

The '75 Quiz'

As 'Heritage Hythe' is celebrating the Hythe Civic Society's 75th anniversary, albeit one year later, here are 75 questions relating to aspects of Hythe's history and heritage across eight categories.

Answers for many, but not all may be discovered in the 'Heritage Hythe' displays across the town during the event period (12-22 August) or by internet research, including links on this site for help with some of the topics.

From 27th August, the answers will be revealed on this page. This is not a competitive quiz, but if you wish to submit your answers by email to enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org clearly marked '75 Quiz' and by no later than 25th August, you may stand to win one of three 'prize bags'. These will contain a number of Society publications and informative leaflets, plus donated items from some Hythe retailers.

We hope you have fun researching and exploring Hythe's past.

Download the Quiz here

General History and Facts

1. When first formed in 1945, the Hythe Civic Society was known by what name?
Hythe Citizens Union
2. According to 'citypopulationde' the 2019 population estimate for Hythe was: A 14,454, B 41,545 or C 15,544?
C. 15,544 representing the 'Built Up Area Sub-Division'. Also from 'citypopulation.de.uk' Accept: 15,156 for Hythe Parish, or 11,479 for Hythe Ward.
3. According to Bagshaws Directory of Kent 1847 the population estimate for Hythe in 1841 was: A 1,898 or B 2,265 or C 2,707?
B. 2,265
4. Approximately how long is the Royal Military Canal which runs from Seabrook to Cliff End near Hastings?
28 miles approximately
5. According to the milestone on the Swan Hotel, in the High Street, how far is it to London?
71 miles
6. Hythe was one of five Cinque (pronounced 'sink') Ports along with which other four towns? 1 point for each.
Hastings, New Romney (or Romney), Dover and Sandwich (1 point for each)
7. When was the Military Canal completed?
1809
8. Before being named The Imperial Hotel in 1901 what was its name?
The Seabrook Hotel
9. If you were to 'Beat the Bounds' of Hythe parish, approximately how far would you walk?
15-16 miles

The High Street

10. To the nearest 5 metres, what is the approximate length of Hythe's High St which runs from Red Lion Square to the East Street roundabout?
728 metres (accept a number in the range 723 – 733 metres)
11. Which brewery, at No 1 High Street, closed in 1968 after nearly 300 years presence on the site?
Mackeson Brewery or accept Hythe Brewery as first known
12. Francis Pettit Smith of Hythe is commemorated above the High St Post Office for inventing what?
A Screw Propeller (for ships)
13. Torbay of Hythe, 81 High St, has been serving fish and chips since when?
1926. Accept also 1986 as the year it opened at No. 81 High St.
14. The Co-Op was on the corner with which other 'street' before its closure in 1982/3?
Douglas Avenue
15. Which High Street shop has carried the same name on the same site for the longest time? Is it: A. Torbay of Hythe, B. Eldridges or C. Eakins?
B. Eldridges. The name is associated with the current site going back to 1896 despite changes in ownership, although during the period 1939-1947 it may have traded as 'Land and Dove'.
16. The first Sainsbury's store in Hythe is now the premises of which High Street shop?
JC Rook and Son at No 193A High St.
17. Stead and Simpson was the last retailer at No 65 High Street to sell which items that had been continuously sold from the premises since 1893?
Boots and Shoes
18. Before becoming The Hythe Tanning Vault at 47 High Street, the premises housed which business?
HSBC as latterly known. Accept Midland Bank also.

