

Welcome to the first edition of the MHHI Newsletter distributed to members and friends of the Association. We aim to circulate this newsletter bi-monthly throughout the year to keep everyone abreast of our activities and invite your input to keep the important history of Monsignor Hawes alive throughout the Midwest of Western Australia



WHAT CAN I DO?

Monsignor Hawes Heritage are always looking for new members and people keen to be involved in keeping the spirit alive!

If you would like to be involved or know someone who might, please complete the membership application form on our website or contact the secretary

A note from the Board,

The last Board meeting was held on April 28th at Bishops House in Geraldton. Once again several applications were received from new members which is always exciting, this month we welcome Susanne Warr (Nanson WA), Ian Ross (Riverside, Tasmania) and Roy Bowers (Cat Island, Bahamas). Again we are thrilled that our organization can attract interest from a wide range of localities.

Members were impressed with the progress being made with the audio tours project. This is a series of 16 audio tours of Hawes architectural locations around the mid west region. We have begun working towards the launch of this product in time for the 2010 Wildflower Season. In the next newsletter we will provide you with details of the official launch!.



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FOCUS BUILDING

Each issue we will profile a Hawes building, this issue we have chosen the 'White Tower' in England specifically because we have recently been updated on its situation and readers may wish to share its story.

JUNE, 2010

VOL 1 ISSUE 1

THE WHITE TOWER, BOGNOR REGIS, ENGLAND

Photo and information kindly provided by Sylvia Endacott, Local Historian - Bognor Regis - England - 18th May, 2006

John Cyril Hawes, who was born in 1876 in Richmond, constructed the White Tower at No. 16 Aldwick Road. John was the third son of a solicitor and he had two brothers. His parents were quite stern Evangelical Church of England members and thus he was brought up within a religious family partaking in regular family prayers.

The family spent their summer holidays in both Bognor and Littlehampton.

Hawes boyhood interests included history, architecture and drawing. Following his early schooling in Brighton he eventually went to Kings College in Cambridge. Even in 1889 he had a leaning towards the church, but his father wanted him to become an architect.

In 1897 John Cyril Hawes celebrated his 21st birthday on 7th September and also became his own master and started work on his own premises, which included several cottages and a curious looking building he named The White Tower.

This was to be a seaside house for himself and his brothers. The plan was to build a tower, which would enable him to look over

Another report remarked that John greatly admired the architect Charles Voysay who designed the present Bognor Town Hall.

His work as an architect continued and in 1898 he made a model of an imaginary church for the Royal Academy Exhibition and received much praise for his work. One evening when returning to Bognor he went into the Church of St. Thomas where Canon Rhodes-Bristow was speaking about vocation. John was very keen to become a missionary in Africa. The following morning he went to London and visited the offices of the University Mission to Central Africa, to request an interview. Sadly he was turned down on medical grounds, but was granted permission to design a church at Gunnerton in Northumberland.

For the full story, see www.monsignorhawes.com.au



Sylvia has recently contacted us to advise that the "White Tower" is now for sale and has been beautifully renovated. For those who wish to see,

visit : http://www.struttandparker.com/property-for-sale/bognor-regis-west-sussex/property_CHI100026.html