

The rebuilt Guildhall 1889. Photo: Vialls Family Archive

**THE ARCHITECT GEORGE VIALLS
AND HIS CLIENTS
IN LATE 19TH CENTURY LYME REGIS**

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Lyme Regis Museum

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A London architect in Lyme Regis

On 21 January 1889, the Guildhall in Lyme Regis was reopened after an almost complete rebuild to mark the Jubilee of Queen Victoria two years earlier. It brought together in one place some of the leading and wealthiest citizens in this small Dorset town: Thomas Embray Davenport Philpot, the Revd. Edward Peek, the Revd. Charles Myers and mayor Zachary Edwards. The elderly former MP for Lyme, William Pinney, may not have been there, but he was still a respected figure in Lyme (even though not a Conservative) and had paid for the borough coat of arms over the new entrance. Henrietta Vizard, a leading Lyme socialite, may also have been there. Between them these people commissioned a lot of public and private work from the architect of the restoration, George Vials (1843-1912; fig 1), during the last two decades of the 19th century. Who were these people and what did they achieve in the days before the effects of death duty (from 1894) and the arrival of the railway in the town (1902) changed Lyme? What sort of buildings did Vials design for them? That we can begin to answer these questions is because Vials's photograph albums and a transcript of parts of his diaries survive¹. But first, what sort of town was Lyme in 1889?

It was a small town of a little over 2000 people². Under the reforms introduced by the 1888 Local Government Act, which also set up county councils, its borough boundaries had recently been extended to the whole of the parish and now included many farms and country houses. It was administered by a town council of twelve elected councillors, a mayor and four aldermen appointed by the council. Local government reforms had given it more powers. The old town, medieval in origin, sits in the bottom of the valley of the River Lym. Broad Street is its main shopping area. Church Street leads to the road to Charmouth and the county town of Dorchester. Parallel with the Lym and going inland is Coombe Street. Linked to the town, at some distance is the Cobb accessible either along the Marine Parade or from the top of Broad Street, a small harbour and its own cluster of houses and marine stores. Later expansion saw the town expand to the west along Pound Street, Silver Street and Pound Road. From the late 18th century onwards several large houses and villas in their own grounds were built around the town. Then town was described in 1889 as well-lit by gas and well paved. There was a piped water supply but not to every house in the poorer areas. The drainage arrangements still left something to be desired: there were numerous sewers draining into and privies over the river³.

¹ Unless otherwise stated the source of information for Vials's work in and around Lyme Regis is the typed edited transcript of his business diaries made by Christine Vials (1997), now in Lyme Regis Museum. It comprises:

- The diary for January 1878.
- Extracts of the diary for January and February 1881 and for January and February 1883.
- Extracts of diary entries from 26 February 1884 to 20 December 1889, with occasional entries for 1899 and 1900.

² For descriptions of Lyme towards the end of the 19th century, on which this description is based, see John Fowles *A Short History of Lyme Regis* (1991), Jo Draper *Lyme Regis Past and present* (2006) especially the photographs, and Peter Lacey *Ebb and Flow, the Story of Maritime Lyme Regis* (2011).

³ The Public Health Act 1875 placed an obligation on councils to provide sewers and appoint a medical officer. The Lyme Regis Improvement Act 1845 had set up commissioners for public works in Lyme Regis, but they were not fast moving. The *Bridport News* for 8 May 1885 records the commissioners being asked to repair a sewer in Combe Street running beneath a building. It took until 1903 to complete sorting out the 13 sewers in Lyme Regis, by intercepting all those draining into the river with a main pipe beneath it which ran out to sea. See papers by Richard Bull at <http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/collection-category/local-history/>.

Most of the town's expansion had arisen because it had been a watering place for 100 years; Jane Austen had visited. Lyme Regis did not compete with the much grander Weymouth, but offered something quaint and more intimate. By 1889 it was particularly popular as a holiday resort for well-to-do middle-class families, whose heads worked in the professions and business. There were two hotels, the Three Cups and the Royal Lion, around 25 houses offering apartments, inns and lodging houses. Apart from the attractions of the setting, the beach and the picturesque countryside, there was also still the trade in fossils. Although Lyme's days as a major port were long gone, the former shipyard had been replaced by the new Ozone Terrace, there was still enough activity at the Cobb to interest the visitor. Much was trade along the south coast and to the Channel Islands. There were 247 boat movements in 1889, mainly shipping out limestone and bringing in building materials and coal for the gasworks, as Lyme still had no railway. Only five foreign vessels called at Lyme throughout the last twenty years of the 19th century. Fishing was important, mainly inshore from 16 half-decked luggers. The most valuable catch was shellfish⁴. All this contributed the beauty of the scene at the Cobb, which was captured by numerous amateur artists.

It was a stratified society in Lyme Regis. The old town was lived in by poorer people (particularly Sherborne Lane and Mill Green) and those who ran the local shops and businesses. The wealthiest people lived in the surrounding villas. In 1889 there was little overlap between these social groups. The town council was dominated by owners of the local businesses: lias stone merchant, pharmacist, grocer, pleasure boat owner, lodging house keeper etc. Of the aldermen and councillors, only Thomas Philpot's brother John Gold had any social connection with the 'principal families' who attended the Tennis Club Ball at the Assembly Rooms in October 1992; they all lived in Silver Street or the surrounding villas – and we shall meet some of them.

One such villa was Portland Lodge, a late 18th or early 19th century house in Clappentail Lane. It was lived in by Mrs Vizard (1835-1909), born Henrietta Low Shakespear in Calcutta (now Kolkata) the daughter of an employee of the East India Company. She had been left a widow with 8 children in 1874 on the death of her husband, the Revd Henry Brougham Vizard vicar of Spetisbury, Dorset who was ten years her senior and whom she married in 1855. Henry had acquired the house sometime before 1872, when the *Bridport News* for 10 May advertised the impending sale of his furniture there, although the 1871 census shows the family living at Spetisbury⁵. He left an estate approaching £14,000, was enough to provide an income sufficient for her, her children and four servants⁶.

⁴ P Lacey *Ebb and Flow, The Story of Maritime Lyme* (2011) chapters 28 and 29.

⁵ Henry Vizard was a younger son of William Vizard, who was defence attorney to Queen Caroline at her trial in the House of Lords. William died a wealthy man in 1859 leaving an estate approaching £40,000. (Judy Slinn, 'Vizard, William (1774–1859)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/49350>, accessed 8 March 2017]). The firm still exists as Veale Wasbrough Vizards of Fetter Lane, London. As well as his legal practice, William owned an estate and coal mine near Barnsley in Yorkshire, which Henry seems to have inherited as in 1873 Henry agreed a new lease for land occupied by the colliery. (<http://hemingfieldcolliery.wordpress.co/pits-hoyland-silkstone> [accessed 8 March 2017]).

⁶ National Probate Calendar of Wills (accessed via ancestry.co.uk).

Once established in Portland Lodge Henrietta Vizard became fully involved in the social life of the wealthier end of Lyme society. The local newspapers record her sons taking part in the annual regatta and Uplyme cricket. She takes her daughter to the Lyme Regis flower show in 1880 and the elder children go with her to balls in Honiton and Ottery St Mary in 1881. No doubt some of this was to do with getting them suitable husbands or wives. In January 1886 four of her children attended a lavish private fancy dress ball in the Assembly Rooms, at which TED Philpot was also present dressed as a nobleman of the court of Charles I. The ball was given by R Hanbury Miers, the owner of a tin-plate works and house near Swansea, who had lately moved to Lyme⁷. Her second son, Arthur, married Murielle Maude Miers in December 1887. The service was in Lyme Regis and the fashionable event of the year⁸. The list of guests and givers of presents suggest it was mainly Lyme's high society that were present at both events. The Vizards were great supporters of Lyme charities, particularly by organising concerts at which various members of the family performed. The most elaborate were in 1887 Henrietta Vizard arranged costumed *tableaux vivants* in the Assembly Rooms in January and September in aid of the cottage hospital⁹. In August the following year, Henrietta, Cuthbert Peek (Edward Peek's nephew), TED Philpot, Zachary Edwards (Mayor of Lyme) and the Revd T L Montefiore (rector of Catherston Leweston who lived in Charmouth) were all patrons of a *Reception Musicale* at the Assembly Rooms, part of a student tour of the south of England organised by the rector's son Eade Montefiore (1866-1944), who later became a theatre director and producer¹⁰. Despite their grandfather's Whig views, young Vizards took part in a concert sponsored by the Philpot Habitation of the Primrose League in Lyme in 1890.

It was the Vizards who introduced our architect to Lyme Regis and probably to its wealthy potential clients. An entry in the transcript of his diary for Wednesday 23 January 1878 records him at Portland Lodge – with a bad cold. He was there on behalf of TH Wyatt for whom he worked, presumably about proposed works. Vialls had been in Wyatt's office at 77 Great Russell Street the previous day, no doubt getting instructions for Portland House. The most likely reason for Mrs Vizard to use TH Wyatt was that her late husband's parish church of St John in Spetisbury had been substantially restored by him some 20 years previously when Henry first became its rector. The extent of the works at Portland Lodge supervised by Vialls is unknown. They seem to have taken a couple of years until Henry Vizard junior, Henrietta's eldest son, gave a supper for the Lyme Regis builders, Randall and Sons and their staff. The *Bridport News* for 16 January 1880 reported that '42 sat down to a splendid repast in the Masonic Hall at the Royal Lion Hotel'. Among various toasts, one was drunk to 'The Architect and his Manager. T.H Wyatt, Esq., and G. Vialls, Esq.'

George Vialls (1843 -1912) was born in Northampton, the son of Benjamin Vialls (1816-1897), the 'actuary' or chief executive of the Northampton Savings Bank, and his second wife Catherine Fox (1808-1880). His was a comfortable professional family. He was educated first at one of several boarding schools operating in

⁷ *Bridport News* 22 January 1886.

⁸ *Bridport News* 9 December 1887.

⁹ *Bridport News* 4 February 1887 and 2 September 1887.

¹⁰ *Bridport News* 17 August 1888.

Edmonton near London in the mid-19th century¹¹ and later at Wakefield Grammar School¹². Vialls obviously regarded the school with some affection. A photograph of the main facade of the school in one of his albums is annotated ‘Just inside the centre window (of the Hall) was a gallery, with a small organ which I used to play at Prayer Times’¹³. He returned home around 1862 to become a pupil of the Northampton architect Edmund Francis Law (1810/11 – 1882). As he learned the business he would have been involved in many of Law’s church restoration projects in Northamptonshire. This aspect of architectural practice became an important part of his subsequent career¹⁴.

It may be in 1867, having completed his five-year pupilage with EF Law, that he moved to London and joined the practice of the prolific church architect Thomas Henry Wyatt (1807-1880). In 1868 Vialls was awarded the Royal Institute of British Architect’s Soane medallion prize for students for a town hall design, which was exhibited at the Royal Academy the same year¹⁵. The design owes much to Northampton Town Hall, designed by the young EW Godwin, which was being built opposite where his family lived while he was a pupil of Law. In January 1869, he was admitted an Associate of the Royal Institute of British Architects – ARIBA. His nomination papers were signed by three leading architects of the day: TH Wyatt, his brother Matthew Digby Wyatt (1820-1887) and Benjamin Ferrey (1810-1880), the architect of several public buildings in the county town of Dorchester. From 1878, as at Portland Lodge probably as project manager, he was working on one of TH Wyatt’s country houses, the Jacobean style North Perrott Manor being built near Crewkerne, Somerset for PM Hoskyns¹⁶.

After arriving in London, Vialls became involved in the Architectural Association (AA), this country’s oldest school of architecture. The AA had been set up in 1847 because many architects were dissatisfied with the tradition of learning through pupillage¹⁷. Its aims were ‘the association on the largest scale, of the entire body of our professional youth, for the end of self education, and with the good trust of simple self-reliance.’ From the introduction of the RIBA’s voluntary examination in 1862 the AA became increasingly a place for tuition, while maintaining its social life through soirées. Vialls attended one of these in October 1870, exhibiting several ‘very pretty little landscapes’¹⁸. Some of these must survive among the surviving albums of his watercolours of around this time¹⁹. Among the ‘curiosities of design and pencilling’ that night were invitation cards of the nine-member ‘Goths’ club, in which Vialls was

¹¹ Information drawn from a short note prepared by his granddaughter-in-law, Christine Vialls, in Lyme Regis Museum.

¹² M H Peacock *History of Wakefield Grammar School*, 1892 p. 221; Vialls was a subscriber to the publication.

¹³ Album 1 photo 281. The photograph albums remain with the Vialls Family Archive.

¹⁴ For a brief introduction to the work of George Vialls generally see M Hebditch ‘Vialls of Lyme Regis’, *The Architectural Historian* 5, (Society of Architectural Historians of Great Britain, August 2107), pp 8-11.

¹⁵ RIBA 2001 *Directory of British Architects 1834-1914*, p. 871; A Graves 1906 *Royal Academy Exhibitors*, p 82.

¹⁶ He visited the Manor on his way back to London after seeing Mrs Vizard in Lyme Regis in January 1878.

¹⁷ <http://www.aaschool.ac.uk/AASCHOOL/LIBRARY/aahistory.php> [accessed 13 September 2017]

¹⁸ *London Evening Standard* 29 October 1870.

¹⁹ Vialls Family Archive.

involved, now in the RIBA Library²⁰. This was the same year that the AA established its annual excursions to view significant buildings, to which Vialls refers in his photograph albums and may have joined. He was one of the editors of the AA's *Sketch Book* from 1868-73, with Charles Henman Junior (1844-1940) and (from 1870) Horatio Walter Lonsdale (1844-1919), with whom Vialls later worked on several projects.²¹ Now living in Great James Street, Vialls shared an office with EC (Ayton-) Lee (1845/6 -1890), who became President of the Architectural Association in 1880-81.

Given his background in Law's practice and then in TH Wyatt's at the height of the Gothic revival in the 1860s, it is perhaps not surprising that Vialls was involved with the Goths, although this was probably nothing more than a dining club - he was not yet married. But the AA was also a place of ideas. In 1870 Vialls may have heard R Almond speak to the AA on 'Domestic Architecture in the reign of Queen Anne' – in other words buildings at the end of the 17th and beginning of the 18th century. But buildings inspired by this period were already interesting younger architects closely linked to the aesthetic movement such as Philip Webb (1831-1915) and Richard Norman Shaw (1831-1912). They rejected the Gothic and Italianate of the time preferring a more national vocabulary, especially in their use of asymmetry, brick rather than Georgian stucco, small-paned windows (rather than the new plate glass now in fashion) and turrets²². Even Villas mentor, TH Wyatt used it once in 1873 for a terrace of houses in Upper Berkeley Street, London²³. The 'Queen Anne' style, though not called that in print until 1872, became popular, not least because it appealed to the rising middle classes. It was one Vialls was to use a decade or so later in Lyme Regis in his secular work for exactly that clientele.

From 1870, working first for TH Wyatt and later increasingly on his own account Vialls became a well-regarded architect both for restoration projects and for new churches. Newspaper reports in the 1880s show he could do the work on time and on budget. For instance, the *Bucks Herald* on 23 November 1881 reported that restoration works on Wingrave Parish Church had been completed as per contract with 'extras none' thanks to the 'very great care and attention on the part of the architect'.

After Portland House, Vialls secured a further commission in the Lyme area in 1882 when he was instructed to rebuild St Mary's Church, Marshwood in the diocese of Salisbury on the road from Crewkerne. The work was funded by the Incorporated Church Building Society, for whom he did several projects²⁴. Forty years earlier a

²⁰ RIBA Library SE 17/1 (1-4).

²¹ Information kindly supplied by Eleanor Gawne, Architectural Association Librarian.

²² 'Queen Anne' style, its appeal to intellectuals and artist, and its later general popularisation is discussed in Mark Girouard *Sweetness and Light: the Queen Anne Movement 1860-1900* (1977).

²³ Mark Girouard *op cit* pp. 53-4.

²⁴ ICBS approved grants for Vialls to undertake works at the following:

St Catherine, Litlington (1870-71): reseating and repairs to roof and walls.

St Bartholomew, Great Gransden (1872-73): reseating and repairs to roof and walls.

St Matthew, High Town, Luton (1874-79): new church.

St Pandionia & St John, Eltisle (1875-79): reseating and repairs to roof, walls and tower.

St Michael, Northampton (1880-82): new church.

Christ Church, Luton (1866-1882): enlargement with new chancel, vestries, organ chamber etc.

parish had been created for the village out of part of Whitchurch Canonicorum. A church had been built at the expense of the Hon and Revd W T Law, then vicar of Whitchurch Canonicorum²⁵. But, as the *Western Gazette* described when reporting the opening of the new church on 23 May 1884, 1841 was ‘a time when church architecture was at a rather low ebb’, which led to ‘premature decay’ and it needed to serious attention. Vialls completely rebuilt the nave in the 13th century style, keeping the original tower. As at Portland Lodge, the builders were Randall of Lyme Regis. The pulpit that Vialls designed was only delivered by ‘Mr Gidea’ on the day before the church opened on 15 May 1884. Mr Gidea was the Revd William Gidea (1833-1925), Vicar of Netherbury. He was a keen amateur woodworker and made the communion table, chancel stalls, and reading desk. Some of his daughters made the communion table cover. Vialls himself gave the brass reading desk on the pulpit. He was the first lay communicant at Holy Communion service at 8.30 that day, suggesting (as do later diary entries) that he was a thoughtful member of the Church of England. He then attended matins and finally ‘luncheon in field’. Among the people at the dedication was the Revd Edward Peek, who had contributed £100 (perhaps £11,000 in current terms) towards the total £900 cost of rebuilding the church. At 3.00 they both sloped off to Lyme Regis in Edward’s ‘cab’. This avoided what must have been, judging by the report in the *Western Gazette* (23 May 1884), a rather excruciating concert in the schoolroom.

A wealthy priest with no parish

Vialls may well have first met the Revd Edward Peek (1841-1898) at Portland Lodge when doing work for Henrietta Vizard in 1878-80. At that time, Edward lived at Pyne House, Broad Street, Lyme Regis²⁶ and was rector of St Pancras Rousdon, on his brother’s estate just over the border in Devon, a living he resigned in 1879. He was the youngest of three sons of James Peek (1800-1879), a biscuit manufacturer, who also ran a tea, coffee and spice business in Coleman Street in the City of London²⁷. In 1857 James set up a separate biscuit manufacturing business, Peek Freen and Co, intended for Edward and his younger brother to enter. This did not suit Edward and in 1862 at the age of 20 Edward Peek left business life to enter Trinity Hall, Cambridge, graduating in 1866. Two years later he was ordained Deacon in the Church of England and became a curate of the newly built church of St James, Tunbridge Wells²⁸. St James was of Low Church persuasion and his appointment would have appealed to the evangelical convictions of his father. Following ordination, he travelled in Italy, Palestine and Greece in 1870²⁹.

