be foolish to miss the opportunity of looking over this beautiful old house with its priceless collection of art treasures. It has been in the possession of the Kingsmere family since it was built in 1589 on lands granted (with the Earldom) by Queen Elizabeth for the part played by Percy,



*KINGSTON AGNES MANOR*



the First Earl in defeating the Armada. Its building was financed by the proceeds of this and other battles, or, to call it by another name—loot.

Ironically, "loot" is the term given by the present Earl to the half-crowns collected at the door. Dressed in ancient tweeds and a tatty panama that has weathered to the colour of old varnish, he takes his turn of duties on the post-card stall like the rest of the staff, and has often been asked in the rather loud voice some people reserve for the aged: "And what part of the gardens do you tend, my

man?" To which the Earl, respectfully tugging the brim of his hat, replies: "Taters, ma'am." The grace and dignity with which he can accept a sixpenny tip is an art born of centuries of good breeding and must be seen to be appreciated. He loves this old house passionately, gladly suffering the rigours of its draughty rooms and archaic plumbing, and in return is loved by all whose sustenance it provides.

The Grecian-style building<sup>(14)</sup> on the left as we leave Kingston Agnes is really nothing more than an elaborate summer house typical of the extravagance of the







*FOUNTAINS ABBEY*

late 18th century nobility. Italian craftsmen were brought specially to this country and only Italian Marble was used in its construction. In rather stark contrast is the little flint-walled church adjoining.

Beyond the church is Home Farm<sup>(15)</sup> which provides much of the produce for the Big House. The Earl takes a great interest in the farm, and his cattle take many prizes at the agricultural shows. Also part of the farm is the wind-mill, still in working order. Flour for the estate is milled here to this day.

We have come now to some of the most picturesque scenery in the district—Bassett

Falls and the Gleneagle Caves<sup>(16)</sup>. The meadow beside the waterfall is a favourite place for picnics and bathers, though the water coming as it does from an underground cavern is always a little too cold for comfort.

The cottage at the road junction is a lodge to the manor house<sup>(17)</sup>, and marks the boundary of the estate.

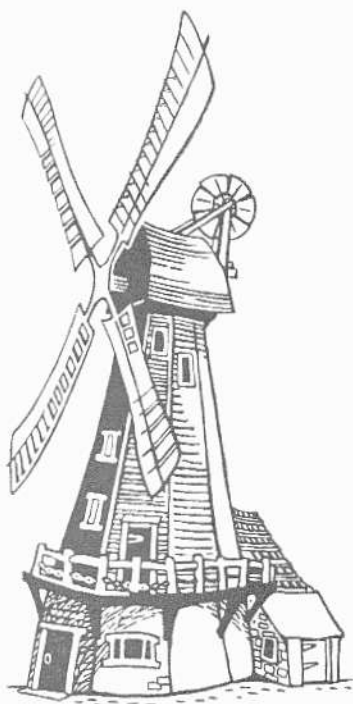
### *Haileybourne College*

CROSSING THE river we come to the playing fields of Haileybourne College<sup>(18)</sup>, the famous public school founded in 1440. Any boy who can survive its almost barbaric traditions is surely well prepared



