



# Present State

## the newsletter of The Pugin Society



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**W**ELCOME to our eleventh *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*, 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 the autumn by our Journal, *True Principles*.

## Bicentenary Issue Part 2:

### News from Ireland

Professor Jim Walsh

Chair of Maynooth Pugin Commemorative Committee

Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin left an extensive architectural legacy in Ireland, including some of his finest work. Among the most outstanding Pugin buildings in Ireland are St. Aidan's cathedral in Enniscorthy and St. Mary's cathedral in Killarney; smaller churches in Gorey, Tagoat and Barntown – all in county Wexford where he also designed the chapel at St. Peter's College; convents in Rathfarnham (Dublin) and Birr (county Offaly) along with work in the private residences of Lord Dunraven in Adare and the Duke of Devonshire in Lismore. His most extensive project was the magnificent quadrangle that he designed for the national seminary at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth (P2) which was a matter of fiery political debate.



P2) Pugin at Maynooth

On September 12th 2012 a series of events jointly hosted by St. Patrick's College and National University of Ireland Maynooth, were held in Maynooth to celebrate the bicentenary anniversary of the birth year of the great architect. An extensive exhibition was curated by Ms Penny Woods in the wonderful Russell Library with its distinctive Pugin hammer beam roof; a booklet, *Pugin at Maynooth*, edited by Dr. Marian Lyons, Professor and Head of the History Department at NUI Maynooth

was launched by Mr. Jimmy Deenihan, Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; and a conference was organised to discuss various aspects of the Pugin oeuvre, especially in relation to Maynooth.

The richly illustrated *Pugin at Maynooth* includes a biographical portrait prepared by Jeanne Meldon, a great-great-granddaughter of A.W.N. Pugin, and a comprehensive overview by Dr. Caroline Gallagher of the distinctive

## Editor's Foreword

Judith Al-Seffar

Welcome to the second part of the Bicentenary issue. We will again be travelling around the world from West to East, starting in Ireland, then on to Warwick Bridge in Cumbria, Cheadle, Birmingham, London, then down to Canterbury and Ramsgate in Kent, across the Channel to France, and on to Australia, New Zealand and USA.

As in the previous issue, we will be looking at some of the bicentenary celebrations, plus the work of current practitioners and students in the applied arts whose work has been inspired by Pugin: quilting in Australia; the 2012 wallpaper competition, as well as community activities in Cheadle, Birmingham and Ramsgate.

One of the interesting developments in 2012 was the production of three new Pugin Trails, and these have been documented. Maybe they will entice some of our members to go exploring! We also have some news on buildings of interest, one in France, the other in New Zealand. Hopefully there will be something of interest for everyone!

Pugin architectural details contained within the Maynooth complex which includes a refectory for 500 seminarians, a library, class-halls, prayer hall, professor's rooms, 214 bedrooms along with spacious and beautiful cloisters.

The exhibition which ran for five weeks included a selection of the Pugin architectural drawings and his correspondence in relation to the Maynooth project, first editions of some of his texts, and copies of some of the

Continued on page 2





early 16th, 17th and 18th century texts by Dugdale, Camden, Du Cange, Durandus, Mabillon and Gerbert which Pugin delved into and quoted. A sample of the Pugin Nuremberg drawings were loaned to the exhibition by the Irish Architectural Archive. In addition, the exhibition included a unique display of a large private collection of sketches - watercolours and drawings - by Pugin which were generously lent by members of the Meldon family, direct descendents through his daughter Katharine. It was the first time the family collection had been brought together in public. Another descendant through his son Peter Paul, Mrs Zita Mulhern, loaned three items including a Pugin brooch.

The conference keynote presentation by Jeanne Meldon was a profusely illustrated and comprehensive biographical portrait of her distinguished great-great grandfather A.W.N. Pugin. This was followed by Professor Terence Dooley who set the historical context for Pugin's contribution in Ireland, and by Dr. Frederick O'Dwyer who has written extensively on the relationship between Pugin and Maynooth. The second half of the conference programme included presentations by Dr. Megan Aldrich on the origins of Pugin's decorative art, Dr John Maiben Gilmartin on the importance of ritual and design in the Pugin architectural philosophy and practice, and by Dr. Roderick O'Donnell on the Pugin relationship with Ireland which was carried on by his son Edward in partnership with George Ashlin.

The commemorative events were highly successful with over 170 attending the conference, hundreds more attending the exhibition and a high level of interest in the beautifully produced booklet *Pugin at Maynooth*. Together the events provided a worthy recognition to a leading nineteenth century British architect who left a distinctive and enduring legacy in Ireland.

## More news from Ireland

### Dublin

The Irish Architectural Archive, based in Dublin, ran a very successful series of (sold out!) lectures in March 2012. There were other events at various venues, alongside the exhibition 'Celebrating Pugin', which travelled in November 2012 to the Hunt Museum, Limerick and, in March 2013, to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht headquarters, Killarney. The Archive is open to the public on certain days, although now closed for the academic summer vacation. More information is available online: [www.iarc.ie](http://www.iarc.ie)

### Enniscorthy

The Enniscorthy Pugin Society held a commemorative exhibition in St Aidan's Cathedral from June 30th to July 8th 2012, "in thanksgiving to the life, work and genius of Pugin". The South-Eastern Branch of the Irish Patchwork Society participated in this exhibition, with over 90 quilts on display. [www.staidanscathedral.ie](http://www.staidanscathedral.ie)

### Wexford Heritage Trail

This was launched on 16th July 2013, has 32 sites listed but only a mention of Pugin so, although interesting in its own right, not to be confused with the Wexford Pugin Trail (p 17). [www.visitwexford.ie](http://www.visitwexford.ie)

## News from Cumbria:

### The Church of Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Warwick Bridge

*Simon Strickland*



P3) The church of Our Lady & St Wilfred

This church (P3) and presbytery were built by AW Pugin in 1841, at the instigation of the then priest Father Wilfrid Ryan OSB, at a cost of £2586. The money came from the sale of some land and with the assistance of the Howard family of Corby Castle. As might be expected, over the years, there have been a few changes such as lighting, a forward facing altar and some minor restoration, but in the main, it remains as it was built.

The Benedictines had provided chaplains for the Warwick and Howard families in the 17th & 18th centuries. This connection continued, with them providing the parish priest until 2009, latterly from Ampleforth.

The name of the church probably comes from a combination of the Warwick family's dedication to Our Lady and an English Benedictine link to St Wilfrid. Interestingly, there is a replica church in New South Wales (NSW), Australia: St Francis Xavier of Berrima, Wingecarribee Shire, built in 1849.



P4) Nave and east end, showing the rood screen

A little while ago, on one particular Sunday, I was standing in the aisle (P4), after Mass, and looking heavenwards, when our Deacon asked me what I was thinking about. I said that the ambience of the church could be improved,

if I cleaned the walls and painted the white areas with a new coat of paint! Of course we both knew that this was not on but it started our project to refurbish the church.

The project is in the early stages and we have had meetings with the Diocesan Property Manager and with a conservation architect. We await a full condition report, with costings, before deciding on our future course. However, it is clear that the church has suffered from poor drainage, damp and ventilation problems. There are a number of areas that require detailed restoration, but for the most part it is a question of refurbishment. This is made considerably more difficult by the Gothic style and its elaborate decoration.

Refurbishment will be a costly business and is beyond the means of our small congregation, the deanery and the diocese. We are probably looking at a Heritage Lottery Fund application, but we have no expertise on the tortuous processes of getting grants, so we are seeking advice and counsel in our endeavour.



*P5) Presbytery*

Separately, the presbytery (**P5**) is in very good condition and, now that a priest is no longer in residence, requires only internal work on the electrics and central heating system to make it sound for renting. Currently the congregation is not large enough for its own priest and two weekly Masses are provided by the deanery.

If any members of the Pugin Society feel able to offer some advice, we would be extremely grateful. My email address is: [simon1mandy@btinternet.com](mailto:simon1mandy@btinternet.com)

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## News from Staffs

*Fr Michael Fisher*

I would like to thank members of the Pugin Society for their concern, kind thoughts and good wishes, during my long illness last winter. I'm pleased to say that I continue to recover steadily. Having reached a certain age, I have resigned as priest-in-charge of St Chad's, Stafford, but, after considering a move to South Wales, decided against it. Pugin and Hardman wouldn't let me go! So – I am gradually resuming my activities in 'Pugin-land', and am available once again for talks and tours. For further details: [mfisher2501@btinternet.com](mailto:mfisher2501@btinternet.com)

## Cheadle, Alton and Cotton

A new lighting system has just been installed at St Giles's church, Cheadle. Apart from the general improvement in light levels, the roof-construction and decoration may be seen in their full splendour for the first time, revealing hitherto unseen details.

The future of the Pugin Centre in Cheadle depends on the success or otherwise of bids for funding to keep it going. It has great potential as a Heritage Centre for the Cheadle area generally, with a continuing Pugin dimension.

The great window of the banqueting hall at Alton Towers is still undergoing restoration. Completed sections look glorious, and all should be reinstated after the theme park closes in November. Restoration of the house conservatory has uncovered substantial remains of Pugin's stencilled decoration around the drawing-room entrance.

