

The Landmark Trust

Landmark Trust continues mission to save heritage at risk with St. Edward's Presbytery

As featured in the Channel 4 series *Restoring Britain's Landmarks*, building preservation charity the Landmark Trust is delighted to announce the opening of St. Edward's Presbytery, a Grade I listed priest's house in Ramsgate. Designed and built in 1850/1 by Gothic Revival architect and designer A W N Pugin, the building is the third and final Landmark to open in 2015, the charity's 50th anniversary year.

St. Edward's Presbytery, which was on the Heritage at Risk Register, opens for self-catering holidays for up to four people from 30th November 2015 costing from £253 (less than £16 per person per night). Its rescue was made possible by generous financial support from individuals, Charitable Trusts and gifts in Wills

Dr Anna Keay, Director of the Landmark Trust said:

"We are thrilled to be opening the newly-restored St. Edward's Presbytery, a building designed by the renowned architect Pugin. It is a significant rescue for Landmark and marks the end of our 50th anniversary year."

Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin (1812 – 1852) was a devout convert to Roman Catholicism and one of the most influential and prolific architects and designers of the nineteenth century. Although only 40 when he died, in his short life Pugin achieved much, designing the interiors of the Houses of Parliament and building many churches, schools, convents and monasteries across Britain.

Having loved Ramsgate as a young boy, Pugin purchased land there in 1841 to create - and inhabit with his family - an idealised Medieval Catholic community consisting of his own family home, a church, a monastery and St Edward's Presbytery, a house intended for the parish priest.

Landmark's rescue of St. Edward's Presbytery is the final piece of this exceptional Grade I listed mid-Victorian landscape to be restored according Pugin's original vision. His family home, The Grange, opened as a Landmark in 2006: now the opening of St. Edward's Presbytery marks the completion of Landmark's 15 year journey to restore and revive Pugin's Catholic utopia on the Ramsgate cliffs.

Alastair Dick-Cleland, Conservation Manager at the Landmark Trust, said:

"The restoration of St. Edward's Presbytery reinstates Pugin's vision for the site and rescues the final piece of his outstanding architectural landscape. The spaces and rooms designed by Augustus Pugin for the parish priest of St Augustine's Church next door have been restored

and lovely views of the church have been re-established. It is satisfying: the whole site has been dramatically improved.”

The twin gabled three-storey house only housed a parish priest for a few years. After Pugin’s death the building was changed and adapted, becoming many times its original size: his eldest son, Edward, added an elegant drawing studio and later other extensions were built. By the time Landmark acquired the house in 2010, it was on the Heritage at Risk Register and in extreme disrepair: roofs were leaking, timbers were rotting and the pretty house had become a warren of crude twentieth-century internal partitions and extensions. After extensive research by Landmark and eleven months on site, the later additions have been sensitively removed to reveal the house as Augustus and Edward knew it.

The restoration has replaced rotten floors, opened up fireplaces and rebuilt their surrounds. The staircase has been rebuilt and both cast iron and multi-hued leaded-light windows have been reinstated. A large stone mullioned window has been moved from street-level back to its original position in the first floor bedroom and, in one of the most significant pieces of work, the huge southern oriel window in Edward’s studio has been remade.

Landmark relies on grants and voluntary sources of income to support its work. The restoration of St. Edward’s Presbytery was made possible by financial support from generous individuals, Charitable Trusts and gifts in Wills.

Landmark’s rescue of St Edward’s Presbytery will allow Landmark guests to experience the site where Pugin lived and worked and ensures that it will never again fall into disrepair.

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Notes to editors:

1. The Landmark Trust was founded in 1965 to rescue historic buildings at risk and turn them into self-catering holiday accommodation, thereby allowing everybody to experience and enjoy them. The rental income from each building pays for its upkeep, but Landmark relies on grants and voluntary sources of income to rescue further buildings. Full details of Landmark’s 196 buildings are available from our website <http://www.landmarktrust.org.uk/> or by phoning Booking Enquires on 01628 825 925.
2. The restoration of St Edward’s Presbytery was funded entirely by donations, including a financial legacy from the late Mrs Shelagh Preston, a grant from the Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation and other charitable trusts, as well as the support of many individual donors. Without their support this restoration would not have been possible.
3. St. Edward’s Presbytery is in Ramsgate, Kent and was designed and paid for by Augustus Welby Northmore Pugin (1812 – 1852) from 1850/1851. It is part of a complex of buildings designed to create an ideal Medieval Catholic community that includes Pugin’s family home, The Grange, a church and monastery. The Grange opened as a Landmark in 2006, while the Church of St Augustine remains a thriving centre for