St Mary, Marshwood (1882-84): rebuild nave.

St Michael, Belgrave, Leicester (1885-87): new church.

(<http://www.churchplansonline.org> [accessed 24 September 2018]).

²⁵ Law, the brother of Lord Ellenbury, Governor General of India, later became chancellor of Wells Cathedral in 1842 and in 1851 converted to Catholicism. He also paid for the church at Morecombelake on the main road, replacing the ruined church at Stanton St Gabriel (*Episcopal Magazine and Church of England Warder* 1840 p. 506.

(https://books.google.co.uk/books?redir_esc=y&id=nBwEAAAQAAJ&q=law#v=snippet&q=law&f=false [accessed 15 April 2017]).

²⁶ *Post Office Directory*. Peek employed a cook and housemaid (Census 1881).

²⁷ T. A. B. Corley, ‘Peek, James (1800–1879)’, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Sept 2012 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/56379>, accessed 23 May 2017].

²⁸ *Cambridge University Alumni, 1261-1900*, [accessed via ancestry.co.uk].

²⁹ Correspondence with his father in Devon Record Office, quoted in Nicky Campbell *To Buy a Whole Parish - Rousdon and the Peek family* (2105) p. 21.

James Peek's oldest son, Henry, stayed in the tea business in the City. By 1864 he owned Wimbledon House set in a 100-acre garden overlooking Wimbledon Common, for the preservation of which he successfully campaigned against Earl Spencer's plans for its enclosure. He was Conservative MP for mid-Surrey from 1868 to 1884 and was made a baronet in 1874. In 1870, against the advice of his brother Edward³⁰, Henry Peek acquired the Rousdon Estate, just over the border of Lyme Regis in Devon, and built a new 16th century style mansion to the designs of Sir Ernest George and Thomas Vaughan and (after the latter's death in 1875) Harold Peto. The estate had the right to appoint the rector of St Pancras Church – which was ruinous. Henry appointed his brother Edward as Rector in 1871. The living was nominally worth £35 a year, though this hardly mattered³¹.

A new church to serve the 20 or so residents of Rousdon was built on the site of the ruins and Edward Peek, perhaps as a result seeing churches on his travels proposed to his brother that it should be round, but this advice was again ignored³². Designed by the same architects as the house, it was effectively a private chapel for Henry's new mansion, It was consecrated in May 1872 and extended two years later³³. The Peeks did not neglect the nearby parish of Combpyne. Here, in 1878, Edward began the philanthropic role we saw at Marshwood, giving £27 12s in cash to the restoration of St Mary's Church, Combpyne (by George and Peto) as well as stained glass of the Virgin and Child and a reredos of three panels, the centre of which depicted the Last Supper. They were painted by Elizabeth Campbell Collingridge³⁴.

Edward Peek's parish duties at Rousdon, in the diocese of Exeter, were almost non-existent; there were few parishioners. For such as they were he had an office in stable yard³⁵. He was elected a fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and was a member of the 'Anthropological Society'. He was, of course, well provided for by his father. He no doubt valued the City of London connections of the family firm, attending a banquet for literature at the Mansion House in the City in 1876³⁶ and in 1881 the annual festival at St Paul's Cathedral, followed by dinner at Merchant Taylors' Hall, for 'the sons of the clergy' – the charity helping poor clergy whose income depended on the wealth of the parish. Peek was a Steward of this charity established in the 17th century contributing 20 guineas each year as his fee³⁷.

Following the death of his father James Peek in 1879, who left an estate approaching £180,000, Edward became even more financially secure. He resigned his living at Rousdon in 1881 and began to look for interesting things to do in support of the local community, its churches and the Anglican clergy of the Salisbury diocese. The architect George Vialls would help him do this. When he gave Vialls a lift to Lyme Regis after the dedication of St Mary Marshwood on 15 May 1884, the architect was already doing work for him. Vialls first visited Peek in Lyme Regis at the end of

³⁰ Campbell *op cit* p. 21.

³¹ www.rousdonestate.com [accessed 12 Feb. 2016].

³² Campbell *op cit* p. 27.

³³ *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* 27 May 1872.

³⁴ *East Devon Gazette* 22 Feb 1878.

³⁵ Campbell *op cit* p. 31.

³⁶ *Morning Post* 8 May 1876.

³⁷ *Morning Post* 4 April 1881.

February 1884 to do a survey of the 18th century three storey Poulett House in Pound Street, now the Hotel Alexandra, which Peek was intending to buy. Vialls's diary in March 1884 records that Peek had completed the purchase. This house had at one time been the Lyme residence of William Pinney while serving as its Member of Parliament³⁸, and described as having 'a charming tower-like summer house' and spacious grounds³⁹.

At this time, Vialls still had connections with the successor practice to Thomas Henry Wyatt who had died in 1880. This was run by his son Matthew (1840-92) in partnership with Walter Louis Spiers (1848-1917) and was completing the country house project at North Perrott, already referred to⁴⁰. Vialls was there again in December 1884 inspecting works and designing a Lodge in February 1885. Spiers had worked for the Wyatt practice since 1870, initially alongside Vialls⁴¹. It was he that Vialls asked to draw the first sketch plans of Poulett House.

Early in May 1884 Vialls sent estimates of cost for structural alterations to the house and, the day after coming with Peek from St Mary's Church, Marshwood, he met Henry Randall and Sons to discuss the project and sent the plans to him shortly afterwards. Nothing was done to change the Georgian style of the house. The work on the house over the rest of the year was relatively straightforward, although it did include discussions with the blacksmith about roof ties, which suggests a few problems with the structure. Over the rest of 1884 the dining room received extensive alteration including floor, sideboard, dado and fireplace. A new staircase was installed and the top (servants) floor was papered and painted. Finally, in January 1885 a chandelier by Harts of London was put in, probably in the dining room, which may have been gas. Bells and speaking tubes to the 'servants' hall' were also installed. Works seem to have been completed about March 1885 (fig 2) when the street frontage of Poulett House was being painted by H and T Foxwell, plumbers, painters, glaziers and paperhangers, of Bridge Street, Lyme Regis. It was September 1885 when the final account for the house conversion was drawn up.

Almost three years later, in February 1888, Peek decided to extend and Vialls, who was also working on the Lyme Regis Town Hall at the same time, began to prepare working drawings for the proposed garden or long room, a single storey building linked to the house by a corridor and 'tower'⁴². The contract seems to have been again placed with Randall. Various visits were made during the first half of the year. Detailed design work began in early June, including the mantelpiece, and continued though to October. It was completed by January 1889 when curtain rails in the long room were being adjusted. On 10 May 1889 Vialls cut stencil patterns for decorating the tower which the firm of Herbert Radford (decorators of Bridge Street, Lyme

³⁸ It is said to have been built around 1735 by 1st Earl Poulett (c1668-1743), whose family seat was Hinton St George in Somerset. It was subsequently sold to the Benney family and then to Frederick Pinney for his son William. After William Pinney ceased to be MP for Lyme in 1868 it was sold to the Ingram family, from whom Peek bought it.

³⁹ Extract from the diary of Emily Smith for 28 April 1858, when the house was leased for a few weeks to enable her husband to recuperate (Dorset History Centre D500).

⁴⁰ Peter Thornton, 'Spiers, Walter Lewis (1848-1917)', rev. Susan Palmer, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, May 2010 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/37999>, accessed 20 Sept 2016].

⁴¹ In 1904 Spiers was appointed curator of Sir John Soane's Museum.

⁴² This is not the earlier tower-like summerhouse.

Regis) executed. This was presumably the last element to be completed. The garden room survives as the Hotel Alexandra's dining room beneath the south wing.

At the same time as Vialls was managing the conversion of Poulett House to a desirable residence for Peek he was also working on the creation of the Poulett House Chapel, a project which developed over two years. Peek's evangelical father would have been surprised at the Tractarian influenced interior that was created. Unlike the more routine work for the house, the first sketch designs were produced by Vialls himself and sent to Peek on 16 March 1884. Between then and 23 May 1885, when he got a cheque from Peek for £168 to cover sundries, he visited the house and chapel eleven times both to discuss details with his client and to supervise the works. He also met Peek in London, once at the new University Club. The visits to Lyme were often combined with work for other clients in the area. Vialls was preparing sketches for the tower of Marshwood church, possibly with a view to replacing it (there had been earlier references to damp problems). He was asked to look at works needed at Axminster church. He did restoration work on at St Candida Church, Whitchurch Canonorum including redesign of the chancel and the provision of altar hangings. And he was still doing North Perrott Manor Lodge.

The London and South Western Railway was crucial to all this. Vialls was now a successful architect. Soon after 1881 he had moved with his family from 24 Doughty Street to 13 Grange Park, Ealing - a prosperous professional middle-class neighbourhood which had recently been developed. Among his neighbours were a solicitor, born in Lyme Regis, and a retired coffee planter born in the East Indies. All had servants. This was a large house for his wife Eliza (whom he had married in May 1874), daughter and four sons⁴³. In due course, he could employ a cook and two housemaids⁴⁴. To get to Lyme Regis he travelled from Waterloo station to Axminster or Crewkerne stations; there was as yet no branch line to Lyme itself although it was being talked about⁴⁵. Getting between the stations and the properties on which he was working involved a combination of walking, hired traps, cabs sent by his clients and the horse-drawn bus between Lyme and Axminster. On 25 September 1884, when staying in Lyme and after specifying some work on the Poulett House chapel he went with Colonel Pinney, presumably by carriage, to inspect his properties at Marshwood, Racedown, Childhay and finally Somerton Erleigh in Somerset, Pinney's principal seat. He seems to have stayed there for a couple of days 'looking at the lodge, gate terrace etc and trying positions for dwarf walls, piers, coping etc on terrace. Col Pinney spoke of heraldry for pavement of tennis court seat'. The following day he discussed possible alterations to the plans - and returned to London.

He also walked. On the agreeable summer evening of Thursday 2 July 1885 Vialls walked back from Lyme Regis to Axminster where he was staying⁴⁶. On 26 September the same year, after having been in Lyme for three days managing the

⁴³ Eliza was a Sunday school teacher and daughter of Edward Lockhart, a coal merchant and mayor of Dunstable at the time of the wedding. George Vialls was a practicing member of the Church of England, with references to his attending worship both in the diary extracts and in the photographic albums.

⁴⁴ Census 1891.

⁴⁵ Martin Smith and George Reeve *From Devon to Dorset - the story of the Lyme Regis branch* (2003).

⁴⁶ According to *The Times* weather report for 3 July 1885, the previous day had been cloudy but pleasant enough and about 65 degrees Fahrenheit.

Peek project, and meeting William Pinney to talk about a new wagon shed at Racedown, he took the horse omnibus to Axminster. He travelled by train to Crewkerne and visited the North Perrot Manor project, which was about two miles from the station. He left by the 5.58 p.m. to London Waterloo station, caught the 10.40 to Kew Bridge and then walked or took a cab the 1 ½ miles to his home in Ealing –‘home about 11.40’. On 15 April 1886, when staying in Charmouth he walked to Lyme and back. And on 31 August ‘to Lyme by boat 9 a.m. Landed at Cobb...Back to Charmouth by boat’.

As in the main house, the basic structural work on the chapel was contracted to Henry Randall and Sons of Lyme Regis, who received the plans in June 1884. The Hamstone window tracery was made by C Trask and Sons of Norton sub Hamdon in Somerset. The ‘sweet-toned’ organ in a small south transept was built by WG Vowles of Bristol. The first service was held in the uncompleted chapel at 3.00 p.m. on 31 December 1884. Both Peek and Vialls had bad colds and after dinner at 7.00 p.m. they retired to bed at 9.00. To meet Peek’s vision of a richly furnished chapel meant contact with at least twelve of the leading specialist suppliers in London (Table 1). Lascelles, who provided the screen, the altar table in two kinds of walnut wood and other joinery, had a steam powered joinery works in Finsbury in London. This introduced an element of mass production into making high class joinery and furniture, including shop fittings. The firm had developed under WH Lascelles (1832-1885) and did a lot of work for the architect Richard Norman Shaw, probably including joinery and the staircase at Cragside, Northumberland⁴⁷. WH Lascelles had retired by the time of the Peek contract and the business continued under the direction of his brother Thomas Lascelles⁴⁸. The altar was raised five steps and above it was the mosaic of ‘Christ in Majesty’, set within a wooden frame and dossals by Lascelles, seems to have involved two firms. Clayton and Bell appear to have been the designers; Vialls saw them on 11 October 1884. Their primary business was stained glass, providing the windows for the newly built Truro Cathedral (1887). They also designed the mosaics for the Albert Memorial in Hyde Park (1872), which were executed by Salviati; the firm became the Venice and Murano Glass and Mosaic Company Limited. Vialls had already spoken to Venice and Murano on 9 July 1884, presumably about their execution. The mosaic was positioned above a marble retable, produced by the large firm of sculptors, Thomas Earp of Lambeth. Earp’s most notable works were the carving on the Eleanor Cross, Charing Cross (1863) and the reredos at Exeter Cathedral (1870-77). Vialls saw Clayton and Bell and Venice and Murano in quick succession again in January 1885. All was probably finished in March at the same time as the house.

However, Peek was not entirely satisfied with the chapel and in August 1885 commissioned Vialls to do further pieces of work: ‘enrichment’ of the reredos, decoration of the walls and additional ventilation. This included further work for Lascelles in adding a wooden baldachino above the altar, the drawings for which were discussed with them in April and May 1886. A low screen was also added in front of the organ. Further enrichments of the chapel involved Horatio Walter Lonsdale (1844-1919). He had studied architecture and worked closely with William Burges,

⁴⁷ Becoming general builders as well, the firm was a prominent exhibitor at the Paris Exhibition in 1878, mainly showing a system of precast concrete hanging wall slabs.

⁴⁸ Andrew Saint, ‘Lascelles, William Henry (1832–1885)’, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/48745>, accessed 20 Sept 2016].

particularly on decorative schemes and designs for stained glass. Vialls had a long association with Lonsdale dating from days at the Architectural Association in 1870⁴⁹. By the time of his involvement in Lyme, Lonsdale was a freelance designer. He visited Poulett House Chapel with Vialls on 17 October 1885 to study the decorative scheme, but it was not until March 1886 that he visited Vialls at his home in Ealing to talk over his sketches for the chapel decorations, which included painting the screen. The following day Vialls sent him plans of the chapel to enable him to prepare detailed drawings and these were ready in April. Vialls and Lonsdale were both at the chapel on 16 and 17 April trying colours on the screen and discussing the presumably stencilled decorations on the walls, a small area of which survives. The actual work seems largely to have been finished by June 1886.

In parallel with Lonsdale's decorative scheme, Peek commissioned two wall-hangings for his chapel from Thomas Erat Harrison (1858-1917)⁵⁰. Harrison lived in the early 'garden village' of Bedford Park in west London built in the 'Queen Anne' style, and highly influential in suburban development. Many of the buildings were designed by Richard Norman Shaw. It attracted a number of artists and their studios. The Architectural Association had visited Bedford Park in March 1877⁵¹. If Vialls was among those who went it may have influenced his adoption of the style for some of his secular work. On 6 October 1885, Vialls went to call for Harrison while on his way into London from Ealing on the District Line; together they joined Peek for lunch in the Grill Room at the South Kensington Museum, now the Victoria and Albert. They then went to see tapestries. We know from later Lyme Regis guidebooks that the two tapestries depicted Old Testament themes: 'Moses delivering the law' and 'Abraham and Melchizedek'. Vialls called on Harrison again on 24 October to see his sketch for the Melchizedek tapestry. At the beginning of November, he visited the artists' material suppliers Lechertier Barbe about canvas; these tapestries were to be painted not woven. The first tapestry was installed in the chapel by 30 August 1886, when Vialls went to see it. Harrison was working on the Abraham tapestry at the end of the year and it was completed in January 1887. Vialls went to see both in place in Poulett House Chapel on 19 April. At this point the Chapel could be said to be finished. The general effect is high church (fig 3). The 'tapestries' have not survived.

Vialls stuck to Gothic for his churches at this time, such as the new St Michael in Leicester. Even in 'Queen Anne' Bedford Park Norman Shaw felt obliged to use Gothic arches for the stone work in St Michael and All Angels Church (1879-80), but with renaissance-style woodwork for the interior and a cupola on the roof. But Vialls's Poulett House Chapel, while following Norman Shaw in the design of woodwork is in many ways a purer (if that is possible) example of 'Queen Anne', with renaissance woodwork, rectangular windows set in round arches and a cupola on the roof⁵².

After Peek's death in December 1898, his brother Sir Henry had died at Rousdon earlier the same year, the chapel was bought out of his estate by Lady Augusta Peek, the wife of Sir Cuthbert Peek and given to the diocese of Salisbury. It became known

⁴⁹ Vialls continued to work with Lonsdale throughout his career. There is a photograph of him in Vialls's albums dated 1896, when Vialls was working on the Crewkerne almshouses.

⁵⁰ http://sculpture.gla.ac/person.php?id=msib4_1231164176 [accessed 24 Feb 2016].

⁵¹ Girouard *op cit* p.171.

⁵² The chapel is described in *Kelly's Directory* 1889.

as the Peek Memorial Chapel until services ceased to be held in the 1980s. While the wall and ceiling decorations have now gone (2017), as has the altar and the mosaic above it⁵³, most of the Lascelles woodwork remains: the screen, baldachino, clergy desks and aumbry. The building is now used for Hotel Alexandra functions.

The Poulett House Chapel's purpose, however, was not just to be a private chapel. It was to become an important part of Peek's other major project – the creation of St Michael's College for the sons of the clergy. We have already seen that Peek had an interest in helping clergy financially, indicated by his attending the annual festival at St Paul's Cathedral of the charity supporting poor clergy. The relatively new Bishop of Salisbury, in a speech to the Diocesan Synod in April 1887, asked what to do about improving clerical incomes and avoiding the necessity of appeals to the Clergy Distress Fund. He had visited Lyme Regis for a function in Poulett House Chapel a few days before on 2 April. He referred to 'one of our kind friends, the Rev Peek of Lyme Regis...[who] has shown great tact and thoughtfulness in what he has already done'. He had gone, the Bishop said, a long way to establishing a school for the sons of clergy in the Dioceses of Salisbury and, presumably because the family seat at Rousdon was in Devon, Exeter. The Bishop described the school's character as cheap and good, but 'one which no one among us need scruple to avail himself of'. The highest charge was £40 a year, but could be reduced to £25 for good reason⁵⁴. Vialls notes that Peek now described himself as 'Warden and Founder of St Michael's School'.

