



PRESENT STATE

the news sheet of the Pugin Society

January 2003 Number One

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HAPPY NEW YEAR and welcome to *Present State*, an abbreviation often used for convenience by scholars and aficionados when referring to Augustus Pugin's *The Present State of Ecclesiastical Architecture in England*, published in book form in 1843. *Present State* is a bulletin intended to appear annually in early Spring to give members a brief roundup of the latest Society news, as its name implies. Accompanying it will be the first Events Sheet of the year and various flyers. Following Committee discussion, it has been decided that *Present State* will take the place of the winter *True Principles*, and that there will in future be one *True Principles* a year only, a substantial issue which will be published in July. It will carry new research, longer and more complex articles, reviews and features, and will thus complement the different, rather more immediate, character of *Present State*.

THE GRANGE News from the Landmark Trust is reasonably optimistic. Phase One of the work is expected to start on the house in June. However, although this is fairly encouraging, the need for funding for this most important of all projects is ongoing and urgent; **please help in any way you can**. Donations can be sent to: The Landmark Trust, Shottesbrooke, Maidenhead, Berks SL4 2AW, or telephone 01628 825920 for further information. Ideas for fundraising welcomed – please contact the Society through the Hon. Sec. Pam Cole, 33 Montcalm House, Westferry Road, London E14 3SD, tel: 020 7515 9474, e-mail: pamakapam@aol.com.

IN THE RIVER ROOM The Society ended an exciting roller-coaster year of commemorative events for the 150th anniversary of A.W.N. Pugin's death on an upbeat and convivial note, with a reception in this glamorous room at the Palace of Westminster, courtesy Lord Irvine. **Lucinda Lambton** regaled members with a sparkling and impassioned account, narrated with her customary brio, of the rescue of the historic wallpaper factory of Cole & Son (founder John Perry), famously producers of, amongst many others, Pugin papers from the original blocks. Our speaker - and member - had earlier, as most of you will know, personally succeeded in saving this great and still very active firm from closure. A fine achievement indeed.



ENGLISH HERITAGE PLAQUE UNVEILED

Early November saw members in Birmingham, honouring John Hardman's great contribution to the Revival and to Catholicism, commemorating the 150th anniversary of the death of the Earl of Shrewsbury (9th November 1852), and attending the launch of Roderick O'Donnell's *The Pugins and the Catholic Midlands*. For a detailed report of last year's events in Tasmania, Ramsgate, the north and the midlands, wait for your summer *True Principles*.

FROM THE PRINTING PRESS Last year was a remarkable one not only for events, but also for Pugin publications. Not only *The Pugins and the Catholic Midlands* (see above) but also Michael Fisher's *Pugin-Land*, and Brian Andrews' *Creating a Gothic Paradise: Pugin at the Antipodes*, threw added lustre on Pugin studies. (Continued overleaf)

FROM THE PRINTING PRESS (cont)

However, it is pleasant to be able to start the New Year with yet further new titles. Both Gothic Architecture and its Meaning (Spire Books, ed. Michael Hall), and Edward Pugin and Kent: his Life and Work within the County by Catriona Blaker, are now available (see enclosed flyers). We also include a flyer for the first two numbers of the fine new format Journal of Stained Glass (ed. Sandra Coley). Reviews of some of these publications, unless we have already covered them - as in the case of Pugin-Land - will appear in the forthcoming True Principles.

BUILDINGS AT RISK These will be reported in detail in True Principles. However, shortly before Christmas the subject of the Catholic Church of the Sacred Heart, Henley, and its important high altar by E.W. and A.W. Pugin, reared its head again. Roderick O'Donnell, a member of the Historic Churches Committee of Birmingham, reports that by a majority vote the Committee agreed the scheme to part demolish the altar, despite objections by the Pugin Society, English Heritage, the Victorian Society, S. Oxfordshire District Council, Roderick O'Donnell privately, and two parish members. It is very likely that this decision will provoke an appeal, to which the Society may make written representations. "In our view," writes Dr O'Donnell, "the 'pastoral reasons' put forward, and the 'need' to part demolish the altar, are insufficient to overcome the conservation case for the repair and retention of the existing altar as a work of art, architecture and sculpture, even if no longer used."

