HISTORY KS 1 and 2
Unit 12 How did life change in our locality in Victorian times?
Section 4 What evidence of Victorian times remains in our area?

Town Trails: Activity 1 – Bognor Regis   TEACHERS' NOTES

Learning Objectives

- Learn about Victorian architecture in Bognor Regis
- Gain an understanding of some typical features of Victorian architecture

Sources

Sources 1 – 12 are Word documents, each containing a selection of modern photographs of a Victorian building in Bognor Regis, including general views and closeup details:

Source 1.   Park Terrace

Source 2. Marine Parade

Source 3. The White Tower

Source 4. The Royal Hotel

Source 5. Bognor Pier

Source 6. The Carlton Hotel

Source 7. The Unicorn Hotel

Source 8. The Arcade

Source 9. The William Hardwicke public house

Source 10. The Lock Centre

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Source 11. The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Sorrows

Source 12. Den Lodge

Source 13. Maps of Bognor Regis Town Trail indicating the sites of the twelve buildings listed above: one overall map and three enlarged sections of the map.

Note: These maps are extracts from the West Sussex County Council Interactive Map (iMap) and are copyright of the Ordnance Survey. They may be used in the classroom but must not be reproduced for any other purpose. To access the iMap website, click this link:

http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/imap

Then:
-Click 'Launch the iMap'
-Search 'city, town or village' for 'Bognor Regis'
-Close the pop-out box by clicking the x on its top right hand corner
-Reduce the scale of the map by clicking the minus sign on the scale bar twice
-Under the 'Local Information' heading to the left of the map, select 'Town Trails'
-The various buildings will be displayed on the map, with each one numbered.
-If you can't see them all, you can use your mouse to "drag" the map to the right position.
-To identify a building, click the symbol on the map, and a pop-out box will display information about it.

Note: the numbers of the buildings listed in the sources are the same as the numbers for these buildings on the iMap Town Trail.

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Most period houses which have survived demolition in Bognor Regis are either pre-Victorian (pre -1837) or Edwardian (post - 1901), but some Victorian buildings remain.

Source 1. PARK TERRACE

Historical Background

A row of terraced houses facing the sea between Park Road (now Victoria Drive) and Victoria Road at the west end of Bognor. They were exclusive homes for the wealthy when first built. Local architect and surveyor, Arthur Smith, designed this structure in the 1870s using classical and contemporary architectural elements, and his aim was to have a grand 'Victoria Park' estate north and south of Aldwick Road. The Duke of Portland owned one of the houses and entertained the Prince of Wales.

Architectural Details

- The entrances (portico) use Classical features from Ancient Greece: Doric columns and frieze on top with the triglyph design (motif of 3 vertical grooves).
- The terrace design is based on the Italian Renaissance palazzo style: Long terrace with windows in horizontal rows and topped with decorative arch lintels, and tall towers at either end.
- Popular Victorian use of decorative cast iron railings along the balconies.

Source 2. MARINE PARADE

Historical Background

A group of buildings in different styles, facing the sea and east of Park Terrace. The building on the left consists of four bays with canopies. Next to it on the right is a smaller striped-canopy single bay house which is earlier in design, and may be 'Sea House' standing alone to the west of Rock Buildings on Thomas King's 1817 sketch map of Bognor. The larger proportioned house on the right in a French chateau style (ie. No. 1 Marine Parade) was built in the 1890's, and displays elaborate Victorian cast iron decorations on the balcony and rooftop.

Architectural Details

- Elaborate cast iron railings on the windows, balconies and rooftop.
- The house on the right is based on the style of the 17th century French Baroque chateau, and displays tall French windows on the first storey, a dark slate roof that contrasts with the lighter main body of the house, and projecting bay windows on the right.

Source 3. WHITE TOWER

Historical Background

A tall white structure at 16 Aldwick Road (north side, just west of Norfolk Square). A curious building designed by John Cyril Hawes in 1897, a architect/priest who went

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on to design and build churches and cathedrals as far away as Australia and the Bahamas. The house, in order to see the pier and the sea over the buildings in front of it, had rooms stacked vertically like a tower. Nearby houses at the corner of Victoria Road and Swansea Gardens (c.1899) were also designed by Hawes.

Architectural Details
- Unusual tower design that was perhaps ahead of its time.
- Does not look back to past styles of architecture.
- Lack of the architectural embellishment and colour that was typical of the 19th century.

Source 4. ROYAL HOTEL

Historical Background

The Royal Hotel, built in 1888, is on the Esplanade between The Steyne and Waterloo Square. The architect, local architect and surveyor Arthur Smith, incorporated parts of the smaller Manor House (1820s) which stood on the site and at one time housed Mr Binstead's library. The hotel was originally called the Pier Hotel.

