



PRESENT STATE

the news sheet of the Pugin Society

January 2005 Number Three

Registered Charity No 1074766

'Kindle in our hearts oh Lord the fire of thy charity'

Inscription on a fireplace at Burton Manor, Staffordshire, designed by Edward Welby Pugin in 1854-6.

WELCOME - and we're sorry it's a little later than intended - to our third *Present State*. New members may like to know that this title is a reference to Pugin's *The Present State of Ecclesiastical Architecture in England* of 1843 (see also 'From the Printing Press', below), and that the monogram 'AWP' is taken from the title page designed by him for his *True Principles of Pointed or Christian Architecture*, first edition 1841. *Present State* will be followed in July by our Journal, *True Principles*, edited by Dr Timothy Brittain-Catlin.

THE FIRST TEN YEARS 2005 is the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Pugin Society. Details of an end-of-year event to celebrate and constructively commemorate this important milestone in our society's existence will be announced in our summer mailing. Exciting plans are in the pipeline.

****THE GRANGE**** The Landmark Trust has now submitted a further listed building consent application to Thanet District Council. This is because the Trust wants to use Bath, rather than the original Caen, stone for restoration of the exterior dressings – a change that would affect the historic character of the appearance of the building. In the view of the Society it is vital that the materials used are those which Pugin himself would have thought appropriate. The Trust has also recently changed architects; Donald Insall Associates have now been succeeded by Thomas Ford & Partners. We will keep you informed re all further developments at The Grange, and also the Cartoon Room, later this year in *True Principles*.

SOCIETY ON LINE The Society's website, www.pugin-society.org, has recently been slightly altered in content, and we wish to continue to monitor it closely. Photos and short written contributions from members would be much valued. Please give us all the help you can to assist in making this an outstanding high-quality site, with vivid new material and constructive guidance and links. We want this site to be the best! E-mail in the first instance Catriona Blaker at catblake@freeuk.com

FROM THE PRINTING PRESS Michael Fisher's attractive new guidebook, "*Perfect Cheadle*": *St Giles' Catholic Church, Cheadle* has now been published (see enclosed flyer). Roderick O'Donnell, who will be reviewing this guide later on in the year in *True Principles*, has himself recently edited, with an introduction, A W N Pugin's *The Present State of Ecclesiastical Architecture in England* and *Some Remarks relative to Ecclesiastical Architecture and Decoration*. This useful paperback is produced by Gracewing Publications at £12.99. Rosemary Hill's delightful *Pugin and Ramsgate* has also been reprinted, with a better quality cover and a new map. It is £4.00 (inc.p.and p.) available from the Society or from Visitor Information Centres in Thanet.

RAMSGATE LIBRARY As local members will already know, all the interior and also the roof and cupola of Ramsgate Library (S D Adshead, 1904 Grade II) were almost entirely destroyed last summer, although miraculously its fine façade has survived. Pugin studies were particularly important to Ramsgate Library, and care was taken to buy new Pugin books as they appeared – these, if still existing, are in an uncertain state of damp and mould. We would like to suggest that if you have any Pugin books, contemporary or otherwise, that you could spare, you contact Linda Kember at Margate Library, Cecil Square, Margate, Kent CT9 1RE, e-mail Linda.Kember@Kent.gov.uk DO NOT SEND ANY ACTUAL BOOKS at this point.

NEW MEMBERS

A warm welcome to: John Archer, Maggie Bender, Kathryn L Burton, John and Jean Buss, H and BO Cripps, Bernard and Rita Pugin Gauthier, Kathy Hammond, John Hardman & Co (Neil Phillips), Cherry Hunt, Paul Johnson, Dr David Ormrod, Mark Samuel and Kate Hamlyn, A J Sherman

BUILDINGS: AT RISK Tomb of A W N Pugin, St Augustine's, Ramsgate Damp is causing crumbling at the base of the mullions of the south window in the Pugin Chantry and damage to the surround of the tomb; stone dust falls constantly on the effigy. Stone conservators Martin Holden Conservation will shortly present a report re treatment to stop further damage. It is hoped that work will start in the spring.