Catholicism and the monastery, on the other side of St. Augustine's Road, is now a spiritual retreat. From 1928 until 1990, the Presbytery and The Grange formed part of St Augustine's School, run by the monks from their monastery across the road. The Presbytery then became the home of some elderly nuns. In 2011, the monks moved to Chilworth in Surrey. Pugin's building of a Catholic priest's house was brave: there were anti-Papist disturbances in Ramsgate in the early 1850s in reaction to the Restoration of the Catholic Hierarchy in Britain. As a result, there were few windows at street-level.

During the restoration process, a label for a packing case sent to Pugin was recovered from a ceiling. Dated October 1850, the label had originally been attached to a crate that was subsequently used to hold pugging (sound insulation) in place.

4. St. Edward's Presbytery sleeps up to four people and is available for stays from 30 November 2015 at prices from £253 (less than £16 per person per night). It can also be booked in conjunction with The Grange, which sleeps up to eight people at prices from £674 (less than £22 per person per night).
5. Both St. Edward's Presbytery and The Grange will be open for public open days in **May 2016**.
6. The restoration of St. Edward's Presbytery featured in ***Restoring Britain's Landmarks***, a six-part documentary series about Landmark's restoration work commissioned by Channel 4 and produced by Chocolate Media. *Restoring Britain's Landmarks* concluded on Wednesday 18th November 2015 and can now be watched online:

<http://www.channel4.com/programmes/restoring-britains-landmarks>

7. Other Landmarks opened in 2015:

The course of British and European history was determined at the Battle of Waterloo on 18th June 1815 at the gates of **Hougoumont**, a walled farmyard in quiet fields at Waterloo. Furnished to evoke the Napoleonic era, our first-floor apartment in the farmhouse opened in June to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle. Hougoumont opened in June for up to four people at prices from £501.

Belmont, an eighteenth-century seaside-villa in Lyme Regis, was once home to the remarkable business woman Mrs Eleanor Coade and, more recently, John Folwes, world-famous author of *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. Belmont opened in September and sleeps up to eight people at prices from £640.

Other Landmarks designed by Pugin:

Oxenford Gatehouse in Elstead, Surrey was designed by Pugin in 1843 for Lord Middleton, a young Anglican aristocrat. Oxenford is available for up to four people at prices from £305 (less than £20 per person per night).

Other Victorian Landmarks:

Alton Station in Staffordshire was built in 1849 and served visitors to the famous gardens at Alton Towers. Alton Station is unusual in being Italianate in style and, although now thought to have been designed by the London architect Henry Arthur Hunt, it was long attributed to Pugin. Alton is available for up to eight people at prices from £447.

Crownhill Fort was built in the 1860s to defend the important Plymouth naval base from a French attack. In continuous military use until 1986, Crownhill retains its tunnels, earth ramparts, parade grounds and cannons. It is available for up to eight people at prices from £426.

Appleton Water Tower sits nestled on the edge of the Sandringham Estate and was built in the 1870s with the purpose of providing the Royal family with a clean, reliable water supply.

The redbrick tower commands views for miles around and is available for up to four people at prices from £486.

Other Landmarks in Kent:

Prospect Tower in Faversham was built in 1808 for General Harris of Seringapatam, a cricket enthusiast, and is available for up to two people at prices from £416.

Obriss Farm near Westerham, parts of which may date to before 1600, is a delightful farmhouse available for up to five people at prices from £388.

Hole Cottage in Cowden has a curious top-heavy appearance, caused by its jettied first storey, and is the remains of a late-medieval timber-framed hall-house of high quality, available for up to four people at prices from £414.

8. **Photographs of St Edward's Presbytery can be downloaded from our PhotoShelter site <http://landmarktrust.photoshelter.com/#!/galleries/C0000XV.kCxfjHc4> by entering the password **print****
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