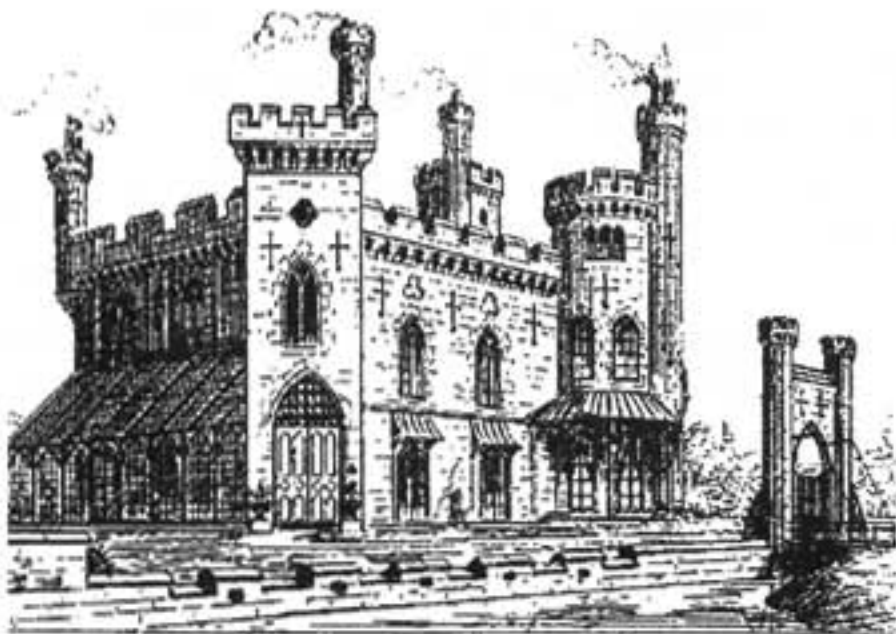
FAMILY TREE At the suggestion of Alexandra Wedgwood, further in-depth work is now being undertaken on the Pugin Family Tree. This will be a most valuable addition to our archives. The project is being collated by Pugin descendant David Peniston-Bird, with the assistance and support of our experts. All information from family members, or from any reader of Present State, would be more than welcome. If you feel you can help David in any way, please write to him at: 5 Gleneagles Close, Kettering, Northants NN15 5AR, or, if you are on line, his e-mail address is: davidpb@obelisk.fsbusiness.co.uk



FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS
These attractive sets of images of members of the Pugin and Hardman families (A4, colour, and laminated, but of which we are able only to give an indication here) are now available, cost £5.00 the pair inc. postage.
To order, contact:
The Pugin Society, 122 Grange Road, Ramsgate CT11 9PT
Tel: 01843 596401
e-mail catblake@freeuk.com

NEWS FROM ST CHAD'S Father Brian Doolan, Dean of St Chad's Cathedral, Birmingham, wrote to the Society last Autumn reporting how well the St Chad's Pugin 150th commemorative weekend of 13th-15th September last (further coverage in *True Principles*) went – "A huge success with many people visiting the exhibition," he writes, adding significantly, "We have just gained permission for the redecorating of St Peter's Chapel in the crypt – which will make it glorious again. The Pugin memorial brasses will be mounted on the walls to protect them and make them more accessible."

GOING TO THE DOGS Terry Wheeler, enterprising Editor of the Ramsgate Society's quarterly magazine *About Ramsgate*, has brought to our notice the – to us at least –surprising fact that in 1928 'Mr H. Welby Pugin' was running a greyhound, named Master Mick, in the Carmel Stakes at the Dumpton Park racing track in Ramsgate (first prize £8, second, £4). This can only have been Hubert Welby Pugin, b.1889, a son of Peter Paul Pugin. We have since discovered that Augustus Welby Pugin, b.1894, and a brother of Hubert, was also running a dog – Oh Dick – in the Tilmanstone Stakes, on June 23rd of the same year, at the tenth meeting at the track. What Augustus's namesake and grandfather's reaction might have been to these sporting activities is best left to the imagination.



WHAT WE SHOULD ESCHEW (see left)

"Those who profess to admire pointed architecture, and who strive to imitate it, produce more ridiculous results than those who fly to foreign aid." [ie, "vile burlesques of Eastern architecture", etc].

Illustration and quotation from: A.W.N. Pugin, *The True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture*, 1841

SUBSCRIPTIONS These will be due on 1st July . If, through some unfortunate oversight, you feel that you may not yet have renewed your sub from last year, please contact Hon. Membership Secretary, Jack Kleinot, without further delay, at 33 Montcalm House, Westferry Road, London E14 3SD, 0207515 9474, e-mail: pamakapam@aol.com. If you do not already pay by Standing Order, do consider this option, which benefits everybody.

