

Hellyer, Thomas (1811-1894)

Little is known about Thomas's early life, particularly information about his training as an architect. He was born at Emsworth, Hampshire and came to the Island around 1838 on the advice of his brother Phillip who was a banker as well as postmaster for Ryde. Thomas set up business in Ryde and quickly attracted work. In all, he designed several Island houses as well as 5 Island churches - Ryde Holy Trinity (1840); St John's Oakfield (1841); St Peter's Havenstreet (1842); Binstead - a rebuild (1843) and St Saviour's Shanklin (1860). He also designed Ryde County Hospital (1847) - demolished in 1995 and the Royal National Hospital Ventnor (1867) demolished 1969. He was also responsible for many buildings on the mainland, some as far away as Leeds. This busy man also designed the pavilion at the end of Ryde pier as well as the pier's ornate railings. Both Thomas and his wife Harriet died, she in 1889 and Thomas 5 years later. Both are buried at Ryde.

Source unknown