The future of St Wilfrid's church, Cotton, is still uncertain. It was closed for worship following the discovery of dry rot in the aisle roof. The ornaments and statues have been removed for safe keeping, but the important array of stained glass remains in place. The church is being continually aired, and the whole site is protected by security officers (with dogs!). There is still access to the churchyard, from which the outside of the church may be viewed. The former college buildings are still in a derelict state.

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## More news from Cheadle

### Community Activities at the Pugin Centre

For Pugin's bicentenary year there were several projects offering local community participation. Drawings of St Giles's church were displayed on line and at the Pugin Centre. Throughout the year the products of various other projects were displayed, with two examples described below.

### Christmas Lanterns inspired by Pugin<sup>1</sup>

Working with local artists, schools and community groups, more than 80 Pugin-inspired colourful and patterned lanterns were made, as a contribution to the Christmas lights switch-on celebrations, on Saturday 1st December. The 'Pugin Festival of Light' parade moved along the High Street to the Pugin Centre, where local High School students contributed drama and also singing, by their choir, at this light installation outside the Pugin Centre, where the switch-on took place.

### Pugin Audio Guide Launch<sup>3</sup>

For Pugin's 2013 birthday, a free audio guide of St Giles' was launched on Saturday 2nd March in the church, as part of the legacy programme, following the bicentenary celebrations in Cheadle. Along with special guests, the public were invited to 'test drive' the new guide using handsets, but which is to be made freely available as an 'Apps' for Smartphone users. Fair Trade refreshments were provided afterwards in the Pugin Centre.





### A Glimpse of Heaven



P6) "Sunset over the convent"

Another of the Pugin community activities in Cheadle was the photographic competition: "Pugin in the Landscape" of which the results will become a local photographic archive of Pugin's buildings in his bicentenary year. Hannah Barter, the Pugin Centre Manager, enthusiastically encouraged us to enter the competition, even though the deadline was very near. All the entrants were invited to the opening of the exhibition a few weeks later.

There were various prizewinning categories: **St Giles' Church, Alton Towers, St John's Hospital and Alton Castle, Cotton College and St Wilfred's Church, 'Other' buildings, a student award and a children's award.** The winners of each category received a certificate and prize.

Not surprisingly, the largest number of entries was for **St Giles' church**, there were just so many photographs of those glorious interiors. However, the overall winning photograph was of the Hospital of St. John and Alton Castle. It was an outstanding long distance view in a soft romantic light. "Sunset over the convent" (**P6**) won the award for **'Other' buildings**: the late afternoon glow showed the distinctive Pugin features of the tower and roof of the convent in silhouette.

Finally, I would like to add my thanks to the Pugin Society for running this trip from Birmingham to Cheadle on 5th November. Having never been, I really enjoyed looking at all those beautiful buildings, and had no idea that such a "Hidden Gem" as St Giles' church existed.

#### Endnote

Angela was too modest to say that it was her photograph that won the award for the 'Other' category. Well done Angela!

For more information on these items visit:  
[www.leek-news.co.uk/News/Cheadle-News/](http://www.leek-news.co.uk/News/Cheadle-News/)

<sup>1</sup> 30/11/12

<sup>2</sup> 31/12/12

<sup>3</sup> 1/3/13

What a wow factor for first time visitors to St Chad's Cathedral in Birmingham: walking in from the concrete jungle of St Chad's ringway, an initial view of the brightly lit cathedral through the large west doors (only opened for special occasions); on entering, the overwhelming impact of the height and splendour of the building; then the beautiful themed displays of flowers all around the cathedral. After the success of Pugin's bicentenary flower festival in June 2012, this three day extravaganza is now destined to become one of the 'must see' events on Birmingham's annual calendar. The festival ran from 21 to 23 June, and was open from 10am to 7pm each day, with refreshments available throughout.

This year saw the introduction of the flower display competition, with invitations to representatives of all faiths and none, including flower arranging societies, schools and 'Friends of...'. There were also two informative display stands, one by the Cathedral Association, showing some of the excellent results of its fundraising, plus a display by Nick Corbett of 'The Big Story of Pugin'.

The exhibition could have been called 'Faith in Art' as the themed entries were both inspirational and uplifting. The flower arrangers had chosen their sites in advance, and from which they developed their themes. The informative festival leaflet provided a guide around the displays: on entering through the great west door, turning left into the north-west corner and St Edward's chapel, along the north aisle past the font, baptistry and pulpit, on to the Lady Chapel, then up into the chancel, across to the south aisle, returning eventually to the west end, admiring the several themed flower displays along the route.

On the following pages are glimpses of the displays, with their titles and the organisations who had prepared them. Some arrangements had a powerful message, such as the display by the Polish Parish of St Michael's. They had chosen the spot in the south aisle where the bomb had fallen through the roof of the cathedral in WWII. Their entry was entitled 'For Your Freedom and Ours' (**P21**), in tribute to the many thousands of Poles who gave their lives not only in the war, but in the aftermath.

Even for a local, who is familiar with the cathedral, this festival was a stunning experience. St Chad's Cathedral is not an easy building to photograph, and neither were the flower displays. Fortunately over 250 photographs by a professional photographer were available, from which this small selection has been chosen. The festival closed with a concert, performed by the Birmingham Schools Wind Orchestra, followed by wine and canapés.

Information on other Pugin flower festivals, if any, has not been sent in. If others are taking place it would be useful to know so that our members can be informed. As Pugin Trails are mentioned later in this issue, maybe a Pugin's Flower Festival Trail will be developed for the future...!





P7 a, b, c, d, e) St Chad's Flower festival: view to the east showing several displays



P10)



P11)



P12)



P13)



P21)



P8)



P9)



P14)



P17)



P18)



P19)



P20)

Starting with St Chad's Cathedral flowers: **(P8 & 9)** 'Welcome to the Minor Basilica of St Chad' outside the west doors; then inside to the northwest corner, *Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Four Oaks*: **(P10)** 'In Honour of the Saints'; into St Edwards Chapel, *St Anne's, Digbeth*: **(P11 & 12)** 'Reflections on Ilsley and Chad', whose stories are told within the chapel. Moving eastwards, along the north aisle, *Sacred Heart and Holy Souls, Acocks Green*: **(P13)** 'Celebrating St Peter'; the font, the *West Indian Chaplaincy*: **(P14)** 'The Rite of Baptism'; then the Baptistry itself: **(P15 - see top of next page)**; on towards the Lady chapel and Bishop Walsh's tomb, *Olton Friary, Solihull*: **(P16 PTO & 17)** 'Sacred Heart and Our Lady'; then to the Lady Chapel, *St Philip's Anglican Cathedral*: **(P18 & 19)** 'Faith Rooted in the Eucharist'; then across to the chancel **(P7 above)**, where five separate locations can be seen: to the extreme left of the photograph is the top section of the pulpit display by *Christ the King Church, Kingstanding*: **(P7a)** 'Proclaim the Good News' (the flower-laden stairs up to the pulpit are not visible here) – this display won 3rd prize; the modern altar, *Oscott College and St Nicholas, Boldmere*: **(P7b)** 'A 'continental style' altar inspiration' (2nd prize); the monks stalls, *The Abbey, Erdington*: **(P7c)** 'What is a 'Swag'?' (decorative garlands); on both sides of the High Altar *Lichfield Cathedral Flower Guild*: **(P7d)** 'To the Greater Glory of God'; *Kingstanding Florist*: **(P7e & P20)** 'Lectern Adornment';





P15) "An appreciation of Pugin"

*"The shrine to Blessed John Henry Newman: the former Baptistry and Chapel of the Holy Oils, was designed by Pugin in its entirety. A sinuous curve of flowers in colours reflecting those in the stained glass windows link the lectionary and reliquary and sweep down to the Minton tiles. The colours and shapes in the lower section refer to the nature of the Holy Oils and the former use of the space as a Baptistry, with a reference to the brass decoration within the Chapel."*

Flower arrangement by St Mary's C. of E. Church, Moseley, Birmingham, awarded 1st prize



P22)



P23)



P16)



P24)



P25)

Then across, into the east end of the south aisle, to see the display by the *Polish Parish of St Michael's* (P21, see pages 4 & 5). Near the war memorial the next display, by *St Peter's Church, Bromsgrove* (which houses the Alton Towers' chapel altarpiece): (P22) continued the theme with 'War for Peace'. Next, a stunning and innovative display by *St Elizabeth's Church, Coventry*: (P23), taking its theme from the Wareing window (south aisle wall): 'St George and the Dragon'. This display was enhanced by incorporating other materials, such as the helmet of St George, and the sword which slayed the dragon. Continuing westwards and across the aisle, a display by *St Paul's School for Girls*: (P24) 'In Praise of St Chad', set around the pillar with his statue. There were more colourful displays by *Erdington Abbey*, designed 'To Enhance the Plain Glass' (windows) at the rear of the south aisle. Near the west end organ loft, a display by *Holy Trinity Church, Sutton Coldfield*: (P25) 'Music for the Soul' – "A Church without music is like a Spring without birdsong, a Garden without flowers or a World without love. Music lifts the spirit, feeds the soul and warms the heart". The final entry, near the south west door, was another display by *St Chad's Cathedral*: (P26) 'Destination Unknown' – which asked the viewers to use their imagination...