DATA PROTECTION ACT The Society is registered under the Act. This gives us an opportunity – with your consent - if we so wish or need, to use an outside packer for our mailings, as is common practice with many societies as they grow. We assume that you would have no objection to our providing such a firm with our list. If for any reason you do have an objection, please write to the Hon. Editor *True Principles*, 122 Grange Road, Ramsgate Kent CT11 9PT, ring 01843 596401 or e-mail catblake@freeuk.com

EVENTS..... EVENTS EVENTS..... OVER!

SOCIETY EVENTS

Spring/Summer 2003

Friday 28 February: Private visit to the textile collections of the V&A

Linda Parry, Curator of Textiles at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, has kindly arranged a private visit for members of the society to see examples of the work of Augustus Pugin and related designers held in the collection. The visit starts at 2.30. As numbers are limited, it is restricted to members of Pugin Society: £10 and SAE to below.

Fri/Sat 21-22 March: A Trip to Pugin-Land: the wonders of Cheadle and Alton

A brief but intensive visit that offers the chance to see the key sites of Pugin-Land in the company of an expert. We will gather on the evening of Friday for a talk by Michael Fisher, author of *Pugin-Land*, the recently published account of the work of A.W.N Pugin, Lord Shrewsbury and other Gothic Revivalists in Staffordshire. On Saturday Fr Fisher will show us the wonders of St Giles', Cheadle, Alton Castle and Alton Towers. We will be staying at the North Staffordshire Hotel, Stoke. Extra nights available. Non residence possible. Dinner, B&B and trips in the order of £75. Please send SAE for further details.

Saturday 17 May: the Churches of Brighton

Brighton in the nineteenth century was not just a fashionable watering place but a vibrant centre of high church activity. Particularly under the notable clerical family of the Wagners, a remarkable series of fine churches were built in Brighton and Hove. We plan to see a number of these including: St Michael's, by Bodley and Burges, and with beautiful glass by Burne Jones; the wonderful St Bartholomew's, with work by Henry Wilson; and St Paul's, by R.C.Carpenter. We will be led by Dr Richard Morrice of English Heritage. An all-day event, the coach will leave Ramsgate early and meet a London train in Brighton at about 10.30. Details to be confirmed on booking. Cost £28.

Thur-Sun 10-13 July: A trip to the west: Pugin and the Gothic Revival in Devon and Dorset

We shall be visiting Pugin's late and exquisite Rolle chantry, Bicton, set in its beautiful garden setting, churches in the Torquay area by Hansom and son, Butterfield and others, as well as the eighteenth century Catholic chapel at Torre Abbey. We also plan to see the beautiful St David's in Exeter by Caroe, Butterfield's restoration work at Ottery St Mary, and Pugin's restoration of the church at Rampisham, with his splendid adjacent rectory, still in private hands. Once again the trip will be led by Dr Roderick O'Donnell of English Heritage. We will be staying in Exeter. Send SAE for further details.

Contact

For further details please send SAE to Julia Twigg, 9 Nunnery Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3LS or phone 01227 766879. email: j.m.twigg@ukc.ac.uk . Please make cheques payable to The Pugin Society.

And, finally...

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to M.J.Blundell, Barry Brooks and Anne Harrison-Brooks, H. and B.O. Cripps, Honey Denny, J.A.Stretton Desfarges, Mr and Mrs Dimbylow, Mrs and Mrs Finch, Talma Gow, Elaine and Philip Griffiths, Jack de Gruiter and Robert Streit, Michael Hall, Mark and Elizabeth Harrison, J.A. Hilton, Tessa and John Holmes, Dr Antoine Jacobs, Mr and Mrs Michael Jones, John P. Lattery, Barbara and Denys Le Fevre, Mrs M. Lerigo, Sister Marion McCarthy, Mrs Fiona Newton, Barry Nicholson, Professor Graham Parry, Keith Patmore, David Peniston-Bird, Mrs Yvonne Pines, John Sims, Matthew Slaymaker, Richard Smith, John Spencer-Silver, Robert Spencer-Silver, Mr and Mrs G. Stewart, Margaret Swan, Peter and Dorothy Waltho, Mrs Jeanne Wilkins.