Stanbrook Abbey, Worcestershire, E W Pugin An excellent report by conservation consultant Michael Hill, commissioned by the nuns of Stanbrook, who wish to move, was followed by a site visit, attended amongst others by Chair, Nick Dermott. The general feeling following the meeting was that the site was of even greater significance than had hitherto been recognised and that every effort must be made to assist the community to stay on at Stanbrook, even it means that the enclosure will have to be reduced.

St Mary's, West Tofts, Norfolk, AW and EW Pugin We are disturbed to learn of the concern of the Diocese of Norwich, inter alia, about the ongoing deterioration of the interior of this church, so significant in its Pugin additions and fittings. Funding of over £100,000 is needed.

Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Upper Walmer, Kent, P P Pugin Some of the committee went to inspect this church (as it became), which is all that remains of a Visitandine Convent and which faces redundancy. Although suffering from lack of maintenance, in particular blocked gutters, the sums required to put the building in some degree of order would not (relatively) be enormous. We understand that the Archdiocese of Southwark is well aware of problems here and hopes to find a solution for the building as soon as possible.

Mayfield College, East Sussex, E W Pugin A planning application (the third) from Wealden District Council for an enabling development here, but leaving the impressive main building still very dominant, was received by the Society. We have supported this application.

BUILDINGS: GOOD NEWS The Granville Hotel, Ramsgate, E W Pugin Work by the architects Clague of Canterbury, who have rebuilt the western end of the Granville, has greatly improved its hitherto forlorn appearance. It is now possible to get some idea of the grandeur and scale of the original façade, even though extra floors have been squeezed in. The matching of bricks is excellent however, and so is some of the Gothic detail. Work continues to the side/rear of the building.

Church and Monastery of St Francis, Gorton, Manchester News at Christmas from Elaine Griffiths and team indicates that the £6 million renovation of Edward Pugin's arguably greatest building will start in the spring. Congratulations to Elaine. To help further, look at www.gortonmonastery.co.uk and also see page four of this issue of *Present State*. St Francis still needs as much assistance as possible to support the restoration project.

St Mary's RC Cathedral, Newcastle, A W Pugin Members Roderick O'Donnell and James Jago have both been keeping up with work at St Mary's; Roderick O'Donnell reports that 'The ambitious administrator Fr Kevin Campion, with the Hexham architect Kevin Doonan, is now to re-define the 2-bay space [of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel] with Pugin-derived wall stencils, and a brass screen to once again separate it from the aisle. The church has been relit, repainted internally in green (aisles) and red (nave), the west doors re-opened, and a splendid tearoom and bookshop made.' James Jago felt some slight reservations about the scale of the stencils. *NB. A warm welcome to James, John Irving, Professor Ted Cocking and Keith Andrews as new members of the Society committee.*

RIBA DRAWINGS MOVE The RIBA British Architectural Library Drawings and Archives Collections has now opened in its new home at the Victoria and Albert Museum. 'This means,' points out our Patron Alexandra Wedgwood, 'that the two largest collections of drawings by the Pugin family may be seen together and searched for on the same computer catalogue. The RIBA archive is also now in the same place ... you can read Pugin's letters to Crace and look at the drawings that he sent him at the same time. On the other hand,' she adds, 'Pugin's letters which belong to the Victoria and Albert remain in their [the Museum's] library.' The RIBA Collection has its own Study Rooms at the V and A. To visit – and it is important to make an appointment before doing so – ring: 020 7307 3708 or e-mail: drawings&archives@inst.riba.org Pugin has also been well represented in the first exhibition in the Victoria and Albert's new Architecture Gallery, a wide-ranging assemblage of architectural models, drawings and other items by many of the gods of the architectural world. A new display opens in this gallery on 2nd March.

PUGIN AND PHIZ In Valerie Browne Lester's recent *Phiz: The Man who Drew Dickens* (Chatto & Windus 2004, £20.00) the author, in a chapter entitled 'The Young Printmaker', mentions 'Seymour's designs for Mr Pickwick, Daumier's *La Garde-Malade*, and Pugin's architectural embellishments' as being among some of the formative influences on the mind of the young artist. Pugin was only three years older than Phiz, so some of these illustrative influences could well have applied to his work also. This suggests a rich, and as yet perhaps unexplored, field of study ...

BUILDINGS: AT RISK Tomb of A W N Pugin, St Augustine's, Ramsgate Damp is causing crumbling at the base of the mullions of the south window in the Pugin Chantry and damage to the surround of the tomb; stone dust falls constantly on the effigy. Stone conservators Martin Holden Conservation will shortly present a report re treatment to stop further damage. It is hoped that work will start in the spring.