Congratulations to all the teams of flower arrangers for such wonderful and thought-provoking arrangements, all deserved prizes. Thanks also to the stewards, guides and teams preparing the refreshments – a very well organised weekend.



P26)

Online information currently available:

Future events at St Chad's: [www.stchadscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk)

Photographs: [www.onlinepictureproof.com/peteharrington/albums](http://www.onlinepictureproof.com/peteharrington/albums) then select: 'special events'.



## Other news from Birmingham:

### Parliamentarians to visit Pugin's Legacy in Birmingham



P27) Palace of Westminster: Left to right,  
Auxiliary Bishop William Kenney, Lady Wedgwood, Sam Miller,  
Nick Corbett, Lord Cormack, Lord Crathorne

Peers and MPs from the All Party Parliamentary Arts and Heritage Group have proposed to visit Birmingham to inspect Pugin's legacy on their next explorative field trip. Lord Crathorne chairs the group and Lord Cormack is its president.

The news follows a presentation given in the Palace of Westminster (P27) by Nick Corbett, from Transforming Cities, and Sam Miller, from Urban Devotion Birmingham, on the Big Story of Pugin, the Heritage Lottery Funded project, which has been delivered in North Birmingham schools (see article in last issue pp 12-13). Over twenty Peers attended the event and amongst the MPs present were Jack Dromey, MP for Birmingham Erdington, and Gisela Stuart MP for Birmingham Edgbaston. The Archbishop of Birmingham was represented, and Lady Wedgwood was also in attendance.

Nick Corbett's presentation focused upon Pugin's tumultuous life story. Pugin's collection of medieval Christian artifacts in the museum at Oscott, and Pugin's stunning interiors were the heritage focus for the Big Story of Pugin project, which offered the schoolchildren the opportunity to explore what this legacy means for the identity of their city. These children, who would not normally want to write anything, became passionate writers of stories, poems, and songs inspired by Pugin's legacy. The project came to an end, in March, with a celebratory dinner at Oscott College.

An exhibition has been produced which is on display in the Perry Common community hall. In September, it will relocate to the new library of Birmingham, together with the oral history archive of community interviews. The pupil's website: [www.pugin.org.uk](http://www.pugin.org.uk) has gone live and includes all of their oral history interviews, films, and photographs of Pugin's design work. [www.transformingcities.co.uk](http://www.transformingcities.co.uk)

### Birmingham Heritage Forum (BHF)

The BHF was set up in 1991 by Birmingham City Council, and became an independent society in 1997, run by a committee of volunteers. Reps from the city's heritage and cultural sites and supporting organisations form the membership. The Pugin Society formally joined at the start of 2012, and a local representative attends the quarterly meetings. We have a *Pugin's Birmingham* page on the website with information on the Pugin sites and links within the city. Another significant 'historical person' represented on the BHF is Tolkein, who was a pupil at King Edward's School. The BHF meetings provide an opportunity to meet reps from other Pugin Trail sites and most have seats on the Forum.

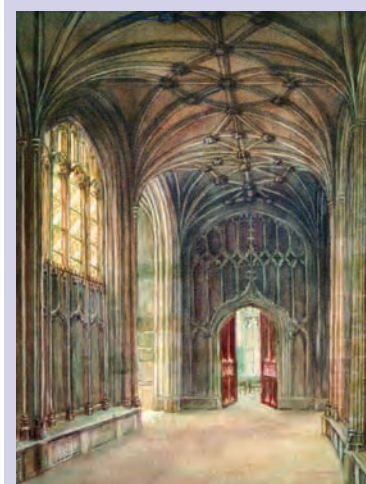
[www.birminghamheritage.org.uk/pugin/html](http://www.birminghamheritage.org.uk/pugin/html)

### King Edward's School (KES)

*Alison Wheatley, Archivist*

KES joined the BHF in 2012, and keeps members informed of the Foundation's plans and developments. The archive, housed in Edgbaston, does not have adequate storage facilities and is currently being packed, ready for the move to the new library. As the school is not open to the general public, various items were loaned for the bicentenary

exhibitions at other sites: in 2012 restoration work was carried out on the Chief Master's octagonal table (AWP c1836) for the Barber Institute's exhibition (across the road), where it was on display for almost 12 months. Some of the smaller Pugin artefacts from the New Street building, such as a door knob and wall plaque, were on loan to the Pen Museum for the *Pugin's Pens* exhibition.



P28) KES upper corridor

Later this year some restoration work will be carried out on the school chapel, in preparation for the 2014 exhibition to mark the centenary of the start of WWI, in which many of the boys from KES lost their lives. This will provide another opportunity for the public to have some access to see inside the chapel, with its interiors reconstructed from the upper corridor of the historic New Street building (P28).

[www.kes.org.uk/gallery/Other/Pugin](http://www.kes.org.uk/gallery/Other/Pugin)

### Pen Museum

This museum houses a fine and growing collection of pen nibs and writing implements, many exhibits having been made during Pugin's lifetime, and would have been similar to those used by him. Although there are no known surviving Pugin pens, he drew pictures of himself at work at his desk, showing the various implements he used.

Four generations of Pugins (from 1769 to 1949) would have seen the growth of the pen industry, and the changes brought about by the mass production of nibs from the 1820s. The Jewellery Quarter became known as the pen nib centre of the world, with 75% of the world's nib trade being made in this





## CAMAC 2012 Wallpaper Competition

Judith Al-Seffar



P29) Pugin's Pens Exhibition

small area, on the (then) outskirts of the town. During Pugin's short lifetime 60% of the 129 local pen nib manufacturers set up business. The small exhibition (P29) opened in March 2012, scheduled to run for 6 months, but was extended until February 2013, one of the longest running Pugin exhibitions in Birmingham. [www.penroom.co.uk](http://www.penroom.co.uk)

### The Birmingham Oratory

*Daniel Joyce, Archivist*

John Henry Cardinal Newman, who founded the Oratory of St Philip Neri in Edgbaston, had various links to Pugin. They knew and corresponded with each other, and, although Newman was 11 years older, it was Pugin who first converted to Catholicism, in 1835, Newman doing so in 1845. Through their common Catholic faith they are linked to three of the Pugin Trail sites: Oscott College and St Chad's cathedral, where Newman preached, and the Birmingham Museums Trust, which holds a portrait of Newman by Birmingham artist W. T. Roden, as well as items designed by Pugin and made by Hardman. It was craftsmen from Hardman & Co. who, in the twentieth century, decorated the ceiling of the Oratory church and designed the Stations of the Cross hung therein. However, they had differing visions of certain aspects of the Catholic restoration in England, especially with regard to church architecture and furnishings, as may be seen by comparing the Oratory church with St Chad's. [www.oratoryparish.org.uk](http://www.oratoryparish.org.uk)

### Editor's note

This is an additional site entry to the printed Birmingham Pugin Trail and the Pugin connection will be further explored, to provide visitors with related information. The Oratory's archives are currently unavailable due to digitisation at the Rylands Library in Manchester.

### Birmingham Library: Archives & Heritage

The building is currently closed, while the staff prepare for the move to the new building, and it will re-open in September. News can be followed on the website:

[www.birmingham.gov.uk/archivesandheritage](http://www.birmingham.gov.uk/archivesandheritage)

### Birmingham Museums Trust

The new history galleries opened in October 2012. The displays show the history of Birmingham and include work by Hardman to the designs of AWP and EWP.

[www.bmag.org.uk/birmingham-museum](http://www.bmag.org.uk/birmingham-museum)

The 2012 wallpaper competition, themed on the ideas and designs by Pugin (reported in last issue), was a very successful event, with many interesting designs. Some of the preparatory work in itself was prize-worthy. It was very difficult to choose one overall winner, and we ended up awarding three prizes, plus a commendation. One of the key elements was the link with Pugin (explicit or implicit) and how it was worked into the final design.

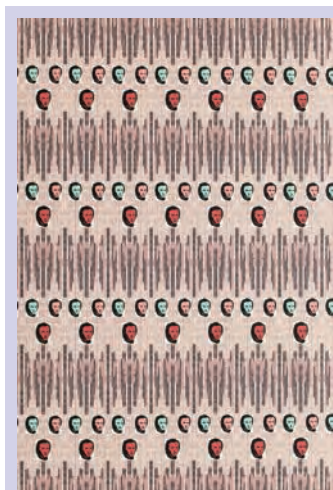
After visiting Ramsgate in the summer of 2012, the travelling exhibition then went to the Imago Gallery, Mayfair, for one week, where the names of the prize-winners were announced and the awards given.

The Pugin Society's first prize went to Stephanie Rostron, Leeds College of Art, for her beautiful and stunning design, based on an eagle lectern (P30 & P31).



P30)  
Eagle design,  
1st Prize

P31)  
Stephanie  
Rostron



P32) Li Shan Chong, 2nd prize

The 2nd prize was awarded to Li Shan Chong, London College of Communication, for her rather novel design using Pugin faces (P32).