Military Connections

19. Hythe Barracks was established in 1804 for what purpose?
As a barrack or depot for the Royal Staff Corps who had been engaged in the construction of the Military Canal and sea defences. (Note: it's been clarified that between 1804 and 1810 the RSC were barracked at Saltwood, by 1810 the Military Road barracks were built to where the RSC relocated).
20. The Hythe Firing Ranges and the Hythe School of Musketry were both established in which year?
1853
21. In which year did the Small Arms School (formerly the School of Musketry) close in Hythe and move to Warminster?
1969
22. Twiss Road is named after which military Officer who oversaw the construction of the Napoleonic defences?
Colonel William Twiss, later to become a General
23. Who was Mayor of Hythe during the First World War and raised over £2m in today's terms for a Hythe Heroes Fund?
William Cobay
24. What WW2 anti-invasion precaution was specially built and run on the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway from 1940?
An armoured train manned by troops
25. The Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway was used to transport materials for Operation "PLUTO", what did this acronym stand for?
'Pipeline Under The Ocean' or accept 'Pipeline Underwater Transportation of Oil' as sometimes used.
Supporting Operation Overlord, the Allied Invasion of Normandy
26. Part of the WW2 Exercise Harlequin in 1943 involved army manoeuvres on Hythe's Ranges, what was Exercise Harlequin?
The Army's part in a sham invasion exercise into northern France, as part of a mass deception operation designed to convince Hitler that an Allied invasion would happen at Pas de Calais.
27. In 1917 a WW1 airfield was laid out near Hythe, where was this?
Palmarsh, near Dymchurch

28. From which year does the Hythe Sound Mirror on 'The Roughs' date?
1922/23 for a 20 ft sound mirror. Accept also 1929 for a 30ft sound mirror.

Notable People

29. Who was the famous strongman that lived his last years in Hythe before his death 1949?
Monte Saldo
30. Who was the novelist that lived her last years at Carbery on Church Hill?
Elizabeth Bowen
31. Which two millionaire racing drivers created the idea of the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway?
Captain Jack Howey and Count Louis Zborowski (of Chitty Bang Bang fame)
32. Which two celebrities re-opened the RHDR line from New Romney to Dungeness in 1947?
Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy
33. Who was bass player with the Jimi Hendrix Experience who was brought up in Seabrook and Hythe, attended the local primary school and played his first public gig with his local band at the Hythe Youth Club?
Noel Redding
34. One of Hythe's residents and great benefactors, Sir Charles Cheers Wakefield, was founder of which global product?
Castrol Oil. He founded the Wakefield Oil company in 1899. He moved to Hythe in 1911.
35. Who was the Hythe resident that designed the Nuclear Disarmament symbol adopted by CND?
Gerald Holtom. His design is now widely adopted as the Peace Symbol.
36. Currently, who is the Lord Warden of The Cinque Ports and Patron of the Hythe Civic Society?
Admiral of the Fleet the Lord (Michael) Boyce
37. Lionel Lukin of Hythe invented what?
The unsinkable or self-righting lifeboat

38. HG Wells, who lived for a time in Sandgate, based his favourite novel partly on a building in Hythe's High Street. What is the full title of the book?
- Kipps: the story of a simple soul. The building is 152-156 High St, now Henry's

Sport, Recreation and Entertainment

39. Hythe Cricket Club was founded and has played cricket at its current ground (The Grove) since when?
- 1856
40. Hythe Town Football Club was founded in which year?
1910. In the early 1990s the Club was put into receivership, when Hythe United was formed. In 2001 the Club reverted back to Hythe Town FC.
41. A Hythe Lifeguard Club was formed in 1935 at a meeting in which still present 'worldly' High Street pub?
- The Globe
42. When formed in 1961, the Hythe and Saltwood Sailing Club was known by what name originally?
- The Saltwood Sailing Society
43. Hythe's Venetian Fete was first held in which year?
- 1890
44. What is the gauge of the RHDR track (Imperial measurement)?
- 15 inches
45. Over the years, since 1911 Hythe had four cinemas, can you name them? (1 point for each)
- The Picture Palace, High St (accept also the Electric Theatre), The Grove, Mount Road car park site, The Ritz, Blythe Court site (accept also its later names of the Vogue and The Classic), and The Embassy, rear of the RHDR railway coffee shop. 1 point for each (max 4pts)
46. When was the Hythe Bowling Club formed?
- 1904 (from club website) also accept 1903 as newspaper article evidence of the club in that year.
47. Which year appears on the Hythe Town Concert Band badge suggesting the year of its formation?
- 1880