Stanbrook Abbey, Worcestershire, E W Pugin An excellent report by conservation consultant Michael Hill, commissioned by the nuns of Stanbrook, who wish to move, was followed by a site visit, attended amongst others by Chair, Nick Dermott. The general feeling following the meeting was that the site was of even greater significance than had hitherto been recognised and that every effort must be made to assist the community to stay on at Stanbrook, even it means that the enclosure will have to be reduced.

St Mary's, West Tofts, Norfolk, AW and EW Pugin We are disturbed to learn of the concern of the Diocese of Norwich, inter alia, about the ongoing deterioration of the interior of this church, so significant in its Pugin additions and fittings. Funding of over £100,000 is needed.

Chapel of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Upper Walmer, Kent, P P Pugin Some of the committee went to inspect this church (as it became), which is all that remains of a Visitandine Convent and which faces redundancy. Although suffering from lack of maintenance, in particular blocked gutters, the sums required to put the building in some degree of order would not (relatively) be enormous. We understand that the Archdiocese of Southwark is well aware of problems here and hopes to find a solution for the building as soon as possible.

Mayfield College, East Sussex, E W Pugin A planning application (the third) from Wealden District Council for an enabling development here, but leaving the impressive main building still very dominant, was received by the Society. We have supported this application.

BUILDINGS: GOOD NEWS The Granville Hotel, Ramsgate, E W Pugin Work by the architects Clague of Canterbury, who have rebuilt the western end of the Granville, has greatly improved its hitherto forlorn appearance. It is now possible to get some idea of the grandeur and scale of the original façade, even though extra floors have been squeezed in. The matching of bricks is excellent however, and so is some of the Gothic detail. Work continues to the side/rear of the building.

Church and Monastery of St Francis, Gorton, Manchester News at Christmas from Elaine Griffiths and team indicates that the £6 million renovation of Edward Pugin's arguably greatest building will start in the spring. Congratulations to Elaine. To help further, look at www.gortonmonastery.co.uk and also see page four of this issue of *Present State*. St Francis still needs as much assistance as possible to support the restoration project.

St Mary's RC Cathedral, Newcastle, A W Pugin Members Roderick O'Donnell and James Jago have both been keeping up with work at St Mary's; Roderick O'Donnell reports that 'The ambitious administrator Fr Kevin Campion, with the Hexham architect Kevin Doonan, is now to re-define the 2-bay space [of the Blessed Sacrament Chapel] with Pugin-derived wall stencils, and a brass screen to once again separate it from the aisle. The church has been relit, repainted internally in green (aisles) and red (nave), the west doors re-opened, and a splendid tearoom and bookshop made.' James Jago felt some slight reservations about the scale of the stencils. *NB. A warm welcome to James, John Irving, Professor Ted Cocking and Keith Andrews as new members of the Society committee.*

RIBA DRAWINGS MOVE The RIBA British Architectural Library Drawings and Archives Collections has now opened in its new home at the Victoria and Albert Museum. 'This means,' points out our Patron Alexandra Wedgwood, 'that the two largest collections of drawings by the Pugin family may be seen together and searched for on the same computer catalogue. The RIBA archive is also now in the same place ... you can read Pugin's letters to Crace and look at the drawings that he sent him at the same time. On the other hand,' she adds, 'Pugin's letters which belong to the Victoria and Albert remain in their [the Museum's] library.' The RIBA Collection has its own Study Rooms at the V and A. To visit – and it is important to make an appointment before doing so – ring: 020 7307 3708 or e-mail: drawings&archives@inst.riba.org Pugin has also been well represented in the first exhibition in the Victoria and Albert's new Architecture Gallery, a wide-ranging assemblage of architectural models, drawings and other items by many of the gods of the architectural world. A new display opens in this gallery on 2nd March.

PUGIN AND PHIZ In Valerie Browne Lester's recent *Phiz: The Man who Drew Dickens* (Chatto & Windus 2004, £20.00) the author, in a chapter entitled 'The Young Printmaker', mentions 'Seymour's designs for Mr Pickwick, Daumier's *La Garde-Malade*, and Pugin's architectural embellishments' as being among some of the formative influences on the mind of the young artist. Pugin was only three years older than Phiz, so some of these illustrative influences could well have applied to his work also. This suggests a rich, and as yet perhaps unexplored, field of study ...