Peek had started his idea of the school by converting his original residence at Pyne House, Broad Street for the purpose after he had moved from there to the completed Poulett House. In August 1886, just after inspecting the new tapestry in Poulett House Chapel, Vialls was 'all over [Pyne House] as to sundry alterations' for St Michael's School. A specification of works was shown to Peek in September and works were completed by the end of the year and the school was opened on 26 January 1887⁵⁵. The headmaster was the Revd A R Sharpe, formerly of Wellington College and the Bishop of Salisbury was Visitor. However, in summer 1888 Peek decided to expand his school by acquiring the large vicarage attached to Lyme's parish church of St Michael the Archangel, which was not wanted by the new incumbent, the Revd Charles Myers whom we shall meet later. It stood on the corner of Sidmouth Road and Pound Lane and had been built in 1851 in a plain Jacobean style for the Revd Parry Hodges⁵⁶. Vialls visited it on 6 October to discuss the alterations needed to make it a school. By December the first plans and sections were complete and work may have started. In March 1889 Vialls was beginning studies for additions to the building, now to be called St Michael's College (figs 4 to 7). The building work was to be done by Peek and Vialls's preferred local contractor, Randall.

⁵³ Despite enquiries, it has not been possible to discover if the mosaic was removed to another place or destroyed. A photograph of it is on the website: https://www.francisfrith.com/lyme-regis/lyme-regis-peek-memorial-reredos-1900_46049.

⁵⁴ *Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette* 28 April 1887.

⁵⁵ *Bridport News* 4 February 1887

⁵⁶ C Wanklyn *Lyme Regis: a retrospect* (2nd ed, 1927) p.243. Pyne House was later lent to the Church of England Central Society to become St Michael's Home for Waifs and Strays, with 20 boys. It closed on Peek's death in 1898. (*Our Waifs and Strays* – monthly paper of the Church of England Central Society, August 1895 p.130 (http://www.hiddenlives.org.uk/publications/waifs_and_strays/1895_1_121.html [accessed 29 March 2017])).

Vialls was in Lyme regularly throughout 1889 supervising the works, as well as doing design work back in Ealing. In July, he was completing drawings of the two half-timbered gables one of which survives. The sculpture of St Michael was commissioned from Thomas Earp of Lambeth, whom he visited on 16 August. The other date and initial stones on the building are in Hamstone and may have been done by Trask of Norton-Sub-Hamdon, who did the windows for the Poulett House chapel. Details of the work on the school continued to be discussed until 19 December 1889, when Vialls attended the Christmas Entertainment given by pupils of St Michael's College in the newly completed long (garden) room of Poulett House.

At this point the transcript of Vialls's diaries runs out. In 1920, Selina Hallett, then aged 81, wrote an essay for a competition which records that what is now Coram Tower on the College site was 'built by Mr Peek' as a further building for the school⁵⁷. In fact it was completed in 1895, as residences for masters and other accommodation; there were now 120 boys at the College⁵⁸. It is to be assumed that Vialls designed it, as the Hamstone date stone is in the same style as those on the original extension. It respects the style of the original vicarage but adds a pyramid roof and an oriel window.

The college was, in its way, successful and became a focus for Lyme society. It certainly had pretensions to becoming a significant public school. The Vizard family attended sports day in April 1892⁵⁹. The garden party at Poulett House to mark the end of the following school year in 1893 was attended by 100 guests. Music was provided by the band of the 3rd (Lyme Regis) Battery of the 1st Dorsetshire Volunteer Artillery (Southern Division Royal Artillery), of which TED Philpot had been lieutenant, and the pupils gave a performance of 'As You Like It' with costumes by Nathans of London⁶⁰. Warden Revd Edward Peek do doubt presided over the events of the day. Ivy Caddy, born in 1882, remembered: he 'wore a tall hat, he was a little bit stout I fancy'. The pupils, she remembered, 'had to go to Peek Chapel every evening for six o'clock evensong'⁶¹. A quick trawl of newspapers online shows that the college went on to have good football and cricket teams and some of its students feature in Cambridge University Alumni lists and themselves became clergy. The College was described as continuing to flourish under the Revd A R Sharpe in 1899⁶². But being without endowment, and having very modest fees, the college did not long survive the death of Edward Peek on 31 December 1898. His brother Sir Henry had died on 26 August the same year.

Reference has already been made to the support given by Sir Henry Peek to the restoration of St Mary the Virgin Church, Combyne. Edward Peek commissioned Vialls to design a churchyard cross in memory of the rector, the Revd William Poulton, who had died on 4 November 1883. It is to be assumed that the Peeks paid for it. The first visit to the church to discuss this was made in April 1884 and on 20

⁵⁷ The essay was eventually published by Lyme Regis Museum (John Fowles, *Lyme Voices 1* (1993) p.12).

⁵⁸ *Bridport News* 27 December 1895.

⁵⁹ *Bridport News* 22 April 1892.

⁶⁰ *Bridport News* 28 July 1893.

⁶¹ Caddy *op cit* p.13.

⁶² *Bridport News* 10 March 1899.

August Vialls dined with Mrs Poulton, her daughter and Peek at Pyne House to see some sketches for the cross. In September, the work was again placed with Thomas Earp in London, whom he went to see 'by bus and boat'. In October, the design seems to have been modified, necessitating 'extension' and alterations to the base. It was finally completed by Earp and set up in March 1885 (fig 8). In July Vialls visited the cross on his way from Axminster to Lyme to inspect a flaw in the shaft. Peek decided to 'call upon Earp to provide and fix new shaft' to the cross. Whether this happened is not clear. In December Peek paid Earp £40 for the work and HW Lonsdale for the 'Combe Pyne Crucifix sketch' – presumably as an instruction to Earp for the small crucifix on the cross. Much later, in March 1889 Vialls 'drove with Mr Peek to Combe Pyne and tried to put on the bronze ring but found it too small'. Was this to hold the flaw in the shaft which had not been replaced? He finally achieved this on 11 May on his way to Axminster railway station and photographed it on 5 June. Back in Ealing on 8 July Vialls was 'tinting plaster cast of figure on Combe Pyne Cross' - presumably the maquette he wished to keep.

Vialls undertook some work at Rousdon itself for Edward's brother Sir Henry Peek. In September 1889, he visited the house and dined there. In October, he was 'in and about the church' of St Pancras with Sir Henry discussing busts, corbels, a lantern turret (on the roof) and ventilation. St Pancras Rousdon had originally been rebuilt to the designs of Sir Ernest George and T Vaughan, alongside the new great house. This work took place at a time of great personal tragedy for Vialls which affected the rest of his career. In the spring of 1891, his wife Leila (Eliza) died aged 43 followed in the summer by two of his children: Winifred age 13 and Walter age 6. They were probably victims of the 1888-91 influenza pandemic. A letter edged in black from Vialls to Sir Henry Peek in 1892 says that he had prepared designs for a memorial in the church to Thomas Peek (1800-79), the father of Sir Henry, and William Edgar (1792-1865), the father of his wife Margaret. The latter's business was the retailer Swan and Edgar. There were busts of each and between them a memorial panel (fig 9). The whole was executed in marble in an ancient Roman style by Luscombe and Son of Exeter in 1892⁶³. Luscombes also did an elaborate overmantle for the house to Viall's design.

Peek also took an interest in supporting the parish church of Lyme Regis. Following the appointment of the Revd George Barlow as Vicar of Lyme Regis in 1883⁶⁴, after the low church incumbencies of the Revd Frederick Parry Hodges (1833-80) and the Revd John Smith (1880-83), it became possible to restore and reorder St Michael the Archangel Church in line with more recent ecclesiological ideas. Early in 1884 plans for the restoration were drawn up 'by a well-known architect', apparently not Vialls, for a £1,500 scheme towards which a considerable sum had already been promised⁶⁵. Fund-raising continued throughout the summer and in August Barlow found himself performing with his curates and other local figures in a fund-raising concert at the Assembly Rooms⁶⁶. The restoration included building a vestry (necessary now that clergy wore vestments), moving the organ from the west gallery to the east end of the south aisle, removing the box pews, and eliminating the steps in the sloping floor (fig

⁶³ Devon Archives and Local Studies Service 3049A-2/PW.

⁶⁴ Barlow had previously been incumbent of Chardstock, a church Vialls was to restore and extend in 1889.

⁶⁵ *Dorset County Chronicle and Somersetshire Gazette* 30 March 1884.

⁶⁶ *Dorset County Chronicle and Somersetshire Gazette* 11 August 1884.

10) ⁶⁷. The work was completed in 1885 at a final cost of £2,500⁶⁸. This seems to have been welcomed in Lyme as the ‘church is likely to be put in an admirable state of repair’ according to a report of a meeting of the Provident Society of which Barlow had become vice-chairman⁶⁹.

Peek began to encourage the church to involve his architect⁷⁰. In May 1886 Vialls was discussing iron work with Barlow and the Lyme builder Randall. In August, he was designing and tracing ornament for the church and went to see the late 15th century tapestry which Peek had bought and given to the church that year, probably from a sale in Somerset, and which now hangs in the church⁷¹. In April, the following year Vialls was again in the church discussing the decoration of and provision of a carpet for the chancel, the latter subsequently purchased from Harvey Nichols and Co in London. The donor was T E D Philpot. These changes, together with improvements in worship, were demanding and in January 1887 Barlow was obliged to withdraw from active ministry and he died in October⁷². In his short ministry, he had been highly regarded: £4 8s 2d was collected at the soup kitchen for the Barlow Memorial Fund, though this may not have been the best use of the money of the poor. The arrival in 1888 of the high church Revd Charles Myers (1856-1948) as Vicar of St Michael the Archangel was a bit of change for Lyme Regis, but he was a man after Peek’s own heart⁷³.

Myers was brought to Lyme by John Wordsworth (1843-1911), Bishop of Salisbury from 1885, whose chaplain Myers had become in 1886⁷⁴. Like his elder brother William (who became a barrister and MP for Winchester from 1892-1902), Charles Myers was educated at Eton and Balliol College, Oxford from where he graduated in 1879, the year of his father’s death⁷⁵. It was during this time that he may have first been in contact with Wordsworth, who was then a fellow and chaplain of Brasenose College and a university lecturer. Myers decided to enter Church of England ministry and received his training at Cuddesdon theological college, being ordained priest in 1882. There followed time as a curate at St Mary’s, Wantage, before Myers was recruited by Wordsworth (now a fellow of Oriel College) in 1885 as principal of a relatively new Anglican theological college in Oxford – St Stephen’s House. St Stephen’s was (and is) firmly in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. It was this tradition that he brought to Lyme Regis.

⁶⁷ Wanklyn *op cit* p. 174.

⁶⁸ *Kelly’s Directory of Dorset* 1889.

⁶⁹ *Bridport News* 6 June 1884.

⁷⁰ A note of Peek’s funeral in the *Bridport News* for 6 January 1899 records that he supported many of the church restoration projects financially, including the decoration of the west face of the relocated organ with the figure of ‘St Michael in the act of praise’.

⁷¹ Wanklyn *op cit* p. 174.

⁷² *Bridport News* 4 February 1887.

⁷³ *Who Was Who* [<http://www.ukwhoswho.com/view/article/oupww/whowaswho/U229655> accessed 5 March 2016].

⁷⁴ E. W. Watson, ‘Wordsworth, John (1843–1911)’, rev. Sinéad Agnew, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Jan 2012 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/37025> [accessed 27 Feb 2017]].

⁷⁵ Myers’s father, also Charles, was a wealthy director of the White Star shipping line, built Swanmore House in Hampshire, designed by Alfred Waterhouse, but died before it was completed. (*Hampshire Garden Trust* [<http://research.hgt.org.uk/item/swanmore-park-house/> accessed 28 February 2017]).

In April 1888 Peek and Vialls went to see Myers about the installation of a screen in the church as a memorial to George Barlow. They discussed whether it should be iron or wood, settling on the latter. The screen was to be paid for by Peek and Vialls presented his design in May. Obtaining the faculty took a long time and the design had to be modified. In April 1889 Vialls records that gates were to be omitted from the screen and a 'second cloth tracing was prepared'. In May 'Merrick were conditionally accepted for the church work'. Merrick and Son were builders in Glastonbury, Somerset with a large workforce who were doing many church restoration projects in Somerset and Dorset at that time⁷⁶. Vialls did more work on the screen during the summer and in November appears to have placed the execution of the carving of the inscription on the screen with Edwin Light Luscombe, ecclesiastical builders of Exeter. J Whippell and Co Ltd ecclesiastical outfitters and church furnishers also of Exeter, made a kneeling desk (prie-dieu) to Vialls design at the same time. The work was completed towards the end of the year (fig 11). In 1890, he designed a new font (fig 12), again executed by Luscombes, to commemorate the Revd Frederick Parry Hodges, possibly using an earlier font cover in 15th century style given by Parry Hodges in 1846⁷⁷. It is possible that Vialls did further work in the church at the expense of the Revd Peek in 1891, installing a memorial to Roger Eustace Grundy a pupil at St Michael's College who died on Christmas Day 1890, aged 13⁷⁸.

It was the Revd Frederick Hodges the long serving evangelical vicar of Lyme from 1833 to 1880 who created the original National School in Lyme Regis. These schools were Church of England foundations to educate boys and girls, initially using the monitor system⁷⁹. The money was raised locally and one of the original trustees was William Pinney when MP for Lyme Regis. It opened in 1834⁸⁰. Hodges lived in Portland Cottage in Clappentail Lane at this time⁸¹, building his own vicarage in Pound Street in 1851, which Peek later bought for his St Michael's College. It became clear that the existing schools were unsatisfactory and in February 1881 Hodges successor, the Revd John Smith, bought two properties opposite the church from the builder Henry Randall and Walter Wallis, merchant, 'for the purpose of a National School and teacher's residence'⁸². In 1888, following the arrival of the Revd John Myers, the project finally progressed as it was realised that a new school was needed in order to meet future Education Department standards on which the annual government grant would depend⁸³. Wordsworth on becoming Bishop of Salisbury in 1885 had immediately got involved in developing elementary education throughout the diocese and it was probably one of the reasons his protégé and chaplain Myers was sent to Lyme Regis.

⁷⁶ A trawl of newspapers reports accessible online (<https://www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/>) shows Merrick and Son working between 1888 and 1890 for Somerset churches at Martock, Chilton Polden and Somerton (for William Pinney and George Vialls) and Yetminster in Dorset.

⁷⁷ *Bridport News* 28 November 1890; P and H Faulkner *Monumental Inscriptions of the Parish Church of Lyme Regis (Somerset and Dorset Family History Society, 2001)* p.12 no. I/13. [<http://www.lymeregis-parishchurch.org/monumental-inscriptions.html> accessed 30 May 2017].

⁷⁸ *Bridport News* 2 September 1891.

⁷⁹ AE Welling, *100 years of education in Lyme* (1964); Lyme Regis Museum 83/153.

⁸⁰ A very worn plaque on Church Cliff Flats, north of the churchyard, appears to read 'National Schools Founded 1834' (information from Richard Bull).

⁸¹ Electoral Register 1841 [accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk].

⁸² Dorset History Centre D-LRM/A/1/2/2-3.

⁸³ *Bridport News* 21 March 1890.

Vialls was appointed architect and began work on the scheme in September 1889⁸⁴. He soon became convinced that the site was too small for what was presumably the single storey school envisaged. He discussed his sketches for a two-storey building with Myers and the head teacher, Mr Radford. The model was a London Board School delivered here in the very plain form of the later London examples – the early ones had been very much ‘Queen Anne’ style. There was obviously a lot of debate: at the beginning of December Vialls sent ‘Plan No.4’ to Myers. At this point the transcript of Vialls’s diaries runs out. From other sources, we learn that £3,000 was raised by subscription for the building. The foundation stone was laid in July 1891 by the Mayor, Thomas Embray Davenport Philpot who had contributed £1,000 towards the appeal. The Revd Myers personally contributed £1,300. Another contributor ‘of a considerable sum’ was Francis Turner Palgrave, educationist and professor of poetry at Oxford University, who lived at Little Park⁸⁵. Randall was the builder of this plain brick structure with Douling stone detailing (fig 13). The girls were upstairs, with their own playground entered from Church Street; the boys were below. Vialls also appears to have designed the ‘Queen Anne’ style step-gabled and bay-windowed master’s house on Church Street, dated 1892, adapting an existing cottage (fig 14). On 28 May 1892 Lyme Regis was described by the *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* (3 June 1892) as being ‘en fête’ as the new National School was opened by the Bishop of Salisbury, followed by a service of thanksgiving in the parish church. The final cost was £4,350 of which £164 was still to be raised.

The Primrose

Thomas Embray davenport Philpot has already been mentioned several times. The Philpots were a family of London lawyers, who also had property in Lyme Regis. John Philpot (1809-1878) lived at Morley Cottage, Silver Street with his wife Elizabeth (née Gold). Thomas Embray Davenport Philpot (1859-1918) was the youngest of their six children – all boys, of whom Arthur had died in childhood. Thomas was born at their London home 20 Montague Street Bloomsbury, near the British Museum⁸⁶. When John Philpot died in 1878, there was a reshuffling of their residences in Lyme Regis. Philpot’s widowed mother Elizabeth moved to Herne Lea in Pound Street. Their eldest son, John Gold Philpot, a barrister with chambers in Crown Office Row in the Temple in London⁸⁷ moved into Morley Cottage and became a leading figure in Lyme, serving on the town council. Of the other brothers, Robert and Frederick, also lawyers, remained in London, but took a house in Lyme in the summer, and Edward became a merchant⁸⁸. Thomas was educated at a private school in St Leonards on Sea and Trinity College Cambridge, where he graduated in 1882⁸⁹. Inevitably he also became a barrister of the Middle Temple.

⁸⁴ The *Bridport News* for 22 May 1891 lists all Vialls’s other projects in Lyme and describes the plan and construction materials of the school and master’s house.

⁸⁵ *Bridport News* 27 November 1891.

⁸⁶ 1861 Census.

⁸⁷ 1891 Census.

⁸⁸ For instance, *Bridport News* 22 September 1891 includes Robert, Frederick and their families in the list of visitors to Lyme Regis, staying at 1 and 2 Hillside in Cobb Road. They also lived near each other in East Molesey (Census 1891). Edward lived in Kensington.

⁸⁹ *Cambridge University Alumni, 1261-1900* [accessed via ancestry.co.uk 13 February 2016].