The 3rd prize was awarded to Fergus Dowling (P33) whose elegant design had some surprises, with tiny features hidden within the overall pattern. In his preparatory work were some detailed and colourful heraldic designs, from which the final pattern evolved.





P33) Fergus Dowling, 3rd Prize

The commendation went to Emma-Michelle Williams (P34) for her superbly presented book on design samples, including some of Pugin's wallpapers (P35). The book was presented as fire-damaged, unknowingly representing the huge fire-damaged cartoon archive of the Hardman studios now in storage in Birmingham Museums Trust. This was displayed, along with the prizewinning wallpapers, at our AGM in December 2012. The exhibition then stayed at the Artworkers Guild for the Wallpaper History Society's AGM, and is currently showing at Lotherton Hall, Leeds until September.

Last year the Pugin theme offered the students much scope from the wide range of designs he created. This year the theme is Archives which also lends itself to Pugin-inspired designs but there are several other options for this year's students. A Pugin prize has been offered and, at the time of writing, we don't yet know how many candidates there might be.

The 2012 students were from 4 colleges of art; this year the competition has attracted international attention, with over 150 entrants from 7 colleges, including one from Denmark.

Also in this academic year (2012-2013), The Student Textile Design Challenge was offered, with over 200 entrants from 9 colleges, including one from Cork. The shortlisted candidates had their entries exhibited at the Braintree Museum, and also the Fashion and Textile Museum. This is an exciting

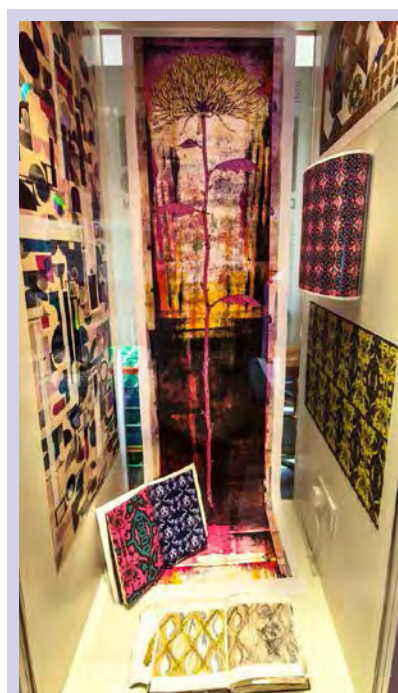
development and not only widens the scope for more students to participate in different media, but is also in keeping with the diversity of Pugin's work.

Related events run throughout the year and the wallpaper awards will be announced at the Imago Gallery, where this year's shortlisted entries will be on display from 14-22 September.

### Virtual Wallpaper Challenge 2012

This was CAMAC's first such challenge, open to all, and was set up to complement the main competition, celebrating the bicentenary of Pugin. The selected template was based on one of Pugin's favourite designs, and the images created form part of the pattern of an ever-growing virtual roll of wallpaper! The results can be viewed via the link:

[www.camacdesign.com/competitions08/html](http://www.camacdesign.com/competitions08/html)



P36) wallpaper display

## News from Kent:

### The AWN Pugin Bicentennial Conference: New Directions In Gothic Revival Studies Worldwide

13-14 July 2012

University Of Kent, Canterbury

Catriona Blaker

Mention has already been made of the prelude to this event, in the last issue of *Present State* 2012, when Rosemary Hill set the standard of the forthcoming conference with a very fine talk, Pugin: a *Life for our Time*, given in Pugin's home town of Ramsgate. On the following two days, the action shifted to the University of Kent for the giving of a wonderfully varied collection of at least fifty stimulating papers, vividly illustrating the extraordinary extent of Pugin's influence. There were four distinguished keynote speakers, Professor Emeritus Stephen Bann (Great Britain), Dr Margaret Belcher (New Zealand), Professor Barry Bergdoll (USA), Professor Thomas Coomans (Belgium), and also two other special lectures from Martin Goalen, conservation architect, and Caroline Shenton, author of *The Day Parliament Burned Down* - required reading for all Pugin enthusiasts. It would be extremely difficult to pick out any



P34) Emma-Michelle Williams, Commendation  
P35) Wallpaper book (above)





one of these speakers in preference to another, and the same goes for all the papers given, over the two days of the conference. This was particularly the case since it was impossible to be in three places at once, so that, sadly, one simply could not hear all the contributions.

There were also well-deserved celebrations to mark the publication of the fourth volume of Pugin's letters, so brilliantly edited by Margaret Belcher, and also of Caroline Shenton's *The Day Parliament Burned Down*, as mentioned in the preceding paragraph.

The Pugin Society committee was extremely keen to support and encourage this conference and some of the committee members worked over the weekend with great dedication, manning a Society stall, assisting delegates and helping to guide them from A to B, when necessary. It was good to see Inch's Books on site, who also had a stand, and it was hard indeed to resist some of the titles they had on offer (particularly *Churches: their Plan and Furnishing* by Peter Anson, with whom I have sometimes thought Pugin would have had an affinity).

This conference was a major event in the Pugin world, putting our man yet more on the global map and furthering scholarship and new research in a way which one has always hoped the Society would do. We were proud to be associated with it, we look forward to some sort of publication evolving from it, and we give all credit to Pugin Society committee member (and also until very recently Editor of our Journal *True Principles*) Dr Timothy Brittain-Catlin, who masterminded this event and was the conference director. We should thank him for the immense amount of work that he, together with his supporting team, conference designer Jamie Jacobs, convener Vered Weiss and assistant Victoria Freedman, put in to make this conference the success it was.

## Ramsgate:

### The Pugin Hub in Kent

Catriona Blaker

From having gone through a more dormant period a few years ago, Ramsgate is now the focus of a firmament of Pugin activities; down here we are firing on all cylinders, as one might say. The Grange, St Augustine's Church, and the Pugin Society are all in their own ways, promoting Pugin.

#### St Augustine's Church

Already, at St Augustine's, the building that was previously the Sacristy is in use as an embryo Visitors Centre - talks are given and DVDs are shown there. The fact that the church has now become an official shrine to St Augustine means that, in addition to those who visit it primarily for architectural interest, large numbers of pilgrims are now also appearing, so that Pugin receives yet more publicity. There have also been some high-quality concerts of sacred music in these lovely surroundings. Restoration proceeds apace, and at the moment of writing mullions are about to be repaired and several windows from the south side of the church have gone off for conservation.



P37) Pilot workshop

#### The Grange

At the Grange, which has also benefitted from the increased visitor numbers at St Augustine's, there is a steady demand for guided tours on Wednesday afternoons (this continues throughout the year). Also, the house continues to be extremely popular with residential guests. Long may this last!

#### The Pugin Society in Ramsgate

The Pugin Society has been working on the implementation of the £19,700 grant received from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This has included funding informative and well-designed new leaflets for St Augustine's, and also producing a Pugin Creative Arts pack for schools - named, after consultation with children, who were given various options, *Operation Pugin* - a snappy title, which seemed to appeal, particularly to boys.

The pack is divided into four Pugin themes, and accompanied by professionally designed worksheets, plus various themed imaginative projects which can be undertaken: stained glass biscuits for one, designing a spire for St Augustine's being another. These will be downloadable from our new website in due course. Pilot workshops have been held in two schools already (P37), and the results were colourful, and fun. It is important, surely, to make Pugin known not only to adults but also to the very young.

#### The Pugin Play

Then there is the Pugin play, *The Man in the Wide-Awake Hat*, which we are also part funding, and which will be performed in Ramsgate on 19th, 20th and 21st September. This is being produced by Clive Holland of Mischievous Theatre, and should be an exciting and interesting new look at Pugin's achievements, with a cast of four. Look out for further details nearer the time on:

<http://mischievoustheatre.co.uk>

#### A new Pugin booklet in 2013

Finally, there will appear, by September we hope, *Presenting Pugin: A Short Introduction to the Life and Work of A.W.N. Pugin for Visitors to Thanet*, a 10,000 word booklet written by member Robin Fleet, which will be fully illustrated in colour and which we think will fulfil an important need at Visitor Information Centres.



## News from France:

### Clovis Normand

*Professor Peter Blundell Jones*

*Sheffield University*

The small town of Hesdin in the Pas de Calais is somewhat off the tourist track and much less known than nearby Montreuil-sur-Mer, persisting mainly as a somewhat run-down local commercial centre but with a flourishing Thursday market. In the 19th century it was much more prosperous and was the place where Clovis Normand (1830-1909), a follower of Viollet-le-duc, set up in 1870 as municipal adviser and prolific builder and restorer of churches. He was highly active, concerned with some 670 sites over 40 years, and a large well-preserved work is the Chartreuse at Neuville-sous-Montreuil. He even built another Charterhouse in England, at Parkminster in Sussex.



*P39) Normand's house*



*P38) Normand's house*

These recent photos show two sadly neglected works in Hesdin: his own house (**P38**, **P39**), and the Chapel of the Hospital of St John (**P40**). This innovative corner chapel still belongs to the hospital that survives as an old people's home, but it is no longer in use, rain damage has been ignored, and the municipality has recently had to fence off the street against falling masonry.

