

Belmont Hassocks

The Rise and Demise of an English Prep School

by Dale Vargas

with a foreword by Dennis Silk CBE, former Warden of Radley College



Belmont School began in Brighton in 1904 and closed at Hassocks in 1972. In that time, there were three Headmasters and over a 1,000 boys passed through the school.

Those are the bare facts, but a school is essentially about people and the story of Belmont is a fascinating piece of the social history of the first three quarters of the 20th century. For many, their experiences between the ages of eight and 13 have shaped the course of their lives.

The author has woven the memories of over 60 former pupils and teachers into an extraordinary tale. Some remember it as a time of childhood bliss: friends and fun in idyllic surroundings. For others it was an appalling time of homesickness, beating and bullying. Some of the teachers were inspirational; others should never have been entrusted with the care of young people.

The Belmont story will appeal to anyone interested in schools; it will also appeal to those who are interested in the interaction of human beings who found themselves thrown together into that extraordinary institution, an English preparatory school.

The book is hardback and contains images of many of the characters and locations that make up the Belmont story.

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