

## Bognor Regis

Bognor was originally a fishing and smuggling village until 18th Century when it was converted into a resort by Sir Richard Hotham. He was a London hatter who had made a fortune in trade. He was also MP for Southwick, a West Sussex constituency at the time. He was attracted by the climate and the benefits he received from sea bathing so stayed in a farmhouse 1784, 85 and 86 then bought it and enlarged it in 1797 and named it Bognor Lodge. He renamed the settlement Hothamton but it didn't catch on so reverted to the original Bognor. There is still a Hotham Park in the middle of the town.

In 1900, the Duke and Duchess of York visited the town and opened 2 Convalescent homes in Clarence Road. In 1929 as King George V he was advised by his physician that a spell of fresh sea air might help him recover from a serious lung complaint. Apparently the King chose Bognor because he had a friend with a mansion nearby where he could stay. He recovered enough to go back to London and lived for 6 more years. Having stayed there, he granted that the town should be called Bognor Regis.

Billy Butlin opened a Recreation Shelter in the town on the corner of Lennox Street and the Esplanade. In 1959 he negotiated with the town council and moved from Lennox Street with its 'unsightly' funfairs and bought a 39 acre site at the east end of the Promenade. Butlins Holiday Camp (Bognor Regis) opened 2nd July 1960.

In 2000, Butlins was bought by Bourne Leisure Holidays and in 2005 The Shoreline at Bognor, an on-resort hotel opened and a 2nd one opened in 2009 -the Ocean Hotel.

Bognor Regis is a town and seaside resort in West Sussex on the south coast of England - 55.5 miles southwest of London 24 miles west of Brighton, just less than 6 miles south east of Chichester and 16 miles east of Portsmouth.