Normand's own house, in an attractive street just off the centre, has long been empty, the garden abandoned, but it would be recoverable were someone prepared to put in the investment. Clovis Normand's collected drawings are in the archives of the Pas de Calais.



*P40) Chapel of the Hospital of St John*



## Letter from Australia:

### Pugin's contribution to modern quilt design

Michele Hill

When looking for a diversion from my roles of mother and part-time nurse, in the late 1980s I was introduced to the wonderful world of quilting. This hobby has led to amazing and unexpected opportunities, and it is through my love of appliqué and William Morris designs that most of this has come about.



P41) Inspiration

In 1997 a raffle prize of airfares to Europe resulted in a life changing event. This is where I had my first William Morris 'experience' at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. When I came home to Adelaide I discovered that our Art Gallery of South Australia has one of the largest collections of Morris furnishings outside the UK – what luck! After 35 years of nursing I retired in 2009 and took up a new 'career' - to keep the "genius of Morris" alive.

Opportunities to share my passion have resulted in two books,<sup>1,2</sup> three ranges of fabrics and, more recently, guiding William Morris tours around the UK,<sup>3</sup> which have sold out... who would have thought?! I have been a proud member of the Quilters' Guild of South Australia for over 20 years and have had the honour of winning several awards at their shows.

Through writing my books about William Morris, I inevitably stumbled across Pugin in many references. Once I started looking at Pugin's incredible designs and work, I realised I had already seen much of it while on that first trip to the UK, and that I had in my possession a book entitled "Floriated Ornament" (P41) which I had bought years before. I did not realise that Pugin had been in my life for such a long time!

The Art Gallery of South Australia has a collection of Pugin tiles and, in 2007, I made a black and gold quilt 'Footsteps from the Past' (P42), based on Pugin's tile designs. It was only two years ago that I discovered that Australia has a strong Pugin connection and I have been lucky enough to visit one such church in Berrima, New South Wales. I had actually been teaching in this town for the previous two years and it was in class one day that I brought up the subject of Pugin... and, of course, a local instantly told me of this church. It was quite an emotional experience to actually stand beside this charming example of Pugin's architecture.

Inspired by the designs of William Morris, I started designing a new range of fabrics in 2007, and a quilt (P43) to accompany the "Dear William" collection. However, the "Dear William" quilt became more of a "Dear Pugin" as I had used the Floriated Ornament book as a design resource. One of the fabrics in the collection is also based on Pugin's designs (P44). I hope both William Morris and Augustus Pugin would have been pleased with the result.

On a final note, I would like to thank your editor for inviting me to write this little article, and you, the reader, for taking an interest in my obsession... Who knows, one day a Pugin-inspired quilt book may be on the horizon!

#### Notes

1. Michele Hill: William Morris in Appliqué. C&T Publishing, CA: 2009
2. Michele Hill: More William Morris Appliqué. C&T Publishing, CA: 2012
3. [www.whitecrofttours.co.uk](http://www.whitecrofttours.co.uk)

#### Editor's endnote

I would like to acknowledge and thank Elaine Morton, my sister, for pointing out the Pugin link in Michele's work, and facilitating this article. It is interesting to see so many current designers in a range of the applied arts finding inspiration from Pugin's work, directly or indirectly, even before the bicentenary.



P42) 'Footsteps from the Past'



P43) 'Dear William' Quilt



P44) 'Pugin' Fabric



## News from New Zealand:

### Bishop's House, Auckland

Nick Beveridge



P45) Bishop's House by Peter Paul Pugin, rear view

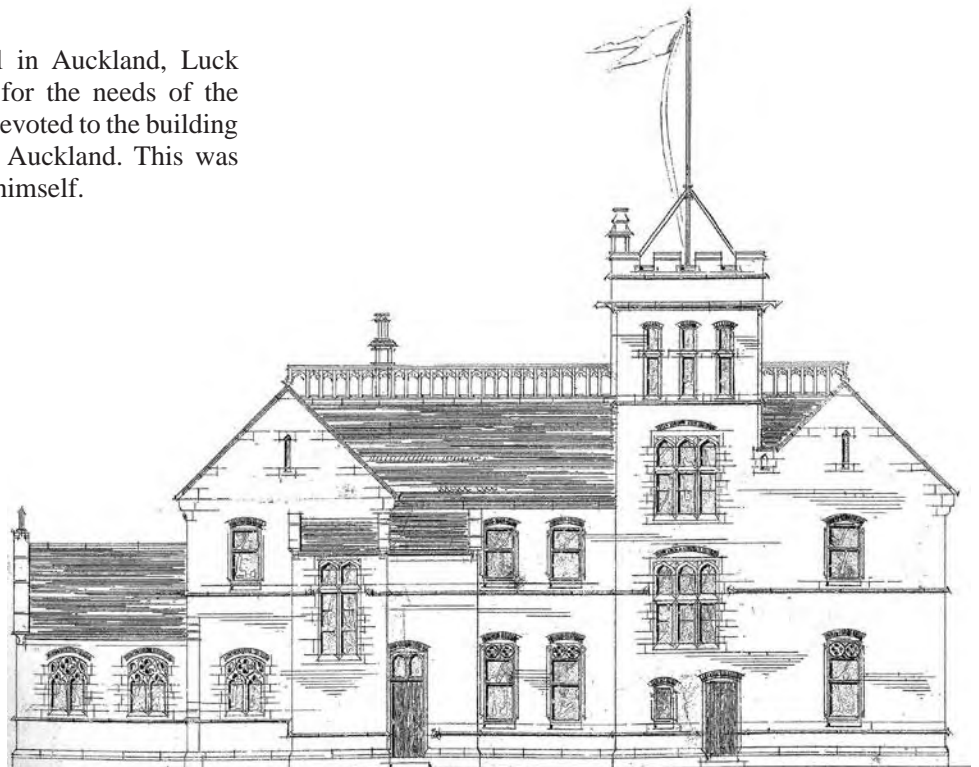
Described, in a contemporary article, as 'A Princely Residence', the Bishop's House (P45) in Auckland was completed in May 1894<sup>1</sup>. It was one of the last undertakings of the fourth Catholic Bishop of Auckland, the Right Reverend John Edmund Luck OSB (1840-1896).

Bishop Luck was a monk from St Augustine's Monastery (as it was then) in Ramsgate where, until 1882, he had been Superior, as well as being Vice President of the attached college for boys. He would have been acquainted with members of the Pugin family, including those who had attended the college, especially Pugin's youngest son, Peter Paul (1851-1904)<sup>2</sup>.

In 1891, nine years after his arrival in Auckland, Luck travelled to Europe to collect funds for the needs of the diocese, of which the greater part was devoted to the building of a suitable Episcopal residence for Auckland. This was intended for his successor rather than himself.

Bishop Luck was away until 1893 and managed to obtain donations from an impressive list of 93 people, including Emperor Francis [sic] Joseph I of Austria and other members of the Austrian Imperial Family, Sir Stuart Knill Bt., Lord Mayor of London; cardinals, bishops, abbots and other ecclesiastics<sup>3</sup>. The names of the donors were to be commemorated in stones laid in the plinth surrounding the building<sup>4</sup>.

P46) Drawing of the rear elevation by PP Pugin



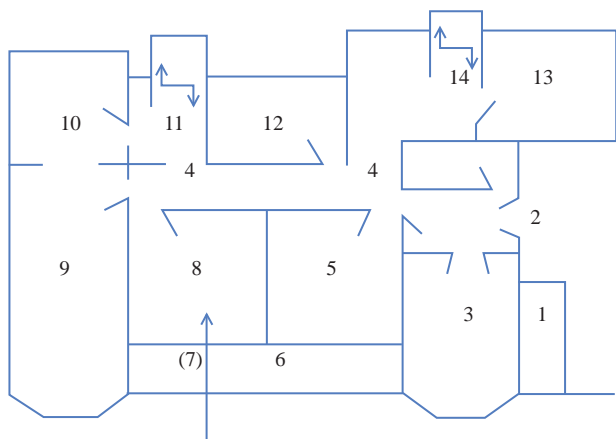
It was because of his friendship with Peter Paul Pugin (PPP), of Pugin and Pugin Architects, St Hubert's, Brook Green, London, that Luck went to him for the design of the new Episcopal residence for Auckland. It is assumed that Luck met with PPP on his trip in order to discuss the commission with him. PPP also, at some stage, met with Sir Stuart in London to discuss the design<sup>5</sup>.

The plans for the new building were produced in 1892 and the elevations, some detailed drawings (P46) and the contract specifications are deposited in the Auckland Catholic Diocesan Archives (ACDA). Also in the archive are three letters written by PPP to Luck discussing various aspects of the project.

The supervising architects were from the local firm of Edward Mahoney & Son, and it is likely that they were responsible for simplifying some of the details, no doubt in order to keep within budget. These modifications included the elimination of the tracery on the tops of the ground floor bay room windows, the redesign of the roof railing and other minor changes. The building was completed, debt free, at a cost of £2,956<sup>6</sup>.

