



HOLLY TREE HOSTEL

The idea of a school hostel was the brainchild of Mr. Crofts and Mr. Purchas. The hostel is part of the buildings on the farm belonging to Col. R. A. Crofts near Theberton in Suffolk.

The hostel started life as a barn and a lot of work has been done in the past year to convert it for our use. A large amount of the work has been done voluntarily by many senior members of the school. The division of the barn into two storeys, the building of the stairs, the plumbing, and the wiring were done by professionals, but in order to keep expenses to a minimum the fitting of shelves, doors, panelling, curtain rails, partitions and false ceilings, and the cleaning, painting and other odd jobs have been done by the amateur workmen.

There are seven rooms in the hostel. Downstairs are two large rooms, one to be used as a living room and the other as a workroom and study. The kitchen has all the essentials one would expect and the large washroom is well provided, there even being hot water! There is a large dormitory upstairs which can sleep twelve boys and a smaller dormitory for the accompanying adults.

The parties of boys that have been going to the hostel have not had the most comfortable weekends. Boys have had to sleep on air beds or camp beds in sleeping bags huddled round electric fires, but bunk beds, Youth Hostel style, have now been fitted. There have been two alternatives with regard to food. Boys could either take their own supplies or else chance their luck with the master's cooking! Provisions can be obtained in Theberton which is not very far from the hostel.

The hostel is for use by masters and boys of the school. Weekend stays during term time or week stays during the holidays are possible. There have been many suggestions about projects which can be carried out using the hostel as a base, and various masters are now planning geographical and biological field work, art, training sessions for athletes, archaeological and discussion groups.

There are several local amenities and places of interest. The local village, Theberton, has a fine church, a shop, public house and post office. Leiston, Saxmundham and Aldeburgh, which are larger towns, are within easy reach. There is a bird reserve near the hostel and the surrounding countryside is of great biological interest. There are fascinating villages and some of the local buildings are architecturally noteworthy. The hostel is six miles from Aldeburgh where an annual Festival of the Arts is held. The sea is just over a mile away and can be reached by foot.

The hostel was formally opened by Miss Fern on the 26th May, and she expressed the hope of all that the hostel will become an important extension of school life.