



HERITAGE HYTHE

HELD AUGUST 2021



The Book of the Posters

Vol 1. The High Street

An E-book by

The Hythe Civic Society



Heritage Hythe

Held August 2021

The Book of the Posters

Volume One – The High Street

A piece of work by many society members; edited by Paul Naylor (HCS).

First published in 2022 by



Cover designs by Jessica Naylor and George Brooks.

Front cover: an illustration by Arthur Baker-Clack and reproduced with the kind permission of Hythe Town Council.

Rear cover: adapted from a postcard showing West Parade and the Four Winds Cafe.

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Dedicated to Molly Griggs

1929 - 2022

Volume 1 – The High Street

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Heritage Hythe
The Book of the Posters - in Five Volumes

Foreword

By the late Lord Boyce, Society Patron (2008-2022)

Hythe has a proud and ancient history as a leading Cinque Port and the maintenance and nourishment of its heritage over the past 75 years owes much to the establishment in 1945 of the Hythe Citizens Union - later to become Hythe Civic Society (HCS).

As a way of recognizing the 75-year milestone, it is entirely appropriate that there should be some sort of marker laid down and this e-album across five volumes of 200+ images/cameos of the town over the past couple of centuries fulfils this requirement perfectly. Browsing through the volumes, which so well captures a very wide variety of aspects in the selected slices of Hythe's history, will give pleasure to anyone with a sense of heritage, local citizen or otherwise – as well as providing an informative guide for anyone wishing to explore the town.

As Patron of the Society, it has therefore been a pleasure to have been asked to write the foreword to this set of e-books which I heartily commend; and I congratulate Paul Naylor and all those from HCS - and others - who have worked so hard to contribute to this excellent and important record.

Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce, KG, GCB, OBE, DL

Lord Boyce, who died in November 2022, had a distinguished naval career becoming Commander-in-Chief, Fleet, Commander-in-Chief Eastern Atlantic Area and Commander Naval Forces North Western Europe in the late 1990s and First Sea Lord from 1998 to 2001. He was then appointed Chief of the Defence Staff. He later became a crossbench peer in the House of Lords and was made an honorary Admiral of the Fleet in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2014.

Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL was appointed Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports in 2004. In that capacity he kindly accepted the position of Patron of Hythe Civic Society.

His foreword, prepared a few months before his death, is published posthumously as a tribute to a great man and friend of Hythe and the Society.

Hythe High Street

At approximately 727 metres long (or 795 yards if you prefer) the High Street - Red Lion Square at its western end to the East Street roundabout - is virtually a continuous run of retail, commercial and public premises, with presently a comparatively small number of ground level residential properties. There are two areas of open space – Mackeson Square at the western end and Town Square opposite the Swan Hotel. This high concentration of business premises is probably greater than the longest High Street in Kent, that of Deal which at 760 metres is slightly longer.

Several buildings date from the 15th and 16th centuries, though for some of these, such as the White Hart public house – possibly Hythe's oldest inn – their frontages date from later periods. The ancient St John's hospital almshouse, situated towards the eastern end is the High Street's oldest building.

The predominant frontage architecture dates from the 19th Century, but take a look up and gaze at the rooflines and in places you will see examples that hide their real past. For example, the building now occupied by the Obidosh shop is an example of a medieval Wealden Hall House. Naturally, there are more recent buildings where development of previous sites has occurred, some of this due to bomb and fire damage – the area around and opposite the Butt of Sherry being an example of development following WW2 bomb damage in 1940.

There are 27 Listed Building entries on the Historic England site (in several cases covering multiple current High Street property addresses). For its entire length, it is a conservation area, affording some added protection of its history and heritage. However, this status is perhaps not well understood, a project the Civic Society is working on with the local councils.

The Town Hall built in 1794, roughly at the High Street's centre, stands on the town's historic trading centre, which beforehand was the site of a market hall and open area. The market moved to what is now Red Lion Square. Market Hill, to the side of the Town Hall, is one of several ancient passageways and footways that join the High Street from the north and south. Originally, the sea was very close. However, the silting up with shingle of Hythe Haven, as it was known, from medieval times resulted in the sea's retreat over the decades and centuries that followed.

Today, the High Street is home to a large number of independent businesses, with the hospitality sector well represented. This includes six public houses (the Potting Shed micro-pub included) though at one time there were many more, as Hythe had its fair share of inns, beerhouses, hotels and of course the large Hythe/Mackeson brewery at the High Street's western end.

The pages that follow, presented North-Side and then South-Side, highlight just some of the High Street's past and the characters that traded and/or lived here and who are now part of the town's rich history and heritage. Included also, is a contribution about Hythe by David Horton (his ancestors being variously associated with the High Street) and details of all the premises from an 1837 gazetteer.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...The Brewery Malthouse

This former Malthouse (or Maltings) was part of the brewery that was situated diagonally opposite. Both were first established by James Pashley in 1669. Pashley was a man of substance, being a baron of The Cinque Ports and a canopy bearer at the coronation of King James 11 in 1685.

Circa 1741, a John Friend purchased the brewery, he was a maltster from Ashford. On his death in 1757 the business passed to his son, also John, who became related to the Mackeson family of Deal. It was in 1801 when we hear of John Friend who passed on the business to Messrs William and Henry Mackeson.

The Malthouse was once a much larger building, as the rare photograph below shows. The image is probably early 1900s and shows the Malt Kiln in situ abutting the High Street; it was demolished in the 1930s.

60. A very rare photograph of the west end of the High Street showing the full extent of the building known as the Malthouse.



Image courtesy of 'brewerypedia' the database of The Brewery History Society



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...The Brewery Malthouse

Since 1974, the Malthouse has been home to a popular antiques market. Its history is set out in 'The Malthouse Story' available on the 'malthousehythe' website.

Originally, slabbed floors (ground and upper) were