The completed two-storey building occupies a prominent position on the site of the old Bishop's residence. It was in the Tudor/late Gothic style and was built throughout of heart kauri (a native softwood) timber and dark red pressed bricks from Melbourne. The external walls were double with a cavity between, to ensure perfect dryness in such an exposed situation and humid climate. The dressings were of Matamata stone (a type of volcanic stone known as ignimbrite) and the walls further relieved with arches of cream-coloured bricks. The roofs were covered with Welsh slates in two tints, and the flat areas with lead, surrounded with cast-iron railings. This formed an excellent promenade, which offered fine views of the harbour.





P47) Ground Floor Plan

#### KEY (K)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Side verandah (demolished)                      | 8. Original entrance hall*   |
| 2. Current entrance (via attached Diocesan Centre) | 9. Formal reception room/library *                                       |
| 3. Bishop's study*                                 | 10. Bishop's dining room*  |
| 4. Inner hall                                      | 11. Tower, housing main staircase  |
| 5. Parlour* (adjacent to old front door)           | 12. Secretary's office*  |
| 6. Front verandah                                  | 13. Chapel   |
| (7). Original main entrance                        | 14. Private staircase to Bishop's quarters<br>*now used as meeting rooms |



P48) Main staircase

On entering the building **P47** through the original main entrance, now the verandah (see key, 6 & 7), the first room reached was the entrance hall (**K8**). This was spacious and communicated with the inner hall (**K4**) by means of swing doors flanked by mullioned windows. The floor of the hall as well as the corridors were laid with patterned tiles manufactured in Marseilles, France.

The main staircase (**P48**), which was directly opposite the inner doorway of the hall, occupied the tower (**K11**), giving access to the various levels (including the attic), and terminating at the level of the flat part of the roof. The windows of the tower provided light to the landings of the staircase.

Originally, the north wing was occupied by Luck's own rooms and these were connected by means of a corridor (**K4**) to the private chapel (**K13**). This had stone traceried windows filled with 'poor man's stained glass by Alex Booker of Bruges<sup>7</sup>. A private staircase (**K14**) led to the Bishop's private apartment on the first floor<sup>8</sup>.

At a later date an upper level, accessible from the first floor, was added to the front verandah (**K6**). An example of an original internal feature is the ceiling rose (**P49**). Two points of interest - there was an unusual arrangement for lighting: gas lamps lit by electricity 'the first instance of the kind, in Auckland'<sup>9</sup>. Wash-out water closets were installed in the new building, and the one on the ground floor is still in original working order!



P49) Internal detail: ceiling rose

Additionally, PPP's letters deal with two more items of particular interest. In one, dated 8 March 1893, he mentions the simple gothic fireplace surrounds of marble which he had sourced from E. L. Galizia in Malta<sup>10</sup>. In another letter of 3 July 1893 he refers to the hardware for the front door, and writes "Immediately on receipt of your Lordship's letter, I ordered the furniture for the front door from Hardmans and told them to send it direct to your Lordship"<sup>11</sup>.

Although the Bishop's House was designed nearly 50 years later, there are some features of the building which tempt comparison with the Grange, Ramsgate. With regard to the external appearance, the front aspect (**P52**) is imposing but rather conventional in design. The rear, however, is much more interesting (**P53**) and seems to exhibit some decided references to the Grange. The main feature is the asymmetrically placed tower, allowing access to the main roof. This provided an area of 60ft by 15ft, surrounded by iron railings, which was an ideal size for walking while reading the Divine Office. The chapel, however, was placed at the other end of the building, which is the opposite arrangement to that of the Grange.

Internally, the balustrades of the staircases (**P48**) are virtual copies of those at the Grange. Also, some of the furniture items are based on designs by AWP and were made by Luck's brother, Fr Augustine Luck OSB<sup>12</sup>. Those still in situ include





P50) Bishop Luck's desk, based on design by A.W. Pugin



P51) Side table based on design by A.W. Pugin

a 'structural' table (P50), which was used as a desk by Bishop Luck, and a matching pair of side tables (P51), all in heart kauri wood. The tables reflect the simplicity of Pugin's later work and were possibly inspired by examples at St Edmund's College Ware, where both brothers were trained, and at Ramsgate. Fr Luck also made, from a number of native woods, the parquetry margins to the floors of the chapel and the original reception room.

One might speculate as to whether the similarities between Bishop's House and the Grange are due to Luck's specific requirements or the result of plagiarism by PPP. However, the fact that the tower enabled access to the roof might lead one to suspect that Luck wanted to recreate something of the Grange he knew while living there as a teenager! In addition to its local significance, Bishop's House is the only building in Australasia, and possibly outside Great Britain, known to have been designed in its entirety by Peter Paul Pugin. However, there is a second site with some of his work, as he made additions to the Catholic Cathedral at Adelaide, Australia.

Interestingly, in one of PPP's letters regarding progress on the building he writes "I hope as your Lordship suggests it may lead to other work in Auckland"<sup>13</sup>.

Bishop's House exists largely intact today, apart from the rather fussy treatment of the later wooden balustrades to the front upper verandah which give the building a rather

colonial look. Also, the construction of the attached diocesan centre, opened in 1989, has detracted somewhat from the overall appearance. However, it is still very much in use as part of the diocesan headquarters and the current bishop still resides in the private apartment on the first floor<sup>14</sup>.

#### Notes

1. The New Zealand Graphic and Ladies Journal (NZG), 9 June, 1894, pp543-5
2. Peter Paul attended Luck's consecration, by Cardinal Manning, Archbishop of Westminster, in St Augustine's church, Ramsgate
3. Knill was a cousin of Pugin's third wife, Jane
4. The details are illustrated on a framed board hanging in the main ground floor corridor of the building
5. 'Lett's Australian Pocket Diary and Album' (ACDA, LUC 3-3)
6. Letter from PP Pugin to Luck, dated 25 September, 1893 (ACDA, LUC 20-2/5)
7. This imitation technique was cheaper than stained glass and created the effect by using coloured transfers on clear glass
8. NZG, pp543-5
9. Bishop Luck's Episcopal Residence. New Zealand Herald, 5 May, 1894
10. Of 64 Strada Vescovo, Piazza Gelsi (ACDA, LUC 20-2/3 & 20-1)
11. ACDA, LUC 20-2/4
12. For more details see page 30 of article in TP Vol.2 No.5.
13. ACDA, LUC 20-2/5
14. Since this paper was written a new and informative entry (Register No. 555) has appeared on the NZ Heritage Trust's website: [www.historic.org.nz/](http://www.historic.org.nz/)

#### Sources

**N Beveridge:** *A Pugin Link with New Zealand – The Benedictine Bishop.* in True Principles, Volume 2, Number 5, Summer 2003, pp28-32.

**ER Simmons (Reverend):** *In Cruce Salus, A History of the Diocese of Auckland 1848-1980*, Auckland, 1982, 295pp.



P52) Front view (early C20)



P53) Rear view (late C19)



## News from America: An update on the Parks Collection

Stephen Parks

The main collection of Pugin publications has been deposited at the Johns Hopkins University library, as reported in the last newsletter (p4). The collection continues to grow as further items have been purchased and subsequently added. It is hoped that the complete collection will eventually be digitally indexed and go online.

A catalogue of the original collection was produced by Maggs Bros and a digital copy has been sent to your editor. This could be uploaded to the Pugin Society website, along with additions, so that Pugin enthusiasts can have access to the contents of the JHU Pugin collection. Some rare manuscripts are included and it would therefore be a useful reference.

## Pugin Trails

To date five Pugin trails worldwide have been identified: two from pre-2012, and three produced during Pugin's bicentenary year. As the number is growing it seemed a useful exercise to document these trails and provide website links where available.



P54) *The Pugins:  
a Ramsgate Town Trail*

### Britain Ramsgate Town Trail:

The 1st printed edition is dated **August 2005**, and was mailed to members at that time. The latest, 3rd edition, was printed in October 2011. The trail has 29 sites, with 75% of them listed - six at Grade I, which include The Grange (I), St Augustine's church (I), the Granville Hotel (II) and less well known buildings, such as houses thought to be designed by Edward, and other sites with links to the Pugins. Copies of the 3rd edition are currently available from Catriona Blaker: [catrona@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:catrona@tiscali.co.uk)

### The Birmingham Pugin Trail:

The 1st printed edition was launched on **1st March 2012** with a special service at St Chad's cathedral to mark the opening of the year-long bicentenary celebrations in Birmingham. The production of the trail was a collaborative effort between various site curators, archivists, volunteers, 'Friends of...' plus representatives of the Pugin Society. Copies were mailed out to all members last spring (2012), and can be downloaded from the Pugin page of the Birmingham Heritage Forum (BHF).



P55) *The Birmingham  
Pugin Trail*

The original printed trail has 13 listed sites, with 2 later entries added to the BHF's Pugin page: the Cadbury Research Library, University of Birmingham (see article in last issue, pp 10-11), and the Birmingham Oratory, founded by Cardinal Newman, who knew Pugin. The BHF Pugin page has brief entries for all 15 sites and some photographs, and is updated from time to time. It can also be printed (5 pages).