The family had a close connection with the City merchant Thomas Newman Hunt, whom his mother's sister Caroline had married⁹⁰. Hunt died in 1884, leaving a fortune approaching £175,000 as well as properties in Portugal, Newfoundland and Ireland. Having no direct heir Hunt left a substantial inheritance to Thomas Embray Davenport Philpot making him a rich man at the age of 25. With this fortune he abandoned his career at the bar. In 1886 Thomas inherited further Hunt wealth on the death of his mother, including Hunt's London house in Portland Place⁹¹. He purchased the new yacht Ellie, which sailed into Lyme Regis harbour for the annual regatta in August 1887⁹².

TED Philpot became one of Lyme's leading citizens and a benefactor of the town. With a comfortable income and a fine house and garden (he, or probably his gardener, regularly won prizes in local flower shows) he became involved in Tory politics and civic life and became a county magistrate. He was the founder and 'ruling councillor' of the Philpot Habitation of the Conservative Primrose League in Lyme⁹³. Although not a councillor or alderman, on 10 November 1890 the Town Council, of which his brother John was a member, elected him a youthful Mayor for the following year at the age of 31. The church bells rang, the Conservative Institute and Primrose League premises in Coombe Street were decked with fairy lights and Chinese lanterns to celebrate the occasion, there were fireworks on the roof, and the band of the 3rd Battery of the 1st Dorsetshire Volunteer Artillery (Southern Division Royal Artillery), of which he was Lieutenant, played outside⁹⁴. He was re-elected the following year, presenting the Council with 'a programme of policy for the future' including extending the water supply to houses in the poorer parts of the town and improving fire-fighting⁹⁵. Perhaps getting things done in Lyme was harder than he thought as he did not seek a third term, or membership of the Council.

He was concerned for the poor, distributing Christmas gifts to them, making available a field on the north-east side of the town for allotments and being a leading donor to the appeal fund for those affected by the great storm of Whit Sunday 1890⁹⁶. He gave £1,500 towards the new cottage hospital⁹⁷. In parallel with being Mayor, Philpot was elected unopposed as councillor for Lyme at the creation of Dorset County Council in January 1889, a natural succession to his former role as a county magistrate. He resigned in 1893 to go abroad for health reasons⁹⁸, but seems to have returned by the start of the 1895-96 football season to become president of the club⁹⁹. He also became something of a developer, with GEJH Barlow, acquiring land behind the

⁹⁰ Fuller information about Philpot family history and its connections to Thomas Newman Hunt are summarised in the Appendix.

⁹¹ *Morning Post* 10 April 1884.

⁹² *Bridport News* 3 August 1887.

⁹³ *Bridport News* 20 June 1890.

⁹⁴ *Bridport News* 14 November 1890.

⁹⁵ *Bridport News* 13 November 1891. There had been a major fire at the lower end of Broad Street in November 1889 (Peter Lacey *op cit* p.211).

⁹⁶ *Bridport News* various reports in 1894 and 1890.

⁹⁷ Three MS volumes by HR Morgan in the archives of the Montague Lodge; quoted in L-A Bawden and J Fowles *Curators' Report* (Lyme Regis Museum 1990) pp 16-17. This contains notes on three MS volumes written by Herbert Richard Morgan in the 1930s, in the archives of the Montagu Lodge of the Freemasons. Morgan was secretary of the Philpot Habitation. The notes include information about TED Philpot.

⁹⁸ *Bridport News* 10 November 1893.

⁹⁹ *Bridport News* 27 September 1895.

family home in Silver Street from Woodmead farm to create the roads around what is now the Woodmead Hall¹⁰⁰.

His niece, in presenting the Philpot Museum to the town said that he also paid for the Montague Lodge of the Freemasons of which he was a member¹⁰¹. The membership was influential in the town and is alluded to in a piece in the *Bridport News* for 21 January 1896 about extending a 30-year lease of the Assembly Rooms from the Town Council to the Lyme Regis Club, which maintained them and where a clique met to influence the affairs of the town. Philpot with his three surviving brothers and one or two others formed the committee of the Club.

TED Philpot never married. In the 1890s the young Constance Allen met Philpot when 'out for a walk along the cliff...we met the Primrose (Mr Philpot) and his dogs, and awfully jolly they are too - two collies and a retriever - I think he looks nice'¹⁰². Philpot probably met Vialls because of an introduction from the Revd Peek. On 20 January 1885, while still fully involved with Poulett House and Chapel, as well as elsewhere, Vialls received a letter from Philpot. The following day he went 'to town by the 4.20 train' from Ealing but failed to find him. After an exchange of telegrams, Vialls finally met him three days later at the offices of his father's firm of solicitors, John Philpot and Son, 36 Bedford Row, London¹⁰³. A month later he paid a quick visit to Lyme to see the Italianate villa built in 1828, called Gatesfield, which Philpot had bought¹⁰⁴, At the morning inspection, he and Vialls were joined by Philpot's mother Elizabeth, before returning to Herne Lea to discuss the project over lunch.

On Vialls's return from his February 1885 visit to Gatesfield (which Philpot later renamed Holme Cleve) he set to work producing sketch plans and drawings of his proposals for vastly extending the house. On 26 February 1885, he was up early to finish them and went to see Philpot at 79 Portland Place, his mother's house, arriving 10 minutes late at 11.40. He discussed them with Philpot and his mother, followed by lunch. (Now that his mother owned the house, did she keep on the butler and seven other servants that Hunt had maintained?¹⁰⁵) By the end of the month Vialls was able to send an approximate estimate for the works. Randall of Lyme Regis was selected for the works and by 17 April the working drawings were complete. It seems clear that at this stage these drawings and the contract only included the basic structure, as at the end of April he was revising the basement and ground floor plans and sending the variations to the contractor Randall. It was August 1885 before the full detailed plans could be sent to the builder. The work lasted three years and involved many other contractors for specialist elements like joinery, plasterwork and fittings.

It was a very civilised commission. When Vialls went to Lyme at the beginning of the commission on 21 April 1885, his train was met at Axminster at 3.00 p.m. by Mrs Philpot's carriage with footman. 'After cup of tea at Herne Lea, at about 4.30 went up to Gatesfield and then down to the 'Retreat'. Unwell in the evening'. The next two days were spent at Gatesfield 'explaining works to Randall, staking out new

¹⁰⁰ L-A Bawden and J Fowles *Curator's Report 1990* (Lyme Regis Museum 1990) pp. 16-17.

¹⁰¹ *Devon and Exeter Gazette* 10 February 1920.

¹⁰² *The diary of Constance Allen*. Lyme Regis Museum files.

¹⁰³ *Oxford Times* 14 April 1883, identifies the premises.

¹⁰⁴ English Heritage historic buildings list.

¹⁰⁵ Census 1881.

extension, and giving particulars for estimate'. Philpot's gardener, Mr Legg, helped by two labourers dug up the turf for the extension. On the way back to London the next day Vialls visited Mr Hoskyns at North Perrott (the long running former Wyatt project) to look at a window in the church, the new lodge being built, and 'the Rectory to examine sanitary arrangements' on which he later reported.

Philpot appears to have taken a close interest in the work at Holme Cleve; as a gentleman of leisure he had not much else to do apart from managing his investments. There are a lot of letters and telegrams recorded in the Vialls diaries. On 13 June 1885 Vialls went to see Philpot at Portland Place, which his mother had inherited from Hunt: 'waiting 'til 11.10 (he not up!) then saw him'. Throughout July he was preparing details of girders, arches in the hall, wine cellar bins etc. In August the first and second floor plans were revised, elevations drawn, and stables and approaches set out. All had to be inked in and sent to Randall. Vialls was in Lyme for four days from 18 August staying at 'Carter's', dining at Herne Lee with Philpot, his mother and her cousin Mrs Edwards. Building work appears to have been underway. On this visit Vialls he discussed 'shrubs, lawn etc.' with Legg the gardener and spent time supervising the works and instructing the contractor, but he had time to lunch with Peek to discuss enriching the decoration of the Poulett House Chapel (see above). On 24 September 1885, perhaps to mark the start of works, several leading lights in Lyme society joined him at Holme Cleve (Gatesfield), presumably in the original building. As Vialls records: 'After luncheon to Gatesfield again [he had been at the parish church]. Mrs Edwards came up, then Mrs Philpot, then Col. Pinney [for whom Vialls was doing work at Racedown and his other Dorset properties], Lady Smith [Pinney's widowed sister] and Mr Peek.'

A big issue was drains and the location of the stables. In the autumn Vialls examined part of the field adjoining Gatesfield which belonged to Colonel Henley, with a view to locating the stables there and getting a link to the town main sewer¹⁰⁶. In parallel he was talking to Mr Wallis, of Stile House, Pound Street, who was willing to sell part of Holmbush field and it was with him that a deal was eventually clinched in January 1886.¹⁰⁷ In April 1886 he was with him discussing the location of the stables there as well.

The main build at Holme Cleve seems to have been structurally complete by the end of 1885. Fitting out took much longer (figs 15 to 19). Throughout 1886 Vialls visited the house almost monthly, as well as seeing Philpot, now at his recently inherited Portland Place, from where in September he took him to visit G Jackson and Sons about the design of the fibrous plasterwork for ceilings. There are numerous meetings with specialist London suppliers (Table 2), many of whom are the same as for the Poulett House Chapel. The installation of a lift, if this were not a food lift from the kitchens, must make it a first for Lyme Regis. In August 1886, he was in discussion on site with Fawkes of Crompton and Fawkes, the leading conservatory makers of the day¹⁰⁸. Money was clearly no object. On 14 April 1887 the project must have been

¹⁰⁶ There must have been one in Pound Street and Broad Street to which Vialls was trying to get access.

¹⁰⁷ It is not certain which of the several Wallis in Lyme this was. Wallis and Wallis were coal and timber merchants and may have been suppliers to the project.

¹⁰⁸ The manufacturer seems to have impressed another Lyme resident, Orby Shipley of Colway Lane. He is quoted in their 1899 trade catalogue: 'the greenhouse seems to be very perfect, and gives much satisfaction'. Had he seen Philpot's?

nearing completion as Vialls was in consultation with Mrs Edwards at Holme Cleve about ‘curtains, carpets etc. and in evening after dinner had lamps alight in Hall Dining Room etc. and gas in basement and wine cellar’¹⁰⁹. On the same visit he was examining water purification methods and setting out ground for poultry runs and dog kennels. He appears to be doing some snagging in Lyme through to July, when on 25 July he was accepted for the Lyme Regis Guildhall restoration (see below). Vialls’s accounts for Holme Cleve were submitted on 30 December 1887, but he was still doing garden design work in July 1888 and installing a gas engine, presumably to supply electricity – this was a very remunerative project. Vialls kept to a broadly Italianate feel outside, with low pitched roof and deep eaves for the new main core of the house, and a rather over the top interior to suit the client.

The Volunteers, of whom Philpot was Lieutenant, were an important element of late 19th century Lyme society. Its band played for civic and other events. Their premises in Combe Street¹¹⁰ were not adequate and in 1893 Lieutenant Philpot purchased the former sea water bathing establishment on the edge of the sea just off Church Street in order to build more suitable premises - a Drill Hall. Many drill halls were built from the 1880s following the Cardwell reforms of the army in the previous decade, which linked infantry regiments with the counties from which they recruited their soldiers¹¹¹. These were not just for the volunteers; drill halls were often constructed so that they could be used for other purposes such as balls, plays and music. George Vialls was appointed as architect. It was built by Randall at a cost of £1053 and leased by Philpot to the volunteer artillery for 21 years¹¹².

The sea water baths had originally been constructed in 1805 as Lyme Regis developed as a resort (fig 20). The *Bridport News* for 30 March 1894, described them as having been for many years a ‘dilapidated and disreputable looking old ruin’. Vialls appears to have removed a great deal of the bath building and created a ‘picturesque’ style entrance with turret and pedimented dormer windows, with a timber-framed hall behind, measuring 72 by 44 feet (fig 21). It seated ‘from five to six hundred people’ and was paved with brick. Above the entrance was a reading room, now the bar of the Marine Theatre. There was also a wood floored armoury. The building was gas-lit throughout. Part of the original pump building for raising the sea water from the beach below seems to have been kept at the east end. The contractor was Randall. The front of the building was later given an art-deco makeover when it became a cinema in the thirties.

The building was opened on 29 March 1894 by Col Robert Williams, officer commanding the 1st Volunteer Battalion, who was also the Unionist parliamentary candidate for West Dorset¹¹³. Lyme was a Tory town. There was a parade through the town under Captain JRC Talbot, the battery commander, who lived at Rhode Hill. Zacchary Edwards presented the shooting prizes as Mayor, and there was a concert in

¹⁰⁹ Lyme Regis had had a gas works since 1835, and gas street lighting since the Lyme Regis Improvement Act 1845. See papers by Richard Bull at <http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/collection-category/local-history/>.

¹¹⁰ They were used by the Town Council while the Town Hall was rebuilt.

¹¹¹ *The Drill Hall Project - charting a neglected legacy* [www.drillhalls.org accessed 03.09.16].

¹¹² Dorset History Centre: D/LRM/A1/5/1

¹¹³ *Bridport News* 30 March 1894. Sir Robert Williams, Baronet (1848-1943) was MP for West Dorset from 1895 to 1922.

the evening. A year later Philpot built a new entrance (fig 22) on the street to the path leading to Drill Hall with residence for the sergeant major, now called Guildhall Cottage and the Town Council offices¹¹⁴. The design is probably by Vialls.

Civic pomp

Zachary Edwards (1838-1909) was born in Chipstable, near Wiveliscombe in Somerset, the son of the Revd Zachary James Edwards (1799-1880) who from 1842-1869 had been the scholarly rector of Combyne¹¹⁵. He was educated at Sherborne School and, like his father went to Wadham College Oxford, obtaining his BA in 1861. In 1865 he was called to the bar at Lincolns Inn. He saw himself as something of a poet; unfortunately, his volume of poems entitled *Primitiae*, illustrated with photographic views of the neighbourhood and published by Provost and Co, got a rather scathing review in the *Pall Mall Gazette* for 25 March 1869. There was ‘little literary merit even in those poems which have a kind of eloquence from the evident sincerity of the feeling that inspires them’. He was to return to poetry later in life to celebrate the rebuilt Lyme Regis Guildhall.

The 1871 census shows Edwards resident at 25 Old Buildings, Lincolns Inn and described (as though this was unusual) as ‘a barrister in actual practice’. Later in the 1870s he abandoned the bar, perhaps because it was difficult to make a living, and became a master at Crewkerne School in Somerset¹¹⁶. In 1878, living at Mosterton vicarage, near Crewkerne, Edwards advertised widely in newspapers, such as the *Manchester and Lancashire General Advertiser* for 28 November 1878, that he was able to prepare two or three pupils for ‘Universities, Civil Service, Legal and Medical Preliminary Examinations’. His fees were £150 per year. How successful this was is not known. Later he moved to Lyme and set up a ‘classical and modern school’ in Broad Street probably in partnership with school master Peter Cullinan. In 1880, the year in which Edward’s father died, the partnership was dissolved¹¹⁷ when Cullinan moved to St Mary’s College, Richmond¹¹⁸. Zachary was joined in Broad Street by his unmarried sister Charlotte and his aunt Anna Andrews, where he kept two servants. The 1881 census describes him as a retired barrister, rather than as the principal of a school, and no pupils are listed. However, an 1886 advertisement in Lyme Regis Museum shows that the school continued. He seems to have aspired to be Lyme’s resident intellectual. He was involved as president in establishing a centre for university extension teaching in 1892 when JA Hobson of Lincoln College Oxford gave the first course of lectures on ‘The making of wealth’, which probably appealed equally to the wealthy residents and the traders in Lyme¹¹⁹.

Edwards became active in local politics and town life as a Conservative borough alderman, a magistrate, a church warden, supporter of the cottage hospital, secretary for the regatta and beach sports in 1885, and an expert on the numerous Lyme Regis

¹¹⁴ *Bridport News* 27 December 1895.

¹¹⁵ While at Combyne the Revd. Edwards wrote *The Ferns of the Axe and its tributaries* (1862).

¹¹⁶ *Devon and Exeter Gazette* 15 January 1909.

¹¹⁷ *Bristol Mercury* 22 April 1880.

¹¹⁸ Census 1881.

¹¹⁹ *Bridport News* 30 September 1892. Dr Richard Bangay, medical officer of health for the town, also ran a series of lectures at his house, Belmont. Arthur Lister, who lived at Highcliff and brother of Sir Joseph Lister, gave one on ‘the development and distribution of fungi’ (*Chard and Ilminster News* 8 December 1888).

charities and their administration¹²⁰. At various times, he was a member of the board of guardians of the Axminster Union. He was a committee member of the Philpot Habitation of the Primrose League. His great achievement was to be mayor of Lyme Regis at a time of local government reform following the creation of Dorset County Council at the beginning of 1889 and the extension of the Borough boundaries to those of the parish, which included a great deal of countryside.

It may have been the Revd Edward Peek who suggested, when Henry Henley was mayor, that commemorating the jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887 might best be achieved by restoring the very dilapidated Town Hall or Guildhall, parts of which dated from the 16th century¹²¹. Peek suggested that his own architect, George Vialls, might produce a report on the condition of the building. As well as being a meeting place for the Council, it was also a sessions court, had two lock-ups (one for men and one for women), a muniment room for the borough's documents and a small enclosed market area beneath¹²². Vialls's contemporary photographs show the building to be inconvenient and run down.

Vialls's report of 6 April 1887, sent to the Mayor, was no doubt in the format he had used for his many church restoration projects¹²³. Although it stated that there was no time for a detailed survey, it identified the town hall's present condition, costed necessary immediate works, provided an estimate for the internal restoration work that Peek had agreed to pay for, and suggested, but did not cost, a number of improvements that could be made to the comfort and convenience of the building. Work certainly needed doing (figs 23, 25, and 28). The whole ridge of the roof had sunk, caused by the side wall being out of upright by several inches and bulging behind the mayor's chair. The exposed parts of the lias stone walls needed protection from the elements and all parts needed to be examined and repaired. Vialls's estimate for this work was £350, exclusive of the restoration of the fittings and any structural improvements. The restoration of the panelling in the courtroom and other fittings and improvements to the convenience of the building as specified by Peek was priced at £150. Although he was not asked to give an opinion on altering or enlarging the building Vialls was not blind to 'the present somewhat primitive and meagre arrangements'. Accordingly, he outlined other things that could be done to enhance it, suggesting that ventilation could be improved by the provision of a cupola with a bell on the repaired roof. He thought this would improve the appearance of the Guildhall and its function as a court of law. He said that the 'repair and preservation of all that is really ancient commends itself to me as an antiquarian'.

From April through May, Vialls was in contact with or at the town hall. All his proposals seem to have been accepted, including the cupola, which he was working on in his office on 13 July. A day or two later he sent the completed drawings and specification for the works ready to be sent out for tender. On 23 July he was in Lyme to open the tenders and discuss them with sub-committee supervising the project. Cooper's was the only tender for the general works and too high at £357 18s 6d. He

¹²⁰ *Bridport News* 11 March 1892.