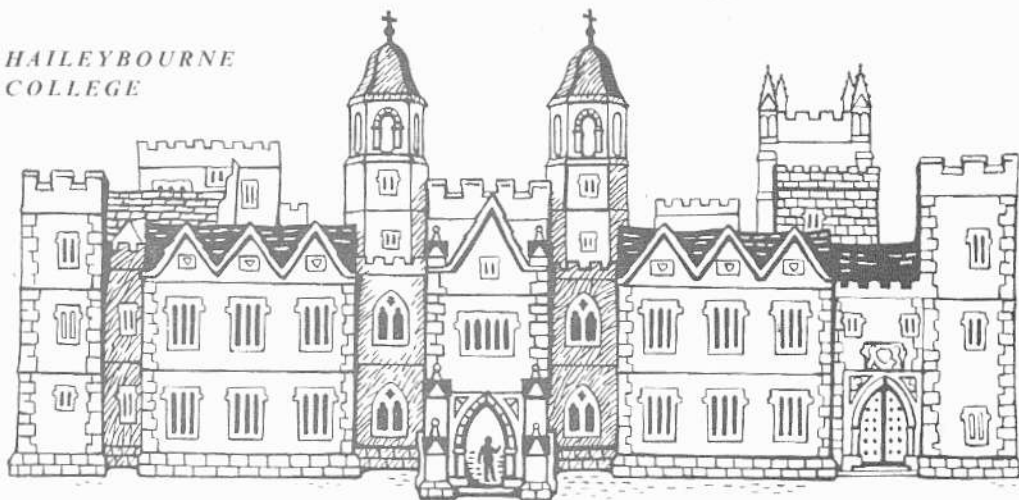
for all the hazards of the adult world. The school has a particularly fine record for Classics and the Arts, and it has been suggested that this might well be due to the boys spending their formative years among these beautiful old buildings and playing fields, whilst the river glides ceaselessly and leisurely by, all being conducive to the contemplation of beauty. Not that Haileybourne breeds its own kind of angel. In fact, there is, in Market Stowborough, a section of the community that thinks just the opposite and will quote many instances in support of their theory. The time, for example, after the regatta, that Chetwyn Major was found drifting past Friars Bridge<sup>(19)</sup> at 2 a.m. in a punt, singing an incredibly vulgar version of the school song in an incredibly raucous voice and in a very, very drunken condition. It was only the fact that he had that day won for the School the Public Schools Challenge Cup for sculling for the first time in 50 years that saved him from immediate expulsion.

Well, Chetwyn Major is only one of the



inhabitants of our Little Town, and the children often ask us if any fairies live here. To be truthful nobody has ever seen any but, sometimes, after the last

### HAILEYBOURNE COLLEGE



visitors have gone and the lights have been put out, we think we have heard sounds of music and gay laughter, and the glimpse of a chandelier in the Great Hall of Kingston Agnes Manor, as if the Little People have

been waiting for us to go before having a wonderful glittering party.

And that is the end of our tour. We hope you have enjoyed your visit as much as we have enjoyed your company.

## The Blue Temple Grotto and Aquarium

**T**HE Model Village took two years to build, and, as can be imagined, working to such fine detail can be very exacting both mentally and physically. (Straightening up after hours and hours of work on a small inaccessible section can be a long and painful process!) And so it was decided to embark on some new venture by way of respite.

It is not easy to think of something new with which to entertain the public, and it is even more difficult to please everybody.

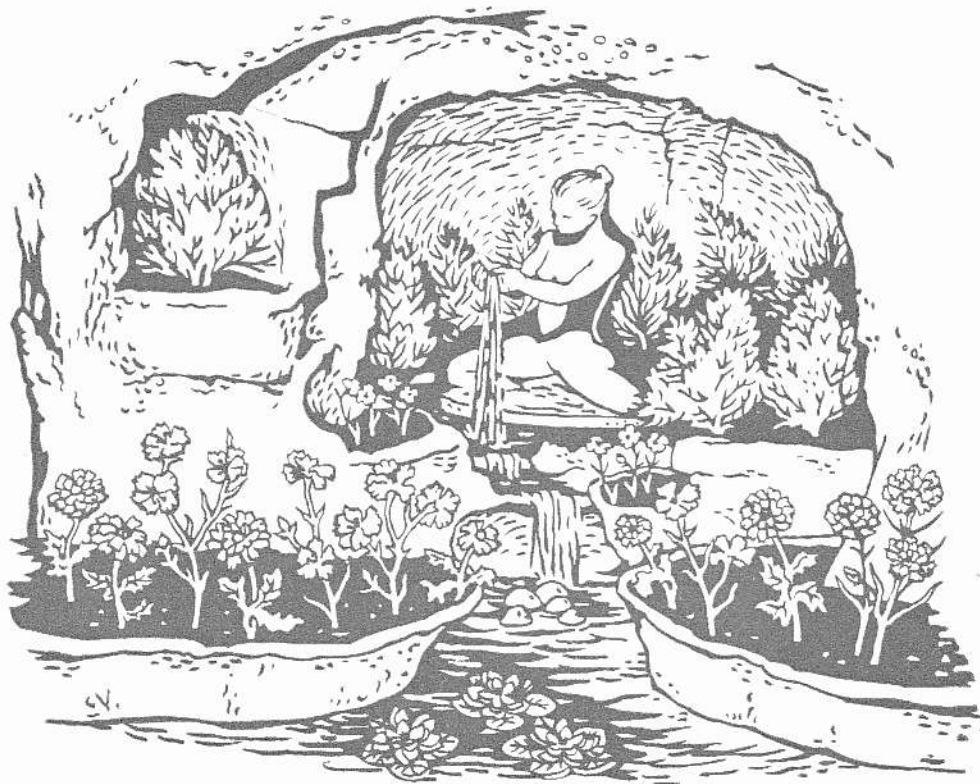
The area covered by the Grotto was originally part of the dry moat surrounding

