

The Wish Tower



The Wish Tower's Colourful History

Just because the Wish Tower wasn't pressed into service against Napoleon doesn't mean to say it hasn't been well used over its lifetime.

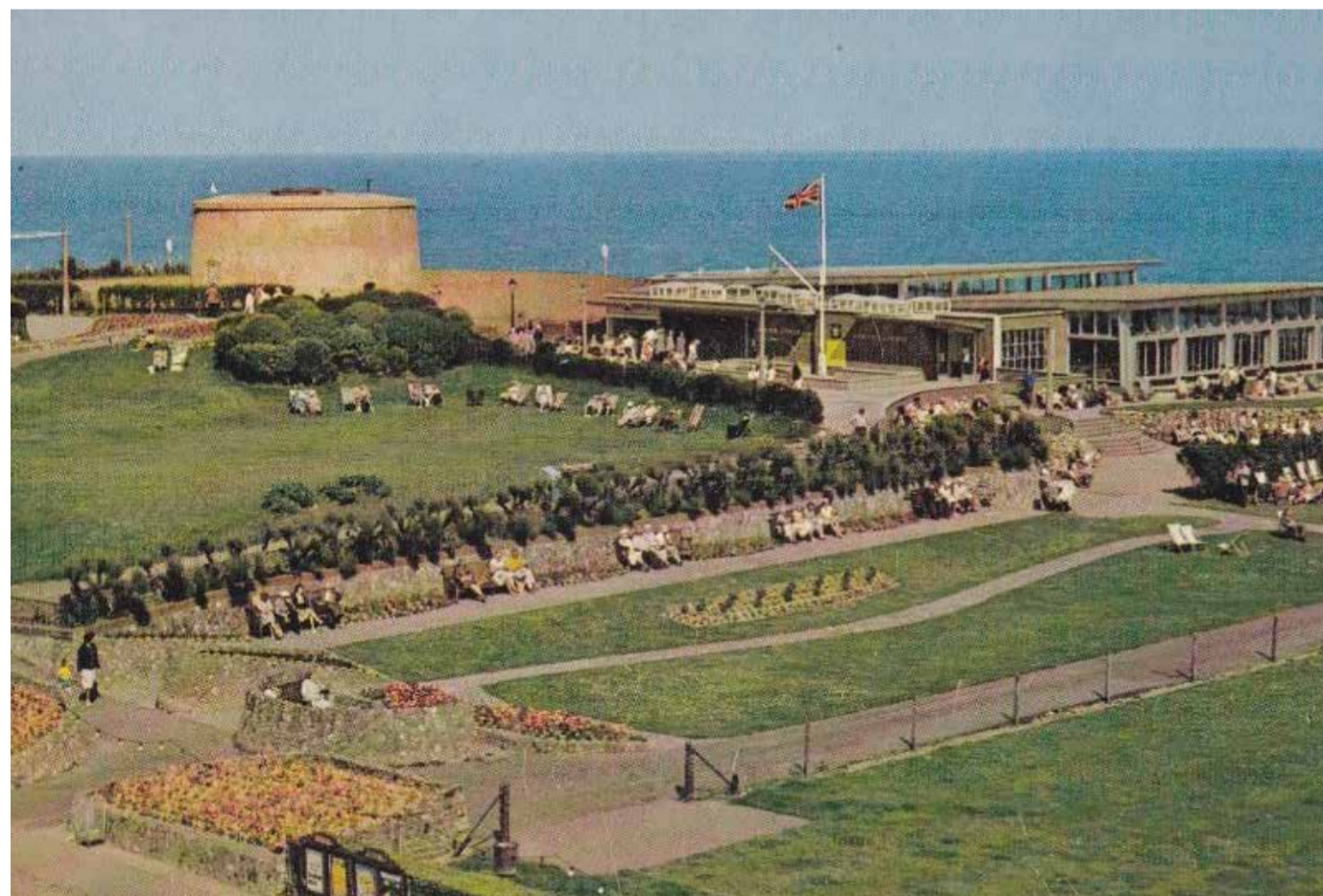
Between 1812 and 1860 the tower was used as a coastguard station to protect the town against smuggling which was rife at the time.

In 1873, when the immediate danger of invasion had finally passed, the tower was decommissioned by the War Office.

Shortly after this it was leased by the Eastbourne Local Board and rented to the Hollobon family who ran the tower as a geological museum until about 1930.



Postcard - view to the Wish Tower c1900



Postcard - Wish Tower Slopes and Wish Tower Cafe (c1970)

During the Second World War the tower was adapted with a structure on the roof and naval guns in front of the tower and used as a battery.

In the late 1950s the tower was nearly demolished. It was 'scheduled' as a monument and some repair work carried out. At the same time, the popular "Wish Tower Cafe" was built on the site which is now the Western View Cafe.

In the 1970s a military museum was based at the tower which operated until the 1990s when a puppet museum took its place.

The tower was empty between 2001 and 2013 after which time the Wish Tower Friends started to organise tours and occasional events.