

ROAD NAMES IN THE 'BUNGALOWS' AREA

All the painters, artists, sculptors and cabinet makers connected with Birchington were members of the Arts & Crafts Movement, instigated by Ruskin and William Morris. These people hated mass production and thought everything should be made by hand. Pugin was a follower, as were John Taylor & John Seddon (the Bungalow architects) and George Frampton (the Sgraffiti artist who made the decorative panels for the Tower Bungalows and their annexes).

Regarding road names in the 'Bungalow' area, Seddon laid out a small grid of names on the estate. "To the two earlier and modestly named Cliff Road and Beach Avenue, he added suitable literary and artistic names (Shakespeare, Spenser, Constable, Gainsborough, Wilkie, Leslie and Nasmyth) or those of the natural sciences (Darwin, Lyell, Berkeley and Herschel). (quoted from 'The Bungalow')

Because so much is made of the Rossetti connection (the man came unwilling and for only the last two months of his life), this often obscures the much more interesting people who lived in Birchington by choice - Solomon J. Solomon for example. He was a well reputed portraitist, painting all the royal family of George V and the titled aristocracy of that period. At the end of the First World War, and then again in the Second World War, he also developed the art of camouflage. He is mentioned in Nicholas Rankin's book 'Churchill's Wizards'. Until quite recently, all such information was banned under the Official Secrets Act.

(Possible information?) Ewan Montague, who married one of Solomon's granddaughters, wrote a book 'The Man Who Never Was', may have been sent to prison for using such classified information.

Dr Spitta, the Queen's physician, lived at 'Delmont' (without a last 'e' at that time).