the Tower. It was terraced over when the Redoubt Music Garden was built, leaving a long dark tunnel open at both ends and cave-like in character. It was decided to develop this characteristic and at the same time to incorporate as many features of interest as possible.

A public aquarium was the obvious thing for such a setting but, instead of the usual serried row of identical tanks, which become rather boring after the first half-dozen, to all except the occasional biologist, it was decided to stagger the tanks as much as possible and to install



*SCENIC TANK*



*THE FLOWER GROTTO*

sea water, fresh water and tropical tanks. The tanks range from the small tropicals holding a few gallons to the largest, which is 14 ft. long by 9 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep. Needless to say, tanks of this size must be enormously strong to withstand such pressure, and the large tanks are of reinforced concrete 8 in. thick, with 1-in. thick plate glass view panels.

One of the main features of the cave is the Flower Grotto with its subterranean garden and waterfalls.

At this point the cave opens into a lofty temple—the Blue Temple. Cool and silent, save for the playing of a small fountain,

this is surely the most peaceful place in all Eastbourne. Here, also, fish tanks have been blended in with the classical setting, and this theme has even been carried into the tanks themselves, some of which contain miniature Grecian temples.

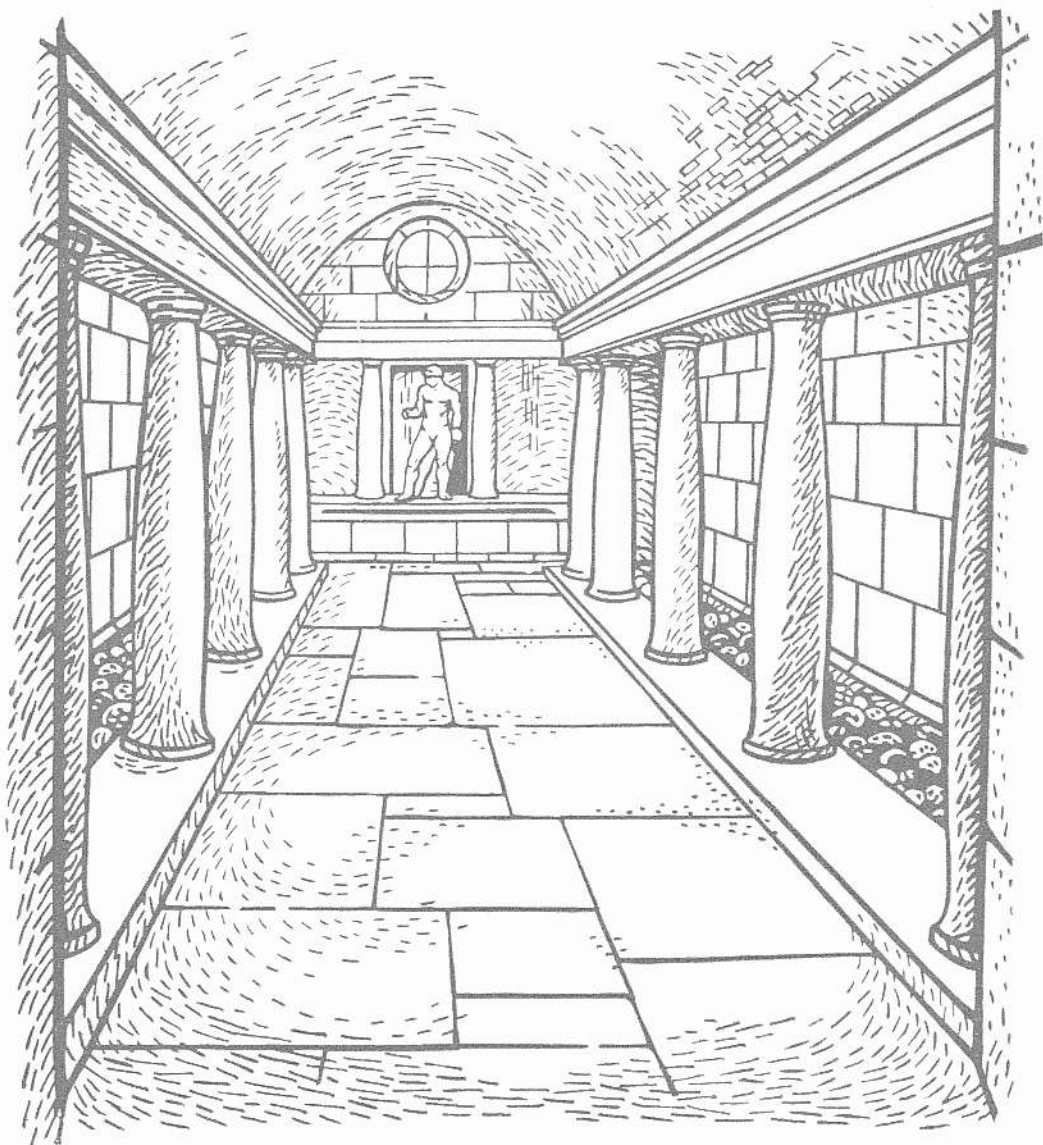
And from the Blue Temple to the Septimus Arch, based on the triumphal arches of ancient Greece. What a magnificent age that was. Incidentally, all the columns and mouldings, and some of the statuary used in the temples, were made in our own workshops.