¹²¹ The lower storey still contains early 16th century moulded ceiling beams (Royal Commission on Historical Monuments England *Dorset Vol 1 – West* (1952) p. 145).

¹²² A shambles and market house were at the bottom of Broad Street Lyme Regis. They were burnt down in the great fire of 1844 and not rebuilt.

¹²³ Copy in Lyme Regis Museum files.

was persuaded to reduce his price. In early August the contract agreement was signed and, after consulting Peek, Vialls prepared a specification for the internal woodwork etc which was awarded to Randall. The conflict of interest with the latter's role as a councillor was no doubt dealt with, perhaps being justified by the work being a private commission by the Revd Peek.

There was then a change of plan; Zachary Edwards, in his speech as mayor at the opening, refers to being persuaded to agree a change. This may be that referred to by Vialls in his diary for 28 September 1887 when he attended a borough council meeting at which they agreed to set back the north wall facing the street. This had the benefit of widening Church Street. New estimates were prepared and agreed on 24 October 1887. Even starting the work in the jubilee year was now impossible. Vialls went off to see his old colleague W G Spiers at 21 St Bernard Street for assistance and new drawings were prepared. These virtually rebuilt the Guildhall and Cooper's revised estimate was accepted. Finally, on 14 February 1888 work commenced. The new roof with cupola was on by July. The last things to be installed were the dedicatory inscription in the entrance and on 19 January 1889, the 'Chiswick clock' which Vialls had brought with him from London. On 21 January, the Guildhall reopened (figs 24, 26 and 27). Despite Vialls claim to the 'preservation of all that is really ancient' the setting back of the north wall and a new raised roof meant that little of the original structure seems to have survived¹²⁴. Vialls obviously regarded the town hall, or Guildhall as it became known at the opening, as an important commission. He exhibited a drawing of it at the Royal Academy summer exhibition in 1889 - a reminder of his original 1868 Soane Medallion design for his very different town hall which was also exhibited at the Royal Academy¹²⁵. He also wrote about the project in *The Builder* (Vol 56, 1889).

The opening ceremony was fully described in the local press¹²⁶. A procession had begun from the top of Broad Street with the Mayor, Zachary Edwards, Aldermen and Councillors (including T E D Philpot, his older brother John and H Randall), the clergy and town officials. They were accompanied by the guard of honour and band of the Lyme Regis Artillery Volunteers. At the door the keys were handed over by Vialls and the formal ceremony took place in the Session Court. Drawing on his own interest in the classical world, the Mayor thanked Mr Peek for meeting the cost of restoring the internal 17th century woodwork and likened him to a 'curule [a]edile' whose duty in ancient Rome was 'to beautify the city with public buildings at his own expense. Mr Peek does it not out of vanity but love of God and goodwill to men'. He also mentioned Colonel William Pinney, who had been Lyme's Liberal MP, 'a man he differed from in opinion, but for whom he had the greatest respect; he loved and venerated him for his great and general urbanity of manner'. Pinney had paid for the borough coat of arms, on which Vialls had sought the advice of the College of Arms, which formed part of the new entrance on the west side of the building (fig 29). An anonymous donation of £100 towards the rebuilding may have been from TED Philpot.

The Mayor's remarks about Vialls were recorded by the *Daily Gazette*:

¹²⁴ See note 119.

¹²⁵ RIBA *op cit* p.871; A Graves *op cit* p.82.

¹²⁶ *Devon and Exeter Daily Gazette* 22 January 1889; *Bridport News* 25 January 1889.

Those gentlemen [the supporters and contractors referred to above] were worthy of esteem and praise, but while acknowledging their generosity, it must not be forgotten that their thanks were certainly due to the architect, Mr Vialls, who had paid such attention to every detail of the building as was seldom shown by any architect – (applause) – he had worked with his whole heart and in a most conscientious manner¹²⁷. He had not given them a grand building architecturally, still there were some remarkable merits considering the materials of which it was built and the skill he had shown in turning round the entrance from its old position facing the street to that which it now occupied. Mr Vialls had given them not only a fine building but a comfortable one, far superior to that in which the Civic Fathers of the town were condemned to sit in formerly. (Hear, hear) He was sorry to sacrifice one part of the old hall, not on account of any architectural merits, but because of its historical associations, but he was converted to Mr Vialls' plan as soon as he saw it. There was but one feeling in the Corporation, and it was that the work had been done entirely and thoroughly. (Applause)

Finally, appreciation was expressed of the contractors, Cooper, and the band outside played the national anthem. In the evening, there was a dinner for 100 in the Masonic Hall, provided 'at a very moderate price' by John Groves of the Royal Lion, at which the mayor presided. There were about 10 courses.

The *Daily Gazette* described the restored building:

The former entrance opened on to the narrowest part of North Street and was approached by a very inconvenient and steep flight of steps. These have disappeared and the entrance is now at the west end. Three broad steps lead up to a wide and handsome porch which gives access to the main staircase leading directly into the Sessions Court. The general internal arrangements of the Court have been preserved and portions of the old fittings, which were found to be of oak when numerous coats of paint had been removed, have been preserved, and the new fittings added are carried out in the same style, made of best Riga wainscot. The old muniment-room at the back of the Court has been converted into a Council Chamber or Mayor's parlour, and an entirely new fire proof muniment- room has been constructed in the tower. The Royal Arms, which probably date from the Restoration of Charles II, have been cleaned and replaced at the back of the Mayor's seat in the Court; and the old panel on which are emblazoned the Town Arms has found a permanent resting place in a panel over the mantelpiece in the Mayor's parlour instead of hanging in a frame in the Court. In this room has also been placed a bit of old oak wainscoting, restored. The Guildhall buildings now consist of a circular tower at the north-west corner, the Sessions Court, Mayor's parlour, and offices, and underneath a lock-up store and the butcher's market, the latter improved and remodelled so that it is open to the street through an arcade of two arches, filled in with a neat wrought-iron railing. Over the Sessions Court is an entirely new roof in one span, having in the centre a bell-turret. The old roof was in two spans and very much lower. The alteration gives greater space and air with better ventilation. The walls are mainly built of local pebble

¹²⁷ Newspaper reports of Vialls's buildings elsewhere make similar statements. He was a safe pair of hands.

stones, with Ham-hill stone dressings; the roof is covered with greyish green slates and red ridge tiles. In the gable over the entrance porch, the town arms are embellished with foliage, all richly carved in Ham-hill stone; an ornamental addition to the front for which the town is indebted to its old member, the last Parliamentary representative of Lyme Regis, Colonel Pinney, of Somerton Erleigh. The north-west tower stands on the site of the two old prison cells, one on the ground floor for men, and the other over it for women. The iron-cased door of the men's prison has been reinstated and opens into a space underneath the main staircase, and there the old stocks and old other relics are now stored. The grating of the women's cell has been set into the wall above, and an inscription on a stone above the door records the story of its previous use.

Vialls could be said to have created a version of what the 17th century merchants of Lyme would have done if they had got it right first time. In May the following year, through Vialls, Col. William Pinney offered a portrait of himself to hang in the Mayors Parlour. It was accepted and now hangs in the courtroom. TED Philpot paid for the Lyme Regis banner which hangs in the court room and which was exhibited along with the town mace at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893¹²⁸.

Colonel William Pinney (1806-1898), whom we first met on 24 September 1885 when he inspected Philpot's new house at Holme Cleve, commissioned a great deal of work from Vialls in west Dorset and south Somerset. Pinney's Lyme connection was long. He had been elected the first MP for Lyme after the 1832 Reform Act, and held the seat until 1842 and, after a spell for a Somerset constituency, again from 1852 to 1865 as its last MP before constituency changes. Vialls may originally have been recommended to Pinney by Henry William Paget Hoskyns of North Perrott Manor, where Vialls had been helping TH Wyatt in 1878. He was certainly working for Pinney at Somerton Erleigh in Somerset by 1883. Although Pinney was a Liberal, when Lyme's politics was dominated by Tories, he was highly regarded in the town and remained part of Lyme society in the 1880s: we have seen him at Elizabeth Philpot's house.

Pinney was the descendant of the Bristol family of West Indies plantation owners and traders, whose fortune was built on slavery. Paradoxically William campaigned as Lyme's first MP on an anti-slavery ticket¹²⁹. His grandfather, John Pretor Pinney (1740-1818), bought the new 7 Great George Street, Bristol (now the Georgian House Museum) in about 1790, built Racedown in Broadwindsor (in which Wordsworth once stayed for a year) about 1785¹³⁰ and bought the Somerton Erleigh estate in Somerset in 1799¹³¹. His son, John Frederick Pinney (1773-1845), moved out of active participation in the business and concentrated his activities on the Somerton estate and adding more land holdings in Dorset. In 1824, he acquired 30 Berkeley Square as the family house in London, which was destroyed by bombing in the

¹²⁸ *Western Daily Press* 15 June 1893.

¹²⁹ <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1832-1868/member/pinney-william-1806-1898>. [accessed 17 January 2016].

¹³⁰ RCHM 1952 *Dorset Vol. I-West* p.54b.

¹³¹ A P Baggs, R J E Bush and Margaret Tomlinson, 'Parishes: Somerton', in *A History of the County of Somerset: Volume 3*, ed. R W Dunning (London, 1974), pp. 129-153. *British History Online* [<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/som/vol3/pp129-153> accessed 19 August 2016].

Second World War¹³². Col Pinney, on inheriting, continued to add land holdings in both counties.

Throughout the period of his work for Lyme clients Vialls worked for Pinney on his Dorset properties at Childhay, near Drimpton, and his main residence at Somerton Erleigh in Somerset. There was more work for Pinney at his other main residence, Racedown in Broadwindsor, in some of his farms including Newnham Knapp Broadwindsor, and in the original residence of the 17th century Pinneys at Bettiscombe. His work at Somerton for Pinney also included an extension to Monteclefe School¹³³ (1885) and restoration of St Michael's Church Somerton from 1886, which reopened in 1890¹³⁴.

From 1884 to the end of the decade Vialls undertook church restoration and improvement projects in the immediate area, first at Axminster, then St Candida Whitchurch Canonorum (1886 -88), a pulpit for Christchurch Yeovil (1887 - an independent Anglican church described by him as dreadful; now demolished), a survey for St Swithun, Allington Bridport (1887; he did not get the work), and All Saints, Chardstock (1889-90). He also restored the almshouses at Crewkerne (1887)¹³⁵. And he was working in other parts of the country; this was his busiest period.

The end of an era

The deaths of his wife and two of his children in 1891 had a profound effect on Vialls. His activity scaled back. Vialls's photograph albums show his remaining family staying at Ware Farm on the edge of Lyme Regis in autumn 1892. In that year, he supervised the repair and redecoration of the Church of England chapel in Lyme cemetery¹³⁶. With his remaining three children - Christopher, Leonard and Edmund Frank – he moved to Hawthorn House in Yeovil in 1894¹³⁷. By 1897 Vialls had moved to Sunnyside, East Street Crewkerne¹³⁸. By 1901, now 57 he was living at 57 Gordon Avenue, Southampton with a new partner, the 25-year-old Mary Jane Champion who had been his housekeeper, and a young daughter¹³⁹.

Nevertheless, despite these vicissitudes, Vialls's did one more project in Lyme Regis at the end of the century, and probably his most interesting: the Philpot Museum¹⁴⁰. It

¹³² Survey of London: Volume 40, the Grosvenor Estate in Mayfair, Part 2 - The Buildings.

¹³³ Monteclefe School, opened in 1851, was funded by William Pinney's sister Anna Maria (1812 - 1861). As a young woman, she had befriended the fossilist Mary Anning at the time that William became MP for Lyme Regis. The extension to the school on which Vialls worked in 1888 was funded by Col. Pinney's sister Lady (Frances) Smith (1803-1896), who lived with William at Somerton Erleigh after the death of her husband in 1862. In 1894 the school could accommodate 226 girls and infants. Was this stimulus to education for girls provided by Mary Anning? (A P Baggs, R J E Bush and Margaret Tomlinson, *op cit*, pp. 129-153 [<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/som/vol13/pp129-153> accessed 23 February 2016]).

¹³⁴ *Taunton Courier and Western Advertiser* 1 October 1890.

¹³⁵ Historic England statutory lists.

¹³⁶ *Bridport News* 3 June 1892.

¹³⁷ RIBA *op cit* p.871. *Kelly's Directory of Essex, Herts and Middlesex* records him still at Grange Park Ealing.

¹³⁸ *Kelly's Directory of Somerset* 1897.

¹³⁹ Census 1901 and 1911.

¹⁴⁰ There are references to 'museums' in Lyme early in the 19th century. These may have been little more than loan exhibitions of fossils from private collectors. In 1844 the Lyme Regis and Charmouth

is the one about which we know very little as he had stopped keeping detailed diaries by then, and there is little about what TED Philpot, who owned and commissioned it, intended other than that it should be a museum and picture gallery (fig 30). He may have been aware of the museum of natural history, mainly British ornithology, installed by Sir Henry Peek in his mansion at Rousdon. When he was mayor in 1891 he hosted the July two-day meeting of the Dorset Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club in Lyme Regis and arranged an exhibition of historical material and talk by Zachary Edwards in the Guildhall after dinner¹⁴¹. This suggests some interest in such matters. What we have of the transcript of Vialls's diary records correspondence with Philpot in January and May 1899 and a visit he paid to Philpot at Holme Cleeve in May that year. This may also have been to deal with a problem with its drains on his property that the Borough Surveyor was concerned about and which he informed the Council that Vialls was seeing to¹⁴². A photograph dated June 1899 shows the site cleared on this awkward site next to a rather inadequate sea wall (fig 31)¹⁴³. Philpot seems to have begun acquiring buildings in Cockmoile Square, which adjoins the west end of the Guildhall, at the time as work was being started on its rebuilding in 1887. Even if what Philpot intended it should contain is unclear, a museum would complete a miniature civic centre comprising the Guildhall, Drill Hall and Museum.

Building work was going on in 1900 when Vialls visited the site in March, to see the builder Caddy¹⁴⁴. There are photographs of the work in the albums including the topping out (fig 32). It was probably completed in 1901, by which time Vialls had moved to Southampton. The Museum is a miniature version of a big city museum with grand staircase in an internal atrium rising three floors and fine doorways to the galleries, their names carved on the stone lintels above the entrances to each of the little galleries. It is in north European renaissance style, unlike the classical style of Philpot's house Holme Cleve. But there are stylistic links with the head teachers house, the Drill Hall with its cottage entrance on Church Street, and some windows of the Guildhall. The original open market arcade in the museum's east wing is similar to that under the Guildhall. And the museum has the turret that are also features of the Guildhall and formerly the Drill Hall.

Mechanics' Institute had a museum. At its first annual meeting in January 1845 its curator was recorded as S Osborne, an alderman, timber and lias stone merchant and resident of Marine Parade, Lyme Regis. Joseph Anning, brother of the famous fossilist, was independent auditor of the Institute (Lyme Regis Museum files). In 1857 the pharmacist James Marder set up an exhibition of fossils in the baths, which included items for sale (Roland Brown *The Beauties of Lyme*, 1857). There was a museum in the Assembly Rooms in 1859 (*Post Office Directory*, 1859). There were also three 'fossilists' who no doubt displayed collections: Mary Anning, William Moore and Son (both in Broad Street) and (in Charmouth) James Wiscombe (Pigot and Co. *National and Commercial Directory and Topography*, July 1842). In 1865 an article in *All the Year Round*, edited by Charles Dickens, regretted the closure of a museum and attributed it to being formed by Mary Anning. It is not clear which 'museum' this relates to. The attribution of the museum to Mary Anning is dismissed in Taylor, M.A. and Torrens, H.S. (2014). 'An anonymous account of Mary Anning (1799-1847), fossil collector of Lyme Regis, Dorset, England, published in *All The Year Round* in 1865, and its attribution to Henry Stuart Fagan (1827-1890), schoolmaster, parson and author'. *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History & Archaeological Society* Vol. 135, 2014. pp.71-85.

¹⁴¹ *Bridport News* 24 July 1891.

¹⁴² *Bridport News* 7 April 1899.

¹⁴³ Mary Anning's original house may have stood on the site and been one of the buildings cleared.

¹⁴⁴ Ivy Caddy in *Lyme Voices* 2, Lyme Regis Museum 1993 p.16. For the Caddy company see K Shaw 2016 at http://www.lymeregismuseum.co.uk/lrm/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/william_caddy_and_sons.pdf [accessed 20.09.2019]

Unfortunately, the museum has suffered because of its exposed location next to the sea and poor maintenance over the years. Stone window surrounds and string course have been eroded and patched with mortar. This has resulted in the loss of decoration that was originally at the base of the first-floor stair turret. The biggest loss was the demolition in the 1970s of much of the first floor of the east wing above the market arcade because of its poor condition and its replacement by cement tile hanging. This north elevation of the wing was an extremely ornate façade, worthy of the Grand Place in Brussels (fig 33). The Museum was extended on the seaward side in 2107 to designs by Architecton. Phase 2 of the Museum's development will use new materials to evoke the scale of Vialls's original design for the east wing elevation, recreating something of the true value of Vialls's last building.

What happened to all these Lyme figures? Following the death in 1894 of her son, Ivo from a brain haemorrhage at the age of 22 *Henrietta Vizard* sold Portland Lodge and its contents and moved to London¹⁴⁵. She died in November 1909.

The Revd Edward Peek died at Poulett House on 31 December 1898, a few months after his brother Sir Henry died at Rousdon. After an elaborate funeral service in Lyme Regis Parish Church and procession to Rousdon, Edward was buried at the Peek estate church of St Pancras¹⁴⁶. One of his last acts had been to give a substantial sum towards the new All Saints Church at Wyche, Malvern (not by Vialls). Peek had a house, Highfield, in Malvern where he spent Christmas each year. An obituary by CRP, probably by his nephew Cuthbert Peek (1855-1901), was published in the *Bridport News* 27 January 1899. It recorded that Edward Peek was a 'bachelor with ample means, he had the power, and God had also given him the will, to do much good in his generation'. He had sound common sense and 'a natural and cultivated good taste'. Peek's only memorial in Lyme itself is a small brass plaque (43 x 15 cms.) near the lectern in the Parish Church¹⁴⁷. It reads:

A.M.D.G. et in piam memoriam EDV.PEEK.A.M.PRESB, qui ob:ulto die Dec 1898./Propter plurima eius ecclesice et parochiae beneficia:/ Great Good his fellow Burgesses he did/ Full Oft, and pious gifts to Churches made/ His friends him loved, his life with God was hid/His talents were not in a napkin laid.

