Bowled Over

FRANKLIN & DEACON TO DESIGN AN ESTATE AND VARIOUS ADJOINING PlOTS, 76 ACRES OF THE WESTCLIFF HOUSE SPENT ANOTHER £63,000 ACQUIRING (THAT IS ON THE RIGHT OF THE POSTCARD). TO RECOUP THIS BY A DEVELOPMENT ON £160,000. HOWEVER THE PLAN WAS CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ENGINEERING AND LANDSCAPING, WAS COMPLETED IN 1929. TODAY THIS VISION IS STILL VERY MUCH IN EVERYTHING.

Leased Alter Is The Colonnade Of Ramsgate Croquet Club (Centre Right). Like Mawson’s Pavilion At Southawton It Has A Viewing Area On The Roof, Accessible From And At The Same Level As The Esplanade. It’s Identical Twin Is The Bowls Pavilion. As Can Be Seen Below Right An Extension Now Obscures The Frontage. However As It Does Not Compromise The Core Structure, This Has Not Prevented The Building Being Listed Grade II, As It’s Croquet Counterpart.

Together With The Westcliff Lift And Sea Pavilion, The Croquet And Bowls Pavilions Form Part Of The Esplanade Conservation Area, A Perfectly Balanced Example Of 1920s Planning, Anticipating To Hold Umpires, Yet Equally Desirable As A Place In Which To Live. Best Time To Visit? The Club Hosts A Two-Week Open Tournament In Late July And Early August (Partly Why That Extension Is So Necessary). However Not All In Ramsgate Is Sunny. Cutbacks Have Meant That The Bowls Club Might Find It Unable To Repairs, A Prospect Increasingly Faced By Clubs On Public Greens.

Exposed To The Sea Air, In A Listed Building, In A Conservation Area – Even At Seaside Towns Where Level Ground Is At A Premium, As At Ilfracombe, North Devon (Left), A Bowling Green Was Still Considered An Essential. This Was For Holidaymakers. Locals Had Their Own Club In Formed In 1893. The Greens Seen Here Still Exist As Public Gardens, But Since The 1920s Planning, Ensuring That The Amenity Value Would Be Recouped By The Sale Of These Greens In Certain Resorts Have Changed Over The Years. Once They Were Continually Monitored By Authorities, Today They Are More Vulnerable To Vandalism And Casual Mis-Use.