After a short walk we come to the Cave of Little Fishes wherein are housed the

fascinatingly coloured tropicals. Here the tanks have been specially constructed in irregular shapes in order to blend more naturally with the cave setting.

Finally, and most spectacular of all—

the Temple of Fountains, where massed fountains against the background of classical architecture and statuary must leave a lasting impression of your visit to the Redoubt.



*THE BLUE TEMPLE*



*If* YOU ARE organizing a party, whether it be school children, old folk or works outing, ensure the success of your trip by visiting the Redoubt. The Model Village is in the open, the Grotto Aquarium is entirely under cover and the exit, with cafe and toilet facilities immediately adjoining, leads right on to the beach, so whatever the weather the success of your trip is guaranteed. There are reductions for parties

*If* YOU ARE a coach operator, please ask for special parking facilities

*If* YOU ARE one of the growing army of week-end motorists that enjoys his ' Sunday run ', remember we are open *EVERY* day of the year. Whitsun to September 30th 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., winter 10 a.m. till dusk

*If* YOU CAN think of any way we can add to the pleasure of your visit, please let us know. Every member of the staff is at your service

*If* YOU HAVE enjoyed your visit please tell your friends how to get to the Redoubt

*VISIT, ALSO*

**Hastings Model Village**

*WHITE ROCK GARDENS*

*HASTINGS*

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