The last line is a reference to the parable of the talents in Luke 19:13-26. Peek did not hide his talents, he used them.

The Revd Charles Myers left Lyme in 1894 to become Rector of St Martin's, Salisbury, later becoming a canon and treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral. He never married. A ceremony to mark his departure was held in the newly completed Drill Hall; the gathering had been moved from the new school because which could not accommodate the 400 people who attended. Zacchary Edwards, mayor, presented him with the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* in 24 volumes, each with the borough arms embossed on the cover, and an illuminated address. The mayor said that Myers had come to Lyme at 'the earnest bequest of the Bishop' and that the excellent new schools were thanks to his exertions¹⁴⁸.

¹⁴⁵ *Western Chronicle* 31 August 1894.

¹⁴⁶ *Bridport News* 6 January 1899.

¹⁴⁷ P and H Faulkner *op cit* p.17 no. I/62 <http://www.lymeregis-parishchurch.org/monumental-inscriptions.html> [accessed 2 August 2017].

¹⁴⁸ *Bridport News* 3 August 1894.

Zachary Edwards remained active in Lyme Regis, taking an interest in local history. He was a principal mourner at the Revd Peek's funeral. He entertained the Dorset Field Club on their visit to Lyme Regis in 1901¹⁴⁹ and wrote *Mates' Guide to Lyme Regis* (1902). In August 1894, when mayor again, he married Mary Elizabeth Gillet at Trull in Somerset. The Council presented him with a writing desk and chair. As mayor at this time and recognised as an 'antiquarian well-versed in Lyme and its neighbourhood', he campaigned for Lyme to stay in Dorset at a time when boundary changes were being considered¹⁵⁰. He was also something of a classicist. In 1907, eighteen years after the completion of the new Guildhall, he published an ode in Latin to commemorate the inaugural banquet celebrated to mark the reopening of the Guildhall 'as a permanent record of our loyal respect and love to Queen Victoria on the completion of the fiftieth year of her reign'¹⁵¹. Edwards died in January 1909.

Thomas Edward Davenport Philpot, who never married, remained in Lyme Regis. His completed Museum remained closed. It is not clear who he thought should operate the Museum or where the collection should come from, although the report of his funeral stated that he intended to hand it over to the Town Council¹⁵². It is said that he had formed a collection while travelling abroad for his health in 1894, sending back items from Japan. In 1907, a suggestion was made at a meeting of the Borough Council that it was ridiculous for the town to have a museum which was not open. An exhibition of fossils could be put on there, arranged by the geologist ACG Cameron, retired from HM Geological Survey and author of a geological guide to Lyme.¹⁵³ The town council in 1911 offered to lease the building for a free library, museum for the town's charters and school of art. This was to make use of a portion of the £2,516 bequest to the town of J Moly for educational and intellectual purposes¹⁵⁴. The town council proposed leasing the interior for £25, the exterior to be maintained by Philpot. The proposal was turned down by him¹⁵⁵. At some point, Philpot appears to have let Holme Cleve¹⁵⁶, while remaining on the electoral roll for Lyme Regis, and travelled to Vancouver, possibly to visit his nephew Frederick, whose mother came from Newfoundland. Frederick seems to have moved there in 1908¹⁵⁷. Philpot is missing from the 1911 census but returned from New York on the *Campania* on 12 June 1912¹⁵⁸. He signed his will on 29 July 1912. During the 1st World War Philpot allowed the Museum to be used for the Red Cross.

Philpot's will is an interesting document. He was obviously very keen that the Philpots should continue to be important in Lyme where they had been resident since the beginning of the 19th century and that his house, Holme Cleve, should continue in the family. Philpot himself had no children. Two of his six brothers, Robert (1850-1913) and Frederick (1852-1916), were still alive. There were nephews and nieces.

¹⁴⁹ *Proceedings of the Dorset natural History and Archaeological Field Club* 25, 1904, p lxxv.

¹⁵⁰ *Bridport News* 27 July 1894.

¹⁵¹ Edwards Z, *Avilion and other poems*, Chapman and Hall London, 1907.

¹⁵² *Devon and Exeter Gazette* 9 April 1918.

¹⁵³ *Lyme Regis Recorder* 19 October 1907.

¹⁵⁴ *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* 15 March 1911.

¹⁵⁵ *Dorset and Exeter Gazette* 16 August 1912.

¹⁵⁶ His will (a probate copy is in Lyme Regis Museum files) indicates items being in store that were formerly at Holme Cleve. There is a reference to his property in Canada in his will.

¹⁵⁷ His nephew being in Canada is derived from records accessed via ancestry.co.uk.

¹⁵⁸ UK incoming passenger lists 1878-1960 [accessed via ancestry.co.uk].

He decided to designate his furniture and effects in Holme Cleve as heirlooms attached to his property in Lyme Regis and in the adjoining villages, and in his will to create an entail by which it remained in the family passing to successive heirs (predominantly in the male line) as tenants for life. However, there was a shortage of men among the children of his brothers, so there was provision for his nieces to inherit if necessary and to add Philpot to their married name.

TED Philpot's immediate heir as tenant for life would have been John Philpot, son of his brother Frederick, who was a mining engineer. But John, then a 2nd Lieutenant in the Royal Engineers, was killed in the First World War in February 1916. In accordance with the entail Caroline the daughter of his oldest brother, the late John Gold Philpot, became presumptive heir. John had no sons to follow her in succession as tenant for life, so following John's death Philpot decided that the only other male children, those of his late brother Edward, who had died in 1891, were becoming too remote. In September 1916, Philpot added a codicil to his will removing them from succession to the estate. The effect was to make Caroline Philpot his sole heir and to extinguish the entail¹⁵⁹.

Following TED Philpot's death on 4 April 1918, Caroline's solicitor informed the town council in August that she was willing to give them the Museum as a free gift. Councillors were very concerned at her condition of 'free to the public', but once it was established that it meant simply that it should be used for a public purpose, the gift was accepted¹⁶⁰. In February 1920, Caroline with her mother Winifred, who still lived at Morley Cottage, attended a meeting of the Town Council in February 1920 when she formally presented the building to the town, handing over the deeds in a leather wallet inscribed 'for the use and enjoyment of the inhabitants for ever as a memorial of her uncle TED Philpot Mayor of the Borough 1890-92'¹⁶¹. In April 1920, the Borough Council took museum powers by adopting the Public Libraries Act 1892, which despite its name contained museum clauses¹⁶². The Museum (to be open to the public on Thursdays between 3 and 4 p.m.) was inaugurated by the Mayor on 24 March 1921¹⁶³. On 28 July 1922 Radford and Radford of Lyme Regis sold the Philpot Estate, which included Holme Cleve, the Drill Hall and the shop and dwelling house at its entrance¹⁶⁴. The Philpot connection with Lyme Regis ended.

George Vialls resigned his ARIBA in 1902¹⁶⁵. In his later years he became interested in photography and was an active member of the Southampton Photographic Club¹⁶⁶. His albums contain examples of his work including pictures of his families. In the 1911 census he is recorded as having been married to Mary Jane for 12 years, with whom he had two further children, one of whom died in infancy. They later moved to 77 Mount Pleasant Road, Exeter¹⁶⁷. Vialls died at 7 Salutory Mount, Heavitree, Exeter

¹⁵⁹ The 'farmland and premises known as Woodmead', which was being developed with GEJ Barlow, passed to Caroline Philpot (Dorset record Office D-LRM/A/1/11/1).

¹⁶⁰ *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* 13 August 1918; *Western Times* 10 September 1918.

¹⁶¹ *Devon and Exeter Gazette* 10 February 1920.

¹⁶² *Devon and Exeter Gazette* 16 July 1919.

¹⁶³ *Western Times* 15 March 1921.

¹⁶⁴ Sale catalogue in Lyme Regis Museum.

¹⁶⁵ RIBA, op cit p.871.

¹⁶⁶ *Hampshire Advertiser County Newspaper* 17 December 1904.

¹⁶⁷ Census 1911. His albums, some supplied by a firm in Exeter, contain Exeter photographs from about 1908. They may well have been compiled there.

on 8 September 1912, leaving a small estate of £200 10s 9d. His son Frank by his first wife, a timber merchant's clerk, was his administrator. During his life, he had built eight new churches either on his own account or for TH Wyatt and restored, extended and reordered many more in an appropriate gothic manner. He understood what the customer wanted and designed to suit their needs with tight cost controls. For wealthy land owners, as at North Perrott on behalf of TH Wyatt, he had followed their preference for Tudor. His use of neo-renaissance or 'Queen Anne' style in Lyme was exactly what appealed to his well-off middle-class clients, for whom he could afford to use the leading London architectural fittings suppliers of the day. It seems all his customers were satisfied.

And what of Lyme Regis itself? Zachary Edwards's guide to Lyme of 1902, as well as describing its history and some of its monuments, gives an account of its state. Much was as twenty years earlier, although tents had replaced bathing machines on the beach. The Assembly Rooms was still leased to the gentlemen's club, except for the Victoria Hall which had been added - and it was easy for a visitor to obtain temporary membership. Vialls's buildings, except the recently completed Museum, were all in use for the purpose for which they were designed: the Poulett House Chapel had passed to the diocese and services were held there; the National School had around 200 regular attenders; the Artillery Volunteers met in the Drill Hall; the town council was still proud of its Guildhall (with meat market underneath) and the Borough magistrates' sessions were held there. The infrastructure of gas, sewers and water supply had been significantly improved and supplied to all areas. Edwards quotes the favourable annual report of the medical officer on the town's state. However, Lyme had changed. Of the circle that put work Vialls's way, the Vizards had moved away, the Peeks were dead, the Revd Myers had gone to Salisbury, Philpot was no longer so active and may have been abroad. In his guide Edwards records the imminent arrival in 1903 of the railway, the long-desired branch line from Axminster. It would bring more people to the resort. Edwards wrote that 'those who wish to see the Lyme of Monmouth and Jane Austen ought not to procrastinate'. To accommodate them the Revd Peek's house was sold by his estate to become the Hotel Alexandra, 'luxuriously furnished throughout, in excellent taste'. In 1908 Vialls recorded the change in his photograph albums. Zachary Edwards remained, preparing his Latin ode published in 1907 to commemorate the triumphant re-opening of the Guildhall twenty years earlier when he was mayor.

Appendix: The Philpot and Hunt families¹⁶⁸

John Philpot senior (1778 – 1850) was a London lawyer, living in Southampton Street (now Place), Bloomsbury and with offices in Southampton Buildings near the Holborn end of Chancery Lane. He had three sisters, of whom Elizabeth (1779-1857) formed a geological collection with the aid of the eminent fossilist Mary Anning. They lived at Morley Cottage, Silver Street, Lyme Regis.

On his death in 1850, his wife Mary had died three years earlier, John senior left his whole estate to his son John junior (1809 – 1878), also an attorney. Elizabeth Philpot continued to live at Morley Cottage. In London, probably after his father's death, John and his wife Elizabeth Mary (1816 - 1886, nee Gold), whom he had married in 1847, moved to 20 Montague Street, Bloomsbury. After his aunt Elizabeth's death in 1857 Morley Cottage became their seaside house. His business premises as John Philpot and Son were at 36 Bedford Row, London.

John junior and Elizabeth Mary had six sons, of whom Arthur Noel died in infancy. Their eldest, John Gold (1849-1895), a barrister, became involved in Lyme affairs and a town councillor. His brothers Robert (1850 – 1913) and Frederick (1852 – 1916) were both London lawyers, living near each other in East Molesey, Surrey. They both took houses in Lyme Regis in the summer. Edward (1855 – 1891) became a merchant living in Kensington but appears to have been less engaged in Lyme Regis. Thomas Embray Davenport Philpot (1859 – 1918), after Trinity College, Cambridge and qualifying as a barrister, led the life of a gentleman in Lyme Regis. Unlike his brothers he never married.

Following John Philpot junior's death in 1878, the geological collection formed by his aunt Elizabeth was passed to the University of Oxford in 1980 (JM Edmonds (1986) 'The fossil collection of the Misses Philpot of Lyme Regis', *Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Vol 98*, pp 43 – 48). The eldest son, John Gold Philpot, moved into Morley Cottage and his mother Elizabeth Mary took Herne Lee in Pound Road.

At the age of 25 Thomas Philpot inherited a fortune from his mother's brother-in-law Thomas Newman Hunt (1806 – 1884), who had married Caroline Sophia Gold (1814 – 1865) in 1838. Hunt was one of a group of inter-related Dartmouth merchant families, which included the Holdsworths, Newmans, Teagues and Roopes, who liked to incorporate mother's maiden names in their children's. Hunt's mother Harriet, married to Thomas Holdsworth Hunt, was a Newman. These families were engaged in the triangular trade taking dried salt fish from Newfoundland to Porto in Portugal (and other destinations), port wine from there to Dartmouth, and supplies from England to the fishermen in Canada. Hunt's companies, of which he was senior partner, were Newman Hunt and Company, whose headquarters were in Broad Street in the City of London, and Hunt Roope Teague and Company in Porto, where they owned a wine lodge and vineyards. The Hunt business name still survives in Hunt Constantino-Vinhos Lda of Porto

¹⁶⁸ The sources used include: census and birth, marriage and death records accessed via www.ancestry.co.uk; newspapers available on www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk; and TN Hunt's will.

Hunt was a major City figure. He was a director of the Bank of England for many years and Governor from 1867 to 1869. He was also at various times chairman of the Imperial Life Insurance Company and of the Public Works Loan Board, which provided loans to local government and public bodies. In 1883, perhaps because of the family connection, Robert Philpot was appointed its Assistant Secretary.

His London home was 79 Portland Place, between the BBC and Regents Park, built in 1812-13 by the Crown Estate. He also had properties in Portugal, Newfoundland and Ireland. In 1863 he reduced the rents for his Irish tenants by a third because of the hard times continuing after the great famine. Hunt maintained his Devon connections by being regularly at social events in Dartmouth and Torquay, involving his extended family and business connections. But he was obviously close to the Philpots. At the time of the 1871 census, his in-laws John and Elizabeth Mary Philpot were staying there, with Thomas Embrey Davenport Philpot, aged 12. Hunt and his wife had only one child, Thomas Holdsworth Newman Hunt, born in 1842. He died at Exeter College Oxford in 1862. Hunt's only brother had died in 1849 and his wife in 1865; he had no direct heir. Thomas Embrey Davenport Philpot seems to have replaced Hunt's only son.

Hunt died in 1884 leaving £174,000 18s. 2d. - perhaps at least £20 million in today's money. Robert Philpot was one of his executors. He left many individual bequests to relatives, business partners, servants and office staff. £40,000 was left to Thomas Embrey Davenport Philpot, then age 25. Further he established two trusts which were to benefit him: £80,000 for his sister-in-law Elizabeth Mary Philpot and £40,000 for her cousin Mary Augusta (Gold) Edwards, both for their lifetimes. At their deaths (Elizabeth Mary in 1886 and Mary Augusta in 1906) the trusts were to be divided in two, with half of each going to Thomas Philpot and the balance to his brothers. 79 Portland Place and its contents were left to Elizabeth Mary for her lifetime and then to Thomas Philpot. It is not known for how long he retained the lease.

Tables

Table 1: Contractors at Poulett House

Firm	Address	Supplies
Henry Randall and Sons Main contractor	Buttermarket, Lyme Regis	Structural alterations
H and T Foxwell Plumbers, painters and decorators	Bridge Street, Lyme Regis	Painting and decorating
Herbert Radford Decorators	Bridge Street, Lyme Regis	Painting and decorating
C Trask and Son Stonemasons	Norton sub Hamdon, Somerset	Hamstone window tracery
W H Lascelles Joiners	Bunhill Row, Finsbury, London	Specialist joinery: screen, dossal frames; clergy stalls, altar table, credence table, litany desk, doors, baldachino etc. (Also joinery for Poulett House)
W G Vowles Organ builders	Castle Street, Bristol	Organ
Gillett and Company Clock and bell makers	Croydon	'Hemispherical bells'
Thomas Earp Sculptors	Lambeth, London	Alabaster retable
Thomas Gregory and Co Builders	Clapham, London	Floor tiles and steps
James Powell and Sons (Whitefriars) Glassmakers	Tudor Street, London	Glass vessels
Hart and Son Makers of wrought iron, brass etc	Wych Street, Strand, and Brook Street, Hannover Square, London	Metal work; altar candlesticks and cross; gas lamp fittings
Clayton and Bell Stained glass, stencil and mosaic design	Regent Street, London	Mosaic design
Venice and Murano Glass and Mosaic Company Mosaicists	Oxford Street, London	Execution of mosaics for reredos
Alfred A Newman and Company Ironwork		Wrought iron altar rail supports
T Smith		Altar frontal
T E Harrison Sculptor, painter, stained glass artist	Bedford Park, London	Painted tapestries
Lechertier Barbe Artists' supplies	Regent Street, London	Canvas
H W Lonsdale Architectural draughtsman	30, Great James Street, (1886) 26 Bedford Row, London	Designs for chapel decoration
Charles Hindley and Sons House furnishers	Berners Street, London	Japanese paper

Table 2: Contractors at Holme Cleve

Henry Randall and Sons Builder	Buttermarket, Lyme Regis	Structure
H and T Foxwell Plumbers, glaziers and decorators	Bridge Street, Lyme Regis	Hot water services
G Jackson and Sons Fibrous plaster	Rathbone Place, London	Ceilings
Harry Hems Carvers	Longbrook Street, Exeter	
Archibald, Smith and Stevens Electric and hydraulic lifts	Northampton and Battersea, London	
W H Lascelles Joiners	Bunhill Row, London	Staircase, stairs and windows
Yates, Haywood and Co Ironfounders	Rotherham	Stoves
Thomas Elsley Ironfounders	Great Titchfield Street, and Great Portland Street, London	Tiled fireplaces, firebacks, grates and rainwater goods
H W Lonsdale Architectural draughtsman	30, Great James Street, (1886), 3 John Street near Bedford Row London	Widow glass designs
Magners Water purifiers		Filter rapides
Compton and Fawkes Horticultural buildings	Chelmsford	Conservatory
William Woollams and Co Wallpaper	110 High Street, Manchester Square, London	Wallpaper
WB Simpson and Sons Art tiles	100 St Martins Lane, London	Floor or wall tiles
Dent and Hellyar Sanitary wares, drain pipes etc	Newcastle Street, London	
Herbert Radford Decorators	Bridge Street, Lyme Regis	
Charles Winn and Co Lavatory cisterns	Birmingham	
James Houghton Stone and marble Masosn	212 Great Portland Street and 10 Upper Charlton Street, London	Marble slips
Hart and Son Metalworkers	Wych Street, and Brook Street, London	Lamp fittings
GD Peters and Co Railway rolling stock supplies	Moorfields, London and Slough	Lincrusta wall covering (167a)
James Hinks and Son Oil lamps	Birmingham	Lamps
Hodges		
Brabys Galvanised metal, zinc, perforated metals	Euston Road, London	Cisterns
Doulton and Co Stoneware	Lambeth, London	Vases

THE ILLUSTRATIONS



Fig 1
George Vials as a young architect at about the time of his marriage to Leila (Eliza) Lockhart in 1874 (note adjoining the photograph).