Connections with the Sea

48. What were Kettle or Keddle Nets used for?
Generally to catch Herring and Mackerel. They were long nets hung vertically from tall posts sited just off the beach.
49. For what purpose was a Herring Hang used on Hythe's beach?
The drying and smoking of herring
50. Much of the town of Hythe south of the High Street originally formed a harbour, by what name was this harbour area known?
Hythe Haven
51. Stade Street leads from the town to the promenade. What is a Stade?
A Wharf, Quay or Landing Place
52. What was the name of Hythe's first RNLI lifeboat?
The Mayer de Rothschild
53. Hythe lost its last lifeboat in 1940, where?
La Panne, Dunkirk. It was abandoned on the beach during the evacuation
54. As a Cinque Port how many ships did Hythe have to provide for at least 15 days service to the King annually?
5 of the 57 fully manned ships required of all the Cinque Ports.
55. According to Myth the remains of two what were discovered behind the brickwork of a fireplace at the Bell Inn which had a smuggling reputation? Were they a) the bodies of two patrons who had not paid for their beer? b) the bodies of two unfortunate smugglers? or c) the bodies of two revenue officers?
C. The bodies of two Revenue Officers
56. In 1877 devastation was caused to Hythe by what natural event?
A great flood

Places of Worship

57. Circa which year was the first Norman church at St Leonard's built? 1080
58. In which year was the Tin Tabernacle erected? 1893
59. The Parvise is where? The room above the South Porch of St Leonard's Church
60. Where in Hythe was the Blackwose Priory until its dissolution in 1377, giving its name to the current road? Blackhouse Hill, near the top
61. According to St Leonard's Church approximately how many skulls are now said to be located in the Ossuary (part of the Crypt)? 1,200 is the latest estimate (see St Leonard's website). Along with the staked bones it is thought the number of individuals represented is some 2,000.
62. The Hythe Salvation Army Church came about in 1895 after the work of which Hythe fisherman and member of the Lifeboat crew? Wright (Toby) Griggs
63. According to 'Remember Hythe' in which years was the former Congregational Church that stood between 136 and 138 High Street erected? 1867-1868
64. Where is the Roman Catholic Church of Hythe situated? Lower Blackhouse Hill

Around and About Hythe

65. Hythe's former mainline station situated on Station Road/Blackhouse Hill closed in which year? 1951 (3 December). The line first opened in 1874
66. Spicers Grocers store was situated in Stade Street, but where would you now find 'Spicers of Hythe'? Gateshead, after moving from the Lypne Industrial estate. It specialises in online sales of luxury hampers

67. The Triangle in St Leonard's Road was originally used for what purpose? **An animal pound, now Grade 2 Listed**
68. What is Hythe's oldest residential building? **Centuries at No 1 Bartholomew St dating to C13th.**
69. Featuring on 'Classic Cafes' what colour were the Formica style covered seats in the former Four Winds Cafe on West Parade. **Turquoise. Accept also Blue or Green**
70. Samuel Plimsoll who devised the Plimsoll Line for use on ships is buried in which cemetery near Hythe? **St Martin's Cemetery, Cheriton**
71. What type of corn mill is still standing in Hythe? **A watermill, in Mill Road**
72. Where in Hythe will you find an unusual doughnut circular shaped single-storey house built 1874-1878, and what is its name? **Park Road – The Whim**
73. Who in 1035 and the year he died, was King of England and owner of the Westenhanger Estate land? **King Canute or C'nut who died in 1035 (he was succeeded by Harold Harefoot who lived until 1040).**
74. In 1920, Allied Leaders met where, near to Hythe, for a Peace Conference? **Port Lympne (or Belcaire then the home of Phillip Sassoon, MP for Hythe)**
75. And finally, which Folkestone Ice Cream company has continuously provided a service to the Hythe Seafront since 1958? **Rio's**

We hope you had some fun researching these questions and that you may have learned a little bit more about Hythe rich and fascinating past.

For entries submitted to the Civic Society and received by 23.59 on Wednesday 25 August these will be marked and prize winners notified by email. At the discretion of the 'quizmaster' half points will be awarded for partly correct answers.