EVENTS FOR SPRING AND SUMMER 2005

Saturday 16 April: Emery Walker and Hammersmith A private visit to the home of Emery Walker, printer, typographer and friend of Morris and Webb, who founded the Doves Press with Cobden Sanderson. The house is a unique survival of an Arts and Crafts interior and includes personal possessions of Emery Walker and Webb. We will go in two small groups at 11.00 and 11.45, meeting at 12.30 for lunch (not included) at the Dove, the well-known pub overlooking the river and popular ever since the days when Hammersmith was a centre of artistic activity. In the afternoon we will visit the William Morris Society in Kelmscott House and other buildings in the locality. Send £7 and SAE.

Saturday 30 April: Private visit to Holly Village We will be visiting the beautiful house of two of our members, Ralph and Pamela Bowmaker, with its wonderful interiors. The house is part of Holly Village, the small and select Gothic Revival development built by the philanthropist Baroness Burdett-Coutts in 1865 and designed by Henry Derbyshire. The visit will be in two small groups during the morning. Highgate Cemetery is nearby and will be open, though it has not been possible for the society to pre-book a visit. Cost £10. Send SAE for details.

Thursday 2 May: Saltwood Castle A private visit to the beautiful and romantic Saltwood Castle, home of Lord Clark, author of *The Gothic Revival*. We will be shown round by Jane Clark, seeing the castle, library and gardens, and having tea. Transport will be available from Hythe Railway station for those travelling from London. Send £16 and SAE for further details.

Thursday 7 – Saturday 10 July: Romantic Architecture in the Lakes and beyond This year's study tour will be centred on the Lake District and Cumberland. We will be based in the ancient city of Carlisle, looking at Pugin's church at Warwick Bridge in the context of work by his contemporaries and successors in the Romantic vein. We shall visit the remarkable works of Sarah Losh, a self-taught architect (like Pugin) who anticipated Ruskin; we hope to visit the Wordsworth museum at Dove Cottage to look at parallels between literary and artistic Romantics and to see Lowther Castle, a work by Pugin's *bête noire* Smirke that has become in spite of itself, a picturesque ruin. The study tour will be led by Rosemary Hill, the historian and biographer of Pugin. Send SAE for details.

Tuesday 12 July: Tyntesfield and Bristol A visit led by Rosemary Hill to the fabulous high Victorian house of Tyntesfield, currently undergoing restoration and only accessible by private arrangement. In the morning we will explore buildings in Bristol connected with Pugin, followed by an afternoon at Tyntesfield seeing the house, chapel and grounds. We will meet the 9.30 London train at Bristol Temple Meads station at 11.15. Numbers limited. Send SAE and £19 (NT members: £10).

Cheques for all events payable to The Pugin Society. Send to Julia Twigg, 9 Nunnery Road, Canterbury, Kent CT1 3LS. Please assume that you have a place unless you hear to the contrary. If you would like confirmation of your booking, or want to make further enquiries, please enclose a SAE or ring 01227 766879, email j.m.twigg@ukc.ac.uk.

Coming soon..... (see our summer mailing)

24-25 Sept visit to Norfolk

29 October AGM

Autumn 2005 a visit to Farnham

Spring 2006 Pugin in Ireland

And, finally, more important news from St Francis, Gorton...

21 and 22 April: Learning from and Reviving a Pugin Masterpiece Gorton is hosting two national conferences on these days. Using Edward Pugin's great church as a case study, the first conference (in which Roderick O'Donnell will be making a keynote speech) will discuss how we can use buildings to learn from the conservation process and will be of special interest to education officers, careers advisers, public and private training providers, community and volunteer groups. The second conference will consider how through specifying higher standards of workmanship it is possible to increase the expertise of those working in heritage construction. It will be of interest to anyone working in the heritage construction field, including clients, construction contractors, conservation officers, architects, building surveyors and others. The cost for each conference is £45, or a special discounted rate of £60 for those wishing to attend both conferences. For further information and registration details please contact: James Stevens on 020 7973 3212 or e-mail: james.stevens@english-heritage.org.uk.