[www.birminghamheritage.org.uk/pugin.html](http://www.birminghamheritage.org.uk/pugin.html)

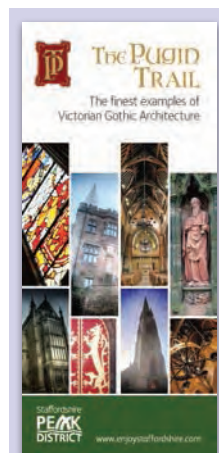
### The Pugin Trail around Cheadle:

The 1st printed edition, available from **July 2012**, has 5 sites: St Giles Church, Cheadle; Cotton College, near Oakamoor; Alton Towers and Alton Castle, Alton; St Mary's Church, Uttoxeter. Most of these sites have other Pugin buildings, such as the school and convent at Cheadle, St John's Hospital and church/school, Alton, and St Wilfred's Church adjacent to Cotton College. The pdf file can be accessed on line via:

[www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk](http://www.staffsmoorlands.gov.uk)

or directly from:

[www.cheadlestaffordshire.co.uk](http://www.cheadlestaffordshire.co.uk)



P56) *The Pugin Trail  
around Cheadle*

### Australia

#### The Pugin Trail in Tasmania:



P57) *The Pugin Foundation*

Available online from **mid-2009**, downloadable from the Pugin Foundation website (map plus 3 pages accessible via the 'Pugin Trail' pull-down menu at the head of the page), and with 3 churches forming the trail: St Paul's, Oatlands; St Patrick's, Colebrook; St John the Evangelist's, Richmond.

The webpages have 10 other sites, totalling 13, with 10 extant and 3 demolished sites in 3 states of Australia. These form a virtual trail in all but name up the eastern seaboard, from Tasmania in the south, through New South Wales (NSW) up to Queensland.

Going north from Tasmania, NSW has 5 extant sites in Sydney: former St Mary's Cathedral Chapter Hall; Former St Augustine of Hippo's Church (next to present church), Balmain; St Benedict's Church, Chippendale; St Charles Borromeo's Church, Ryde; St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta. NSW also has St Francis Xavier's Church, Berrima. Moving north to Queensland is St Stephen's Chapel, Brisbane. All these webpage entries include street addresses.

The 3 demolished buildings are listed separately - Sydney, NSW: Free-standing Bell Tower (demolished 1870); additions to St Mary's Cathedral (demolished c1900); Oatlands, Tasmania: Presbytery of St Paul's, demolished c1960.

All entries have at least 1 photograph, some have picture galleries, and most have a downloadable essay.

[www.puginfoundation.org/pugintrail/](http://www.puginfoundation.org/pugintrail/)





# County Wexford Pugin Trail

P58) County Wexford Pugin Trail

## Ireland

### County Wexford Pugin Trail

Available online from **August 2012**, and downloadable (3 pages). There are 11 sites: St Aiden's Cathedral, Enniscorthy Town; Church of St Michael the Archangel, Gorey; Private chapel, Edermine; Church of the Assumption of Mary, Bree; Church of St John the Baptist, Bellevue; Maher Family Mausoleum, Ballymurn; Church of St Alphonsus, Barntown; St Peter's College Chapel, Summerhill; Church of St Mary, Tagoat; Church of St James, Ramsgrange; plus the 12th century Dunbrody Abbey, described as the model for some of Pugin's designs.

[www.visitwexford.ie/index.php?contentid=pugin-trail](http://www.visitwexford.ie/index.php?contentid=pugin-trail)

### Availability

Access to or supplies of printed trails may be limited although some pdf files are now on line, as noted above. It is planned to have direct links to all from the Pugin Society website (being re-designed as we go to print). It is hoped that we will have a supply of the printed Cheadle Trails to distribute with this newsletter.

### Endnote

The general public seem to enjoy (free) printed trails, judging by the rapid disappearance from leaflet racks. These local trails are useful to raise awareness of and interest in the sites on each route. Maybe the time is coming to think about preparing a Pugin trail around the UK – what a challenge that would be, to make an appropriate selection!

## The UK Pugin Trail in the making...

It could be argued that before 2012 there was only a limited awareness and appreciation of Pugin and his legacy. However, this was enhanced, in 1994, by the exhibition *Pugin: a Gothic Passion* at the V&A; the subsequent formation, in 1995, of the Pugin Society, and the publication, in 2007, of Rosemary Hill's biography, *God's Architect: Pugin & the Building of Romantic Britain*. Even his very significant contribution to the most iconic and famous of British buildings - the Palace of Westminster



P59) Palace of Westminster

(P59), was barely acknowledged until relatively recently, even though it had been designated a World Heritage Site in 1987. Many of Pugin's other buildings and interior designs had remained 'hidden gems' – although increasingly brought into national focus through media coverage of the bicentenary celebrations in 2012, including (P60) a British postage stamp!



Pugin's legacy to world heritage was already being flagged up, in Ramsgate, by the production of the first Pugin Trail in 2005, the Landmark Trust's restoration of The Grange in Ramsgate (2003-2006) with a Time Team special programme on national television (1st March 2007), and Pugin's own church becoming a shrine to St Augustine in 2012. In Cheadle, the church of St Giles was already known as Pugin's gem and, in Birmingham, St Chad's Cathedral was regarded as the hidden jewel of the city.

Now, in 2013, we have 3 designated Pugin Hubs (another Pugin Trilogy!), each with a local Pugin Trail. Perhaps the locations of these hubs, along with London, provide the starting point for the development of a national Trail: from Ramsgate in Kent, through London, up the M40 or M1 to Birmingham, and then taking the M6 up to Cheadle (public transport is also available!).

Each hub not only has several local Pugin sites and links, but also outliers, for example, from Ramsgate in Kent: EWP designs include the churches of St Austin and St Gregory, in Margate; St Henry and St Elizabeth, in Sheerness; St Paul's church and boys' school, Dover. From Birmingham in the West Midlands: Stanbrook Abbey (EWP) and Eastnor Castle (AWP interiors and furniture) near Malvern, Worcs. From Cheadle in the North Midlands: St Anne's Chapel (AWP) in Stone; St Mary's church, the presbytery and school (all AWP) in Brewood; plus several other notable Gothic Revival buildings in Staffs.

Within the last two years, and with thanks to the tremendous efforts by local enthusiasts, Heritage Lottery Funding bids were successful in each of the three hubs. Each centre was able to develop projects involving their local communities and, in particular, young people – as reported elsewhere in this and the previous newsletter.

By appealing to local members to participate in developing a UK-based Pugin Trail, we could provide a national map, with regional and locally linked sites, further developing public awareness of Pugin's contribution to our national heritage. By working with our local tourist boards, we may be able to encourage more members of the public to visit and appreciate these sites, in keeping with the Society's core educational role.

The committee would welcome news about your local sites and activities. This could be shared, between publications, with members who have signed up for occasional email news, soon to go live. Perhaps we could even take a members' vote for the 'Top Ten' Pugin venues in the UK! Please send your comments to: [judith.pugin@gmail.com](mailto:judith.pugin@gmail.com)





## Book Review

### ‘ARDEN’, a novel by Nick Corbett

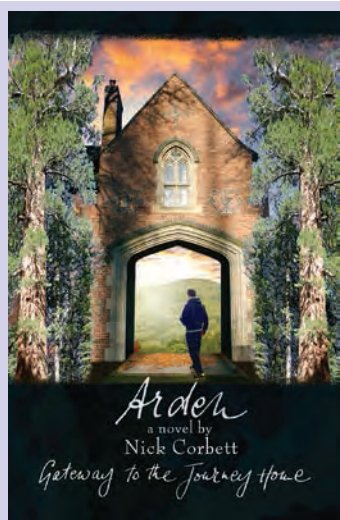
A young Sutton Coldfield author, Nick Corbett, had been inspired by a dream when he was in his twenties and living in London. It was one of those really vivid dreams that changed his life. Nick is a passionate Pugin ‘fan’ and his book really brings Pugin’s legacy into contemporary Britain. *Arden* is a sequel to his novel *Palace of Pugin* which describes the intrigue surrounding Pugin’s involvement in the design of the Palace of Westminster, following the great fire of 1834.

The stunning and intriguing cover (P61), showing a Gothic Gateway, does not give any clue to the exciting content of this enthralling book. Having got through the opening chapters it became so gripping that I was unable to put it down. I began to think of it as very much a parallel to Nick’s own life. As Nick himself says “I grew up on a run-down council estate in Birmingham. Opposite the estate, there was a magnificent gatehouse by Pugin leading to Oscott College – where Pugin designed the chapel and interiors. When I was a child, I found a way of getting into the grounds of Oscott, through a hole in the fence.” He goes on to say that one day, while creeping through the beech woods, he discovered the main seminary building. As a child from a rundown 1960s council estate he was awe-inspired by what he imagined was a gateway to another world... and a glimpse of heaven.

The story develops in such a way that makes you care very much about the friends from school as they travel their different paths through the decadent nineties. Events take Joe, the main character, halfway around the world, from the ancient Forest of Arden to the bright and garish cities of Beirut, London, and Birmingham. To understand his origins he must return to his roots with a new outlook on the environment in which he grew up. When he discovered a mysterious gatehouse that held the key to his destiny, he is reminded of Pugin’s words: ‘Transform your city to save your soul!’