Architectural Details
- Earlier two bay 1820s house can be seen in the facade
- Entrance porch contains of a row of classical Doric pillars.
- Decorated cast iron balconies and rails ('balconniere') at the bottom of windows sills.
- Stone moulding around the windows and doors
- Stone brackets beneath the roof.

Source 5. THE PIER

Historical Background

Bognor Pier was built in 1864-5 and opened on 4th May 1865. Very little now remains of the Victorian structure. The shore-end buildings are c.1910.

Architectural Details
- Simple cast iron pier with wooden decking.

Source 6. THE CARLTON HOTEL

Historical Background

The Carlton Hotel is on the Esplanade at the corner of Lennox Street. The foundation stone was laid in July 1880. The plan was to extend a long terrace in the form of a crescent to York Road but lack of funds did not allow this to happen.

Architectural Details
- Cast iron balcony.
- Pilasters* on façade.
- Decorative keystones above the windows on the second floor.

Source 7. UNICORN HOTEL

Historical Background

Formerly the Bedford Hotel (c.1870). Situated at the west end of High Street near

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the Methodist Church and facing along High Street. The drinking fountain (1886) outside and next to the hotel commemorates a local doctor, Charles Osborn. A horse trough once stood there until it was removed in 1966.

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Architectural Details

- Sculpted faces on the keystones above the ground floor doors and windows of the façade.
- Pilasters* on façade.
- Decorated brackets of scrolls beneath the roof.
- Brick and flint wall adjoins the hotel.

Source 8. THE ARCADE

Historical Background

The Arcade is just post-Victorian (c.1901). It was built by local builder William Nathaniel Tate and went through the garden of York House, which faced west along High Street. The Arcade opened in 1902.

Architectural Details

- Turrets, possibly in mock Gothic style on either side of the High Street Entrance.
- Now with new roofing, the structure once had a decorated cast iron entrance canopy.

Source 9. THE WILLIAM HARDWICKE PUBLIC HOUSE

Historical Background

The pub, built by William Hardwicke, is situated on the north side of High Street. It was built around 1816 as the New Inn, as opposed to Bognor's only Hotel which had been built in West Street by Sir Richard Hotham in the 1790s. An extension was added to the west side in 1898 with architectural decorations on its façade. The New Inn became the Sussex Hotel by 1851 and was re-named the William Hardwicke in 1987.

Architectural Details

The façade of the 1898 extension on the west side is decorated with:

- Stucco 'Masks and swags' pediments* above the door and side window.
- Stucco pilasters** and Corinthian capitals on either side of the door and on the side window.

Source 10. THE LOCK CENTRE

Historical Background

Next door to the William Hardwicke pub in the High Street, the Lock Centre with 'A.D.1899' at the top, was Bognor's second Fire Station.

Architectural Details

- Elaborate Dutch gable pediment*.
- Pilasters** with decorated capitals around the doors and upper levels.
- Decorated pediments above the windows on the first storey.

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Source 11. ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Historical Background

The church built for the Servite Order, 'Our Lady of Seven Dolours' (now Our Lady of Sorrows) in Clarence Road was designed by Joseph Stanislaus Hansom, the son of the designer of the Hansom Cab and of Arundel Cathedral. The foundation stone was laid on 26 October 1881, and the church opened in August 1882.

Architectural Details

- 'Victorian Gothic Revival' features on the façade: pointed arch designs on stonework, plate tracery on the central rose window, statues of saints in niches, and stone heads at each end of the large central arch.
- Different colours used on the façade - grey coloured stone and red brick.
- Buttresses support the front wall

Source 12. DEN LODGE

Historical Background

The lodge is situated at the corner of Den Avenue and High Street. Probably built by Claude Bowes-Lyon who purchased Sudley Cottage around 1862 and nicknamed it 'The [Lyon's] Den'. Claude Bowes-Lyon was the late Queen Mother's grandfather and became the 13th Earl of Strathmore in September 1865. He purchased much land in Bognor east of Clarence Road and north and south of High Street. Note nearby names have Scottish connections – for example, Lyon Street and Glamis Street.

Sudley Cottage and Sudley Lodge next door (still standing, later converted into flats) were part of a larger estate planned by local resident the Earl of Arran (Viscount Sudley) in 1827. Sudley Road in Bognor was named after him.

Architectural Details

- 'Victorian Gothic Revival' lodge built of cleft flint and brick.
- Carved bargeboard (or vergeboard) fixed to the projecting ends of the roof.
- Slate roof.

* Pediments are triangular shapes, usually over doors, windows, or on roofs.

**Pilasters are shallow, rectangular pillars forming part of a wall from which it projects, and serving as decoration or support.

Source 13. Maps

13a – A map of Bognor Regis indicating the sites of the 12 buildings on the Town Trail.

13b – An enlarged map of the western area of the trail

13c - An enlarged map of the central area of the trail

13d - An enlarged map of the eastern area of the trail

Note: These maps are extracts from the West Sussex County Council Interactive

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