

# 1967

TO THE EDITOR

## Tenterden's youth look for local employment

THE opinions of the young people of Tenterden have not been aired in recent discussions on the development of the area. As leader of Tenterden Youth Club, I am as close to the post-school youngsters as anyone, and I would like to record the tenor of recent talk among members.

Much more employment opportunity is needed in the town or adjacent areas. This can be provided by factories, industrial or agricultural, without affecting the character of Tenterden, and without detriment to the peaceful retirement of those good people who constitute such a large proportion of our population.

The present industrial area is capable of expansion much greater than that envisaged in the proposed Town Plan, without most of our population or visitors ever becoming aware of its existence.

### OPPORTUNITY

Apart from the definitely limited labour requirements of local building, agriculture and shops, what employment does Tenterden offer a youngster? Very little indeed, except the journey to Ashford or further.

I believe that a statement has been made that the local youth do not want employment in the town. If anyone does think that this is credible, I can assure him that it is not true. I have seen cases of versatile young men having to go to work elsewhere because there was no work at all offered in Tenterden, and the official statistics are that one in three of our employed population travels away to work.

In all cases of people travelling to work, it is because suitable work or attractive wages are not available locally. This lack in Tenterden is one which, to a considerable extent, could and should be made good.  
— R. MATTHEWS, Readers Bridge, St. Michael's, Tenterden.

Tenterden Youth Club