Vials Family Archive album 1 photo 27.

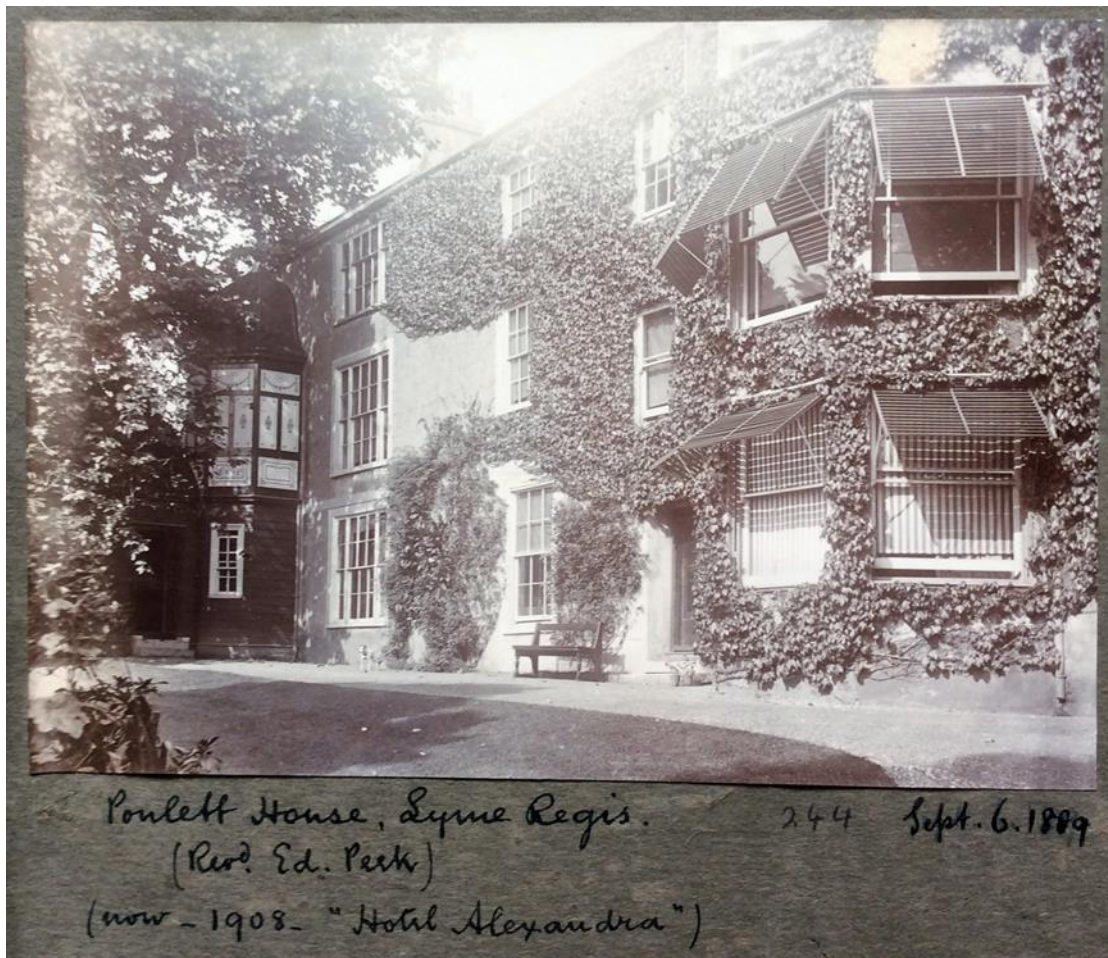


Fig 2

The rear of Poulett House (now the Hotel Alexandra) 6 September 1889.

Vialls Family Archive album 2 photo 244.

Most of the alterations appear to have been internal. The garden room he added, connected by a stencilled turret, is behind the tree to the left, now replaced by the full height wing of the hotel.



Fig 3

Poulett House Chapel

Vialls Family Archive album 1 photo 166

Two painted-canvas 'tapestries' hang to either side on the nave walls. Gas light fittings are beyond them. The arch to the left is blank but protected by a rail and may have been painted. In the chancel beyond the painted screen, above which is a cross (or rood), there are two clergy desks to either side. The mosaic of Christ in Majesty is above the altar surrounded by a wooden frame to which was added a small canopy above (or baldachino). There are dossal hangings to either side of the altar. This is a rich interior.



Fig4

St Michael's College (now Coram Court). South elevation.

Vialls Family Archive album 1 photo 168.

The former vicarage was extensively modified and extended. The design of the two gabled bays to the left of the porch was completed by Vialls in July 1889. Between them is a column with a figure of St Michael, the bell and an inscription plaque. removed. The sculpture was commissioned from Earp of Lambeth in August 1889. The first floor of the west gable, the roof lights and the bell hanging have since been removed.



Fig 5

St Michael's College (Coram Court). Date stone on the column on the south elevation of the original building.

Photo: Max Hebditch.

The inscription read E[dward] P[EEK] 1889. In Hamstone, and possibly carved by Trask of Norton sub Hamdon, the design for the stone was completed by Vialls in August 1889.



Fig 6
St Michael's College (now Coram Court). North elevation.
Vialls Family Archive album 2 photo 204.

This is the vicarage built in 1856. None of this may be Vialls's work, since the climbers on the walls appear to have been there some time.



Fig 7

St Michael's College (now Coram Tower). Accommodation block.

Photo: Max Hebditch.

This was the second phase of development of the College. The tower and adjoining ranges continue in the style of the north side of the original vicargae. The plaque beneath the oriel window has the inscription S[aint] M[ichael the] A[rchangel] between weighing scales.

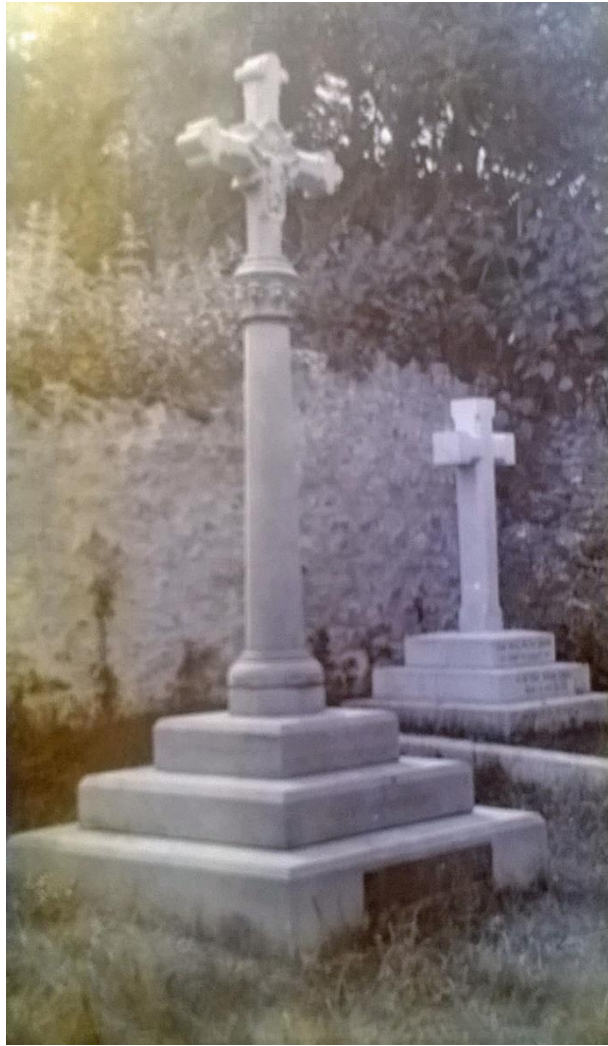


Fig 8

Churchyard Cross at Combyne.

Vialls Family Archive album 2 photo 212.

The cross was commissioned by the Revd Edward Peek in memory of the Revd William Poulton, who died in 1883. The work was placed with Thomas Earp of London and set up in March 1885. The crucifix was designed by H W Lonsdale. There are references to the addition of a bronze ring in May 1889. This may be the photograph Vialls took, recorded in his diary in June 1889.



Fig 9

Peak parental memorial for St Pancras Church Rousdon.

Vials family Archive album 2 photo 273.

The memorial commemorates Sir Henry's father Thomas Peck and his wife's father William Edgar. It was executed in marble to Vials's design by Luscombe and Son of Exeter in 1892, and is reminiscent of an ancient Roman tomb.



Fig 10

St Michael the Archangel Church, Lyme Regis. Looking west from the chancel before the insertion of the screen.

Vialls family Archive album 1 photo 152.

This shows the first set of alterations under the Revd George Barlow, vicar from 1883 to 1887. The floor has been stepped and the pulpit moved to the south side. The box pews and side balconies are still in place.



Fig 11

St Michael the Archangel Church, Lyme Regis. Memorial Screen to the Revd George Barlow.

Vialls Family Archive album 3 photo 449.

The church has been completely re-ordered under the Revd Charles Myers, vicar from 1888 to 1894. It shows the figure of St Michael the Archangel on the organ case after it was moved to the south aisle¹⁶⁹. Benches have replaced box pews. The pulpit has moved to the north side.

¹⁶⁹ Following the move of the organ to the west end, the carving is now on the wall of the south aisle.



Fig 12

St Michael the Archangel Church, Lyme Regis. Memorial font to the Revd Frederick Parry Hodges.

Vialls Family Archive album 3 photo 704.

The font, possibly using an earlier 19th century font cover, was executed by Luscombe and Son of Exeter in 1890 to Vialls's elaborate design. The bowl is Italian alabaster on a column of Caen stone surrounded by eight Devon Marble columns. The base is Hamstone resting on a Pennant plinth.



Fig 13

Lyme Regis National School (now St Michael's Business Centre)

Photo: Max Hebditch.

The school was completed and opened in 1892. Vials took account of London board school design using tall multi-paned windows and a Gothic door. The string courses and window sills are Douling stone.



Fig 14
Lyme Regis national School. Master's house.
Photo: Max Hebditch.

This was an existing cottage, enhanced by Vialls. It is dated 1892 in the main pedimented gable above the bay windows. A stepped Dutch style gable and fire break divides it from the adjoining terrace of cottages.



Fig 15

Holme Cleve (formerly and now again known as Gatesfield). South-east elevation. Photograph in Lyme Regis Museum.

Vialls's considerable extension reduced the original building to a wing. There is a further one bay wide wing on the far (south west) side. The original building of 1828 is reminiscent of the picturesque style of the architect John Nash, such as Cronkhill in Shropshire (1802). Vialls keeps the shutters and the wide bracketed eaves, but adds a heavy bay on the ground floor.



Fig 16

Holme Cleve (Gatesfield). Porch on the north-west side.

Vialls Family Archive album1 photo 183.

In December 1885 Vialls prepared several options for the porch. The shell top in the rather heavy asymmetrical door surround is a nod to the 18th century. The design was finally sent to the contractor in March 1886. The railings to the right, protecting a basement area, were designed in March 1887.



Fig 17

Holme Cleve (Gatesfield). Interior.

Vialls Family Archive album 2 photo 193.

Design and execution of the fibrous plaster ceiling decorations, supplied by G Jackson and Sons of London, were under way from March 1886. The curtains and carpets were discussed with the client and Mrs Edwards in April 1887. She is seated.



Fig 18

Holme Cleve (Gatesfield). Conservatory at the south end.

Vialls family Archive album2 photo 167.

In August 1886 Vialls began the first sketches of the conservatory. In September he met Fawkes of Compton and Fawkes on site who supplied it.



Fig 19

Holme Cleve (Gatesfield). Entrance hall September 1887.

Vialls family archive album 4 photo 89.

Vialls was working on the design for the arches in the entrance hall in July 1885. The elaborate oil lamp was probably made by James Hinks and Son of Birmingham. He was still designing the fireplace in September 1886. The split pediment is a standard 'Queen Anne' feature.



Fig 20

Seawater baths, before conversion to the Drill Hall.

Vialls Family Archive album1 photo 168.

The sea wall is on the right, at the end of which can be seen the structure descending to the seashore.



Fig 21

The Drill Hall (Marine Theatre).

Vialls family Archive album 1 photo 165.

Vialls's new façade, completed in 1894, has been built forward of the original structure. This contained a reading room above the entrance. Behind the brick and rendered front building was the timber framed hall itself. The path above the seawall to the right has since been enclosed and the entire front elevation was redesigned when it became a cinema.



Fig 22

Drill Hall Cottages, Bridge Street.

Vialls Family Archive album 1 photo 182.

The building facing the street were completed in 1895 probably to Vialls's design, with his characteristic gables and windows. The Guildhall is on the right.



Fig23

The Guildhall before rebuilding. North elevation.

Vialls family Archive album 1 photo 191.

The defects identified by Vialls in his report on the condition of the Guildhall are visible here, including subsidence affecting the venetian style window and the bowing of the roof.



Fig 24

The Guildhall after rebuilding. North elevation.

Vialls Family Archive album 3 photo 706.

The most obvious changes are the considerably raised roof line, with cupola (now gone), and the setting back of the north wall to the right of the gable in order to widen the road. The shop front had been replaced by arches.



Fig 25

The Guildhall before rebuilding. Entrance steps and cells.

Vialls family Archive album 1 photo 170.



Fig 26

Guildhall. New west entrance.

Vialls Family Archive album 1 photo 174.

Very little if any of the original structure survives. The hamstone door case and borough coat of arms was paid for by William Pinney. The cells are now in a turret. A single roof has replaced the valley, ending in a pedimented gable. A Mayor's Parlour has been created with an oriel window.

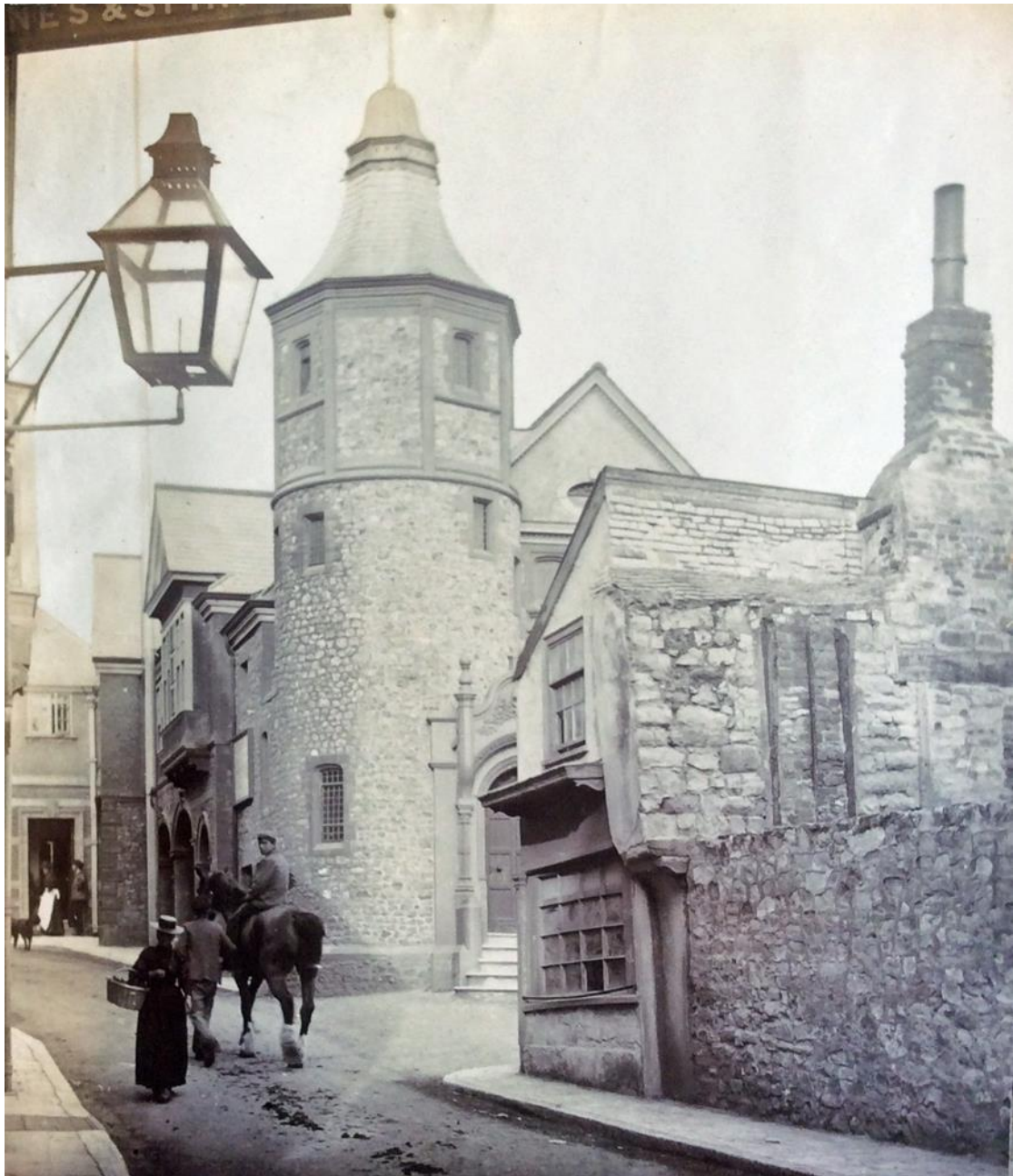


Fig 27

The Guildhall after rebuilding. Entrance
Vialls family Archive album 1 photo 180.

The upper part of the new turret contained room for the borough records. A new bayed pedimented gable has been created in the middle of the north side.



Fig 28

The Guildhall. Interior before rebuilding.

Vialls Family Archive album 1 photo 173



Fig 29

Guildhall interior. After rebuilding.

Vialls Family Archive album 1 photo 175.

The Revd Edward Peek paid for the removal, repair and refitting of the wooden bar and panelling. The ceiling has been raised. Vialls designed the board containing the lists of former mayors but these had not been fitted. Nor has the portrait of William Pinney arrived.



Fig 30

Philpot Museum. Unfitted architrave for a gallery.

Vialls Family Archive album 2 photo 662.