The story begins in 1988 when Joe, an eighteen year old, from a disadvantaged background and little prospects for the future makes friends with four fascinating characters. While

working in London as a young Town Planner he writes an article in the Times. This attracts a lot of attention and leads him to meeting a cabinet minister and becoming involved in a secret mission to Beirut. He is successful in escaping from Beirut with a young boy violinist who is threatened with being killed. One of his rewards is a meeting with the Prime minister at Chequers, before he returns to his roots in Birmingham.



P61) Book cover

It has been described as a ‘life affirming novel about rites of passage, friendship, and transformation’. Nick Corbett’s powerful imagery shows the striking differences between the wonders of nature and the manmade environment. The massive Cedar forests of Lebanon with their fierce grey wolves are close to Beirut. On the edge of Joe’s city sits Shakespeare’s ancient Forest of Arden. This contrasts with the greyness and misery of the young prodigy violinist, Elias, who is rescued from the deprived circumstances of his grandfather’s roof top home to become a well thought of and highly respected violinist in the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra where life is one of happiness and world acclaim. A well written historical novel which is most thought compelling.

Anne Symonds, Birmingham

## Website Reviews

### Pugin News via Google Alerts

Several members started to use this facility in 2012, for notification of activities during the bicentenary year. Information came in that might otherwise have been missed (such as the blogs below). Although now, in 2013, in less abundance, interesting and useful messages continue to come in and, your editor not being a blogger, this service has proved to be very worthwhile: [www.google.com/alerts?hl=en&gl=us](http://www.google.com/alerts?hl=en&gl=us)

### Design, Decoration & Craft at The Textile Blog

This Alert came in dated 3rd June with an article/advert for a new Ebook: “The Pattern Work of AWN Pugin”, with 3 glorious and colourful images. This blog is elegantly designed, user-friendly and informative. It offers several sections, including an image library, plus indexes of the designers and subjects. Both ACP and AWP are listed, Auguste with one article, and AWP with eight, each providing 2-4 printable pages with colour images and text for each topic, including *A Celebration of Pugin’s 200th Anniversary*, posted 1st March 2012, with a brief written entry and 8 images. The subject index contains over 350 articles, with many on the gothic revival, medieval design, the Great Exhibition of 1851, the Pre-Raphaelites, a large section on William Morris, and much more: [www.thetextileblog.blogspot.com/designer-index.html](http://www.thetextileblog.blogspot.com/designer-index.html)

### Spitalfields Life

‘The Gentle Author’ started this site in August 2009, promising to write daily articles. These are logged by date and can be accessed from the monthly archives, or by exploring the various categories. Although there are many articles of potential interest, the most relevant are in the *Past Life* and *Spiritual Life* categories. There is also a search facility, and querying ‘Pugin’ brought up 4 items. Ackermann’s Microcosm of London with plates by AC Pugin and T Rowlandson, can be located in 2 files by date: 1/16/12 and 2/11/12. The superb on-screen images can be magnified and the details examined. Linked to these Microcosm articles is the Bishopsgate Institute, which owns the original books. [www.spitalfieldslife.com/category/past-life/](http://www.spitalfieldslife.com/category/past-life/)

Judith Al-Seffar, Birmingham



## BOOKS PUBLISHED IN 2012 (not listed in last issue)

### The Collected Letters of A.W.N. Pugin Vol.4: 1849-1850

Author: Margaret Belcher

Oxford University Press: [www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)

### The Day Parliament Burned Down

Author: Caroline Shenton

Oxford University Press: [www.oup.com](http://www.oup.com)

### A set of 4 A.W.N. Pugin Guides to North Staffordshire buildings:

- a) St Giles' Church Cheadle
- b) Hospital of St John and Alton Castle
- c) Alton Towers
- d) St Wilfred's Cotton

Author: Michael Fisher

Urban Vision North Staffordshire: [www.uvns.org](http://www.uvns.org)

### Pugin at Maynooth: The Neo-Gothic Contribution of A.W.N. Pugin to Maynooth College

Editor: Dr. Marian Lyons

St Patrick's College and NUI, Maynooth:

[www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

### The Student Wallpaper Design Competition: Exhibition Catalogue

Director: Caroline McNamara

Camac Design Ltd: [www.camacdesign.com](http://www.camacdesign.com)

## COMING SOON (2013)

### Presenting Pugin: A Short Introduction to the Life and Work of A.W.N. Pugin for Visitors to Thanet

Author: Robin Fleet

The Pugin Society

Further information from Catriona Blaker:

[catrona@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:catrona@tiscali.co.uk)

Please check our website for the latest information on new publications: [www.pugin-society.1to1.org](http://www.pugin-society.1to1.org)



P62) St Chad's Flower Festival (detail from P16)

## ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	Auguste Charles Pugin
AWP	Augustus Welby Pugin
EWP	Edward Welby Pugin
PPP	Peter Paul Pugin
JGC	John Gregory Crace
PH&P	Pugin, Hardman & Powell
JH&Co	John Hardman & Co
JHP	John Hardman Powell
HM	Herbert Minton
GM	George Myers
BF	Benjamin Ferrey

## A Trip Down Memory Lane



P63) St Mary's Convent, Birmingham (AWP)  
Nun's Choir in original chapel



P64) St Mary's Convent  
original chapel from the garden



P65) Old Hardman Studio, to the left of tram  
(name just visible on wall)



## NOTICES

### New Membership Database

This was recently set up, and offers members a 'group email' facility for news between printed publications. Recently tested, several members' emails have bounced. Please send your current email address to: [alseffar@gmail.com](mailto:alseffar@gmail.com)

### Pugin Society Website

This is currently being redesigned and updated and should be available later in the autumn. Meanwhile the current website is still operational: [www.pugin-society.1to1.org](http://www.pugin-society.1to1.org)

### Paypal

This facility is now available for overseas members to pay their subscriptions and is much cheaper than bank drafts. For further information please contact: [alseffar@gmail.com](mailto:alseffar@gmail.com)

### Vacancy: Hon. Editor of True Principles

Due to Tim's heavy workload, he recently stood down. We are now considering applications for the new editor, who will need to be in post to prepare the summer 2014 issue. For further information please contact: [judith.pugin@gmail.com](mailto:judith.pugin@gmail.com)

### Answers for the 'Tiles' Puzzle in PS10

These were from:

- St Giles' Church, Cheadle
- The Grange, Ramsgate
- King Edward's School Chapel, Birmingham

(Pages 2-4 + 20: photomontage strip)



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### ...IT'S HERE AT LAST...

the long-awaited play about  
AWN Pugin, opening at  
the King's Theatre, Ramsgate on  
**19th to 21st September 2013**,  
evening performances at 7.30pm,  
matinee Saturday at 2.30pm

For further information: [www.mischievoustheatre.co.uk](http://www.mischievoustheatre.co.uk)  
email: [clive@mischievoustheatre.co.uk](mailto:clive@mischievoustheatre.co.uk)  
Mob: 07971 223282 Tickets: 01843 584840

### Future Society Events 2013

**7 September**

The Gothic Revival in Bedford and Northamptonshire

**14 December**

AGM 2013 at the Artworkers' Guild, London  
followed by a talk & buffet lunch (details to follow).

### Pugin's 201st

### Birthday celebrations

**1st March 2013**



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**Copy deadline for the next issue is  
31st January, 2014.**

**Articles should be sent to the address or email below:**

**Editor: Judith Al-Seffar**  
Carbis, 55 Tennal Road,  
Harborne, Birmingham B32 2JD  
email: [judith.pugin@gmail.com](mailto:judith.pugin@gmail.com)

### Disclaimer

The opinions expressed by individual authors are not necessarily the views of the Society.

### References

Items of news included in this issue may be from websites, newspapers, e-circulars, personal reports or other sources. Due to limited space, not all references or links have been included, but are available from the editor if required.

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*• All articles were correct at the time of going to press, but events may have moved on since then.*

### Acknowledgments

*• With thanks to all contributors and photographers.*

*• Photo credits:*

*Page 1 'Gothic Lily' wallpaper and Photo 1 of AW Pugin: private collection; 2: Jeanne Meldon; 7-26, 62 and montage below: Peter Harrington; 27 and 61: Nick Corbett, Transforming Cities; 28: King Edward's Foundation, Birmingham; 30-36 and 59: Ben Taylor; 46, 52 and 53 Auckland Catholic Diocesan Archives, New Zealand; 54: Catriona Blaker; 56: Staffordshire Moorlands District Council; 57: Brian Andrews, [www.puginfoundation.org](http://www.puginfoundation.org), Australia; 58: [www.visitwexford.ie](http://www.visitwexford.ie); 63, 64: St Mary's Convent Archive, Birmingham; 65: Pen Museum Archive, Birmingham; 66: Clive Holland, Mischievous Theatre; 3-5, 6, 37, 38-40, 41-44, 45, 48-51; with thanks to the authors; all other images are from the editor.*

*• The photomontage (below) is a photographic glimpse of some of the displays at St Chad's Flower Festival June 2013.*

En Avant