The galleries opening off the grand staircase had richly decorated doorcases. It shows an angel unveiling a painting with pallet and brushes and olive branches. At the top appears to be a primrose, as is appropriate for the founder of the Philpot Habitation of the Conservative Primrose league.



Fig 31

Philpot Museum. The site after demolition of the existing buildings prior to construction, dated 22 June 1899.

Vialls Family Archive album 3 photo 375.

There is a remarkable absence of sea wall. To the right of the Guildhall are cottages on Gun Cliff which have since been demolished.



Fig 32

Philpot Museum. Topping out.

Vialls Family Archive album 3 photo 711.

The top of the first-floor stair turret has yet to be built where the man in a jacket, possibly Vialls, on the lower level is standing.



Fig 33

Philpot Museum. The north elevation of the east wing.

Photograph in Lyme Regis Museum.

Above the first-floor brackets below the windows the building have since been demolished and replaced by a tile-hung structure. The stonework of the windows and carved base of the turret later became eroded and were made good with cement. The Museum is linked to the Guildhall by the cottages on Gun Cliff, since demolished.

**PROVISIONAL LIST OF ALL THE WORKS OF
GEORGE VIALLS**

Provisional list of George Vialls's projects as at 27 March 2017.

The list was put together as a by-product of research into work undertaken by Vialls in Lyme Regis for some wealthy clients during the last two decades of the 19th century. Outside Lyme Regis the buildings have not been fully researched. Related to this, a brief note on his life is published in *The Architectural Historian, Issue 5* (SAHGB, August 2017) pp 9-11.

Sources	ICBS	Incorporated Church Building Society [www.churchplansonline.org]
	GR	Goodhart-Rendel Index of nineteenth century church builders at Historic England
	DBA	RIBA (2001) <i>Directory of British Architects 1834-1914</i> , p 871
	Graves	A Graves (1906) <i>Royal Academy Exhibitors</i> , p 82
	GB	G Brandwood (1984) <i>Church building and restoration in Leicestershire 1800-1891</i> (Leicester University Thesis).
Albums		Albums of Vialls' photographs, volumes 1 to 7. Marked 'GV' where Vialls has recorded his involvement as architect while working for TH Wyatt. The albums remain with the Vialls Family Archive. Copies of his photographs of his buildings in Lyme Regis are in Lyme Regis Museum.
	HE	https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/results (only where GV is there named)
Diaries		Records in Lyme Regis Museum given by Christine Vialls (1997): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Typed transcript of diary for January 1878.• Typed extracts of diary for January and February 1881 and January and February 1883.• Typed extract of diary entries from 1884 to 1889, with occasional entries for 1899 and 1900.

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Deene, Oundle, St Peter Niche for T H Wyatt	1868 -69	1.323 2.72-74	Undated letter in album next to 1.307 from TH Wyatt regarding attendance of opening, on which he worked. <i>Northampton Mercury</i> 15.10.1870
Spetisbury, Dorset, St John the Baptist (Restored by Wyatt 1858) Possibly North Chapel for T H Wyatt	1868		See Portland Lodge, Lyme Regis 1878 below
Litlington, Cambridgeshire, St Catherine 1870-71 Roof, floor and tower renewed; 1886 gallery removed	1870 -71 1886	2.117-137 GV 4.1 4.25 4.121	HE ICBS <i>Cambridge Chronicle and Journal</i> 23.04.1870 and 01.07.1871. A P Baggs, S M Keeling and C A F Meekings, 'Parishes: Litlington', in <i>A History of the County of Cambridge and the Isle of Ely: Volume 8</i> , ed. A P M Wright (London, 1982), pp. 54-66 [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/cambs/vol8/pp54-66 ; accessed 16 January 2016].
Eltisley, Cambridgeshire, St. Pandionia and St. John the Baptist Repairs to roof, walls and tower.	1875 -79		ICBS
Patras, Greece, St Andrew New church	1871 -74	1.248-9 GV	Graves S C Boys 'Anglican and orthodox in the early seventies' <i>The Christian East</i> (winter 1923) pp 210-215 [http://anglicanhistory.org/orthodoxy/scboys.html]
March, Cambridgeshire St John New church for T H Wyatt	1872	1.259 GV	<i>Cambridge Independent</i> 02.10.1880 (referring to several years earlier)
Great Gransden, Cambridgeshire, St Bartholomew 1873 Repairs to roof and walls; new north porch, organ chamber and vestry (cost £3,000)	1873	2.194 -199 4.15	ICBS <i>Illustrated London News</i> 28.06.1873
March, Cambridgeshire St Mary in the Fen New church for T H Wyatt	1873	1.263 GV	

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Dyrham, Gloucestershire St Peter Restoration for T H Wyatt	1873		<i>Bath Chronicle and Gazette</i> 08.11.1873
Wimblington, Cambridgeshire St Peter Probably Vialls New church for T H Wyatt	1874	1.256-7	
Market Harborough, Leicestershire New vicarage	1874		<i>Stamford Mercury</i> 04.09.1874
Wing, Rutland, Sts Peter and Paul, 1875 New chancel, reseating and restoration 1885 Restoration of nave and new south aisle	1875 1885	2.138	GB See 1873 Patras for reference to work at Wing, before 1872.
Luton, Bedfordshire St Matthew, High Town (with J R Brown) New church (cost c £5,000)	1875 -76		HE GB <i>Leighton Buzzard Observer and Linslade Gazette</i> 05.10.1875 <i>Luton Times and Advertiser</i> 16.12.1876
Northampton, St Michael and All Angels New Church 9 architect competition Tender accepted £4,394	1877 -83		HE GR ICBS <i>Northampton Mercury</i> 08.09.1877 <i>Northampton Mercury</i> 18.12.1880 and 10.02.1883
Southport, Lancashire, A Church Appears to have submitted designs but unsuccessful	1878		Diaries
Shangton. Leicestershire St Nicholas, (restored 1874, north vestry and organ chamber; east window stained glass 1877) Altar frontal and probably chancel furnishings	1878		Diaries J M Lee and R A McKinley, 'Shangton', in <i>A History of the County of Leicestershire: Volume 5, Gartree Hundred</i> (London, 1964), pp. 293 - 297 [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/leics/vol5/pp293-297 ; accessed 20.01,17].

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Newnham Paddox, Warwickshire Catholic Chapel (1876-9 remodelled by TH Wyatt; now demolished). Probably GV for TH Wyatt. Client 8 th Lord Denbigh	1878		Diaries
Lyme Regis. Dorset Portland Lodge Unidentified work Client: Mrs Henrietta Vizard, widow of late incumbent of Spetisbury (see 1868) GV for TH Wyatt.	1878		Diaries
North Perrott, Somerset. Stables and new house etc GV for TH Wyatt (who had done the house 1877) 1881 Conservatory and alcove 1884-87 Summer House, new lodge, cottage and coach house alterations. Client: PM Hoskyns	1878 , 1881 and 1884 -87		Diaries
North Perrott, Somerset St Martin North transept window (repair?) (also North Perrott rectory drainage)	1885		Diaries
Lindridge, Worcestershire, St Lawrence, (1861 T Nicholson) Chancel stalls and kneeling rail	1878	1.265	Diaries <i>Worcestershire Chronicle</i> 04.01.1879

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Wingrave, Buckinghamshire, Sts Peter and Paul, 1881 restoration 'As per contract... extras none' Stained glass designed by HW Lonsdale. 1887 Restoration, new S transept and vestry, organ chamber, screen and rood 1898 rebuild upper tower (probably Vialls)	1881 1887 -88 1898 -	2.161-175 2.186 2.188	<i>Bucks Herald</i> 23.11.1881, 23.11.1885, and 04.05.1990 <i>Leighton Buzzard Observer and Linslade Gazette</i> 07.05.1889 and 10.09.1901 Diaries (1899)
Warminster, Wiltshire, Christ Church, (1830-31 John Leachman; new chancel 1871 by TH Wyatt) 1881 Porches, nave arcades and nave and chancel roofs, benches. 1885 pulpit	1881 1885		HE <i>Western Gazette</i> 20.05.1881 <i>Wilts Times and Trowbridge Advertiser</i> 19.11.1881 'Warminster: Church', in <i>A History of the County of Wiltshire: Volume 8, Warminster, Westbury and Whorwellsdown Hundreds</i> (London, 1965), pp. 117-124 [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/wilts/vol8/pp117-124 ; accessed 21 January 2016].
Bredenbury, Herefordshire, Rectory, Adjoins St Andrews Church (1877 by TH Wyatt, who also remodelled the Court)	1881		Diaries Herefordshire SMR No 35381
Luton, Bedfordshire Christ Church (1856-60 by H Elliott; 1880 North aisle by J Hakewill) 1878 Altar rail 1881 Chancel, south chapel, vestry, and church hall. Litany desk made by Hems Exeter	1878 1881 -82	1.269	HE GR ICBS Diaries <i>Bury and Norwich Post</i> 25.11.1881
London, St John, Limehouse, No evidence of any work	1883		Diaries

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Drimpton, Dorset, Childhay Mantelpiece and parlour panelling, steps and porch Client: William Pinney	1883 -85		Diaries
Marshwood, Dorset, St Mary, (Originally 1841) New church, except tower, and interior fittings	1883 -84		HE GR ICBS Diaries <i>Western Gazette</i> 23.05.1884
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, St Peter, Tower	1883		Diaries
Bredenbury, Worcestershire, St Andrew (1877 by TH Wyatt) Possibly pulpit and reredos	1883		Diaries
Ipswich, Suffolk, Probably All Saints (1883 by Samuel Wright after national competition) Presumably unsuccessful	1883		Diaries
Birmingham, St Albans, Highgate (1881 by JL Pearson) No evidence of any work	1883		Diaries
Somerton Erleigh, Somerset Lodge gates, summer house, alcove, tennis courts Client: William Pinney	1883 -88		Diaries Somerset Record office DD\PI\16/1
Timberland, Lincolnshire Probably St Andrew (1887 restored by Goddards of Lincoln) Presumably unsuccessful	1883		Diaries

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Ivinghoe, Buckinghamshire, Probably St Mary (1871 restored by GE Street) No indication of any work	1883		Diaries
Pensax, Worcestershire St James (1832-3 by T Jones of Chester) 1883 No indication of any work 1891 alterations, tower arch, chancel arch and chancel, Fittings.	1883 1891		HE Diaries
St Weonards, Herefordshire St Weonards (1874 restoration etc) Restoration; possible new vestry [GV records it in albums as Radnorshire.]	1883 -84	2.148 - 152 4.21, 4.79	Diaries
Stansted, Kent, St Mary, Fairseat Restored 1883	1883		Diaries
Far Cotton, Northampton, St Mary, New church Unsuccessful in competition with Edmund Law and M H Holding	1883		<i>Northampton Mercury</i> 29.10.1993
Broadwindsor, Dorset, Newnham Knap, Building improvements Client: William Pinney	1884		Diaries
Axminster, Devon, St Mary Chancel restoration, new roof, rebuild tower, organ loft and choir stalls	1884 , 1889 and 1896 -98		Diaries <i>Exeter and Plymouth Gazette</i> 30.09.1898
Lyme Regis, Dorset, Poulett House and Chapel Client: Revd E Peak	1884 -88	1.166 2.242-4 4.29	Diaries

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Lyme Regis, Dorset, St Michael the Archangel	1886	3.449	Diaries
1886 unidentified work	-91	3.703-4	Western Times 09.11.1889
1887 redecoration of chancel; carpet for chancel (Harvey Nicholls)		3.700-05	Bridport News 05.09.1890
1889 new screen (Luscombes of Exeter), kneeling desk			Bridport News 22.04.1892
1890 new font (Luscombe of Exeter)			
1891 memorial tablet			
New screen, kneeling desks (gift of Revd E Peek), carpet (gift of TED Philpot). Repairs to church windows etc			
Combpyne, Devon Churchyard cross	1884	2.212	Diaries
Memorial to an earlier vicar Client: Revd E Peek	-89		
Didmarton, Gloucestershire, St Michael and All Angels (1872 T H Wyatt) Pulpit	1884		Diaries
Broadwindsor, Dorset, Racedown,	1884		Diaries
New lodge, farm premises, stable, wagon house, and cottages. Client: William Pinney	-87		
Lyme Regis, Dorset, Gatesfield (Holme Cleve)	1885	1.179	Diaries
Extension, lift, conservatory and alterations. Client: TED Philpot,	-89	1.187	
		2.167	
		2.169	
		2.183	
		2.190-3	
		3.44	
		4.89	
Lyme Regis, Dorset, The Nest			Diaries
Dining room. Client: Revd Myers,			

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Bettiscombe, Dorset House Overdoor and gate piers Client: William Pinney	1885		Diaries
Somerton, Somerset, St Michael 1885 Condition survey 1889 survey and nave roof strengthening; double gabled south porch Client: William Pinney	1885 1889 -90		Diaries Somerset Record Office D\P\Som/3/4/2 <i>Western Chronicle</i> 16.12.1887 <i>Taunton Courier and Advertiser</i> 01.10.1891
Broadwindsor, Dorset, Knapp Farm, Newnham Alterations Client: William Pinney	1885		Diaries
Leicester, St Michael and All Angels New church; tower not built (1939 chapel added; church now redundant) Client Leicester Church Extension Fund	1885 -87	2.235 2.238	GR ICBS <i>Morning Post</i> 24.09.1887. 'Parishes added since 1892: Belgrave', in <i>A History of the County of Leicester: Volume 4, the City of Leicester</i> , ed. R A McKinley (London, 1958), pp. 420-428 [http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/leics/vol4/pp420-428 ; accessed 16 January 2016].
Lanhydrock, Bodmin, Cornwall, St Hydroc, Chancel extended, new west door, wagon roofs, benches, reredos, pulpit etc (Contract awarded to GV not Robert Coad who did the house after a fire) Client Agar Robartes family	1886 -89	1.80 2.208 4.172	Paul Holden 'St Hydroc's Church', <i>Lanhydrock House Journal</i> Vol 7: (Winter 2007/8) p35 [https://sites.google.com/site/lanhydrockjournals/home]

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Lyme Regis, Dorset, St Michael's School (later College) Now Coram Court and Tower 1886 Plans of two principal floors, date stone, glazing and timber framing. Earp sculpture. 1895 New buildings and tower. Also prior to above at Pyne House, Broad Street Sundry alterations for "St Michael's School". Later becomes Waifs and Strays home Client: Revd E Peek	1886	1.164	Diaries
	-89	1.168	<i>Bridport News</i> 27.12.1895
	1895	2.204-5	
		4.90	
Whitchurch Canonorum, Dorset, St Candida Restoration Repairs to tower; new altar hangings	1886		Diaries
	-89		
Yeovil, Somerset, Christ Church (built 1880, now demolished) Pulpit.	1887		Diaries
Somerton, Somerset, Montclefe School, Extension and head's house. Client: William Pinney	1887		Diaries
	-89		Somerset Record Office DD\PI\16\1
Lyme Regis, Dorset, Guildhall or Town Hall, Rebuild Client: Borough Council; instigated by Revd E Peek	1887	1.165	Diaries
		1.169	
		1.170	
		1.173-6	
		1.178	
		1.180	
		1.182-3	
		1.191	
	3.706		

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Bridport, Dorset, St Swithun, Allington Visit and survey Prepares designs for new chancel. (presumably unsuccessful as it was restored by CE Ponting)	1887 -88 1891		Diaries <i>Bridport News</i> 10.06.1891
Crewkerne, Somerset, Chubb's Almshouses 1887 Alterations to 17th century block - possibly memorial 1897 new block facing West Street	1887 and 1897		HE
Chardstock, Somerset, All Saints (1826-27 by Mountford Allan) Extension, vestry and tower. [Album records 're-opened 27 November 1890']	1889 -90	2.249	Diaries
Millbrook, Cornwall, All Saints, New church design accepted but not built. Architects were Hine and Odgers, Plymouth 1893-95.	1889	1.146 GV	Diaries
Milton Abbot, Tavistock, Devon, St Constantine, Lych-gate (HE give 1893 as the date)	1889	2.246 - 8	Diaries
Rousdon, Devon, St Pancras, Alterations, ventilation lanterns or dormers. Client: Sir Henry Peek	1889		Diaries

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Wakefield, Yorkshire Wakefield Grammar School (original 1833-34 by Richard Lane) Chemistry Laboratory, Lecture Theatre and Gymnasium	1891	1.286	M I Peacock <i>History of Wakefield Grammar School</i> (1892) pp 31-2 <i>York Herald</i> 21.11.1891
Lyme Regis, Dorset, C of E Cemetery Chapel Restoration and decoration Client: Borough Council	1892		<i>Bridport News</i> 03.06.1892
Lyme Regis, Dorset, National Schools New building and head's house	1892 -94		<i>Exeter and Plymouth Gazette</i> 03.06.1892
Rousdon, Devon, St Pancras Memorial to William Edgar (1792-1869) and Thomas Peek (1800-1879) (made by Luscombe and Son Exeter) Client: Sir Henry Peek	1892	2.273 GV	Copies of letter and drawings in Lyme Regis Museum
Rousdon, Devon, Mansion Mahogany morning room overmantle Client: Sir Henry Peek	1892	2.270-3 GV 2.290	
Combyne, Devon, Clevelands, (now Pinhay) (original c. 1840) Possible extension Client: Christian Wilton Allhusen	1892	2.260-265	
Doynton, Gloucestershire, Holy Trinity (rebuilt in 1864-65 by J.E. Gill) Restoration	1892	2.287	
Membury, Devon, St John Restoration	1892	2.250-4, 4.54	

Project	Year	Vialls's albums. Volume followed by photo number	Other references to Vialls's work
Cheddington, Dorset Cheddington Court (1840) Remodelling of hall, staircase etc Client: HM Peto	1893	2.290-6	
Lyme Regis, Dorset. Drill Hall New building on site of former sea water baths of 1805 Client: TED Philpot	1893 -94	1.165 3.714	<i>Bridport News</i> 30.03.1894
Stockingford, Nuneaton, Warwickshire St Paul (1822-23 by J Russell) Chancel, Tudor chancel arch added and probably its fittings	1897		HE
Cheddington, Dorset, St James (R Carver 1840-41) South porch, baptistry, windows, vestry, organ chamber, the church re-seated and heating apparatus	1898 -99		HE Diaries
Lyme Regis, Dorset, Philpot Museum New building Client: TED Philpot	1899 - 1900	1.177 1.181 2.662 3.375 3.707-12 5.182 5.192 5.198	Diaries
Pelynt, Cornwall, Trelawne House (Chapel rebuild 1860-62 by St Aubyn; undated work by TH Wyatt) Possibly GV for TH Wyatt Client: Sir J Salusbury Trelawney Work unknown	No date	2.156-60 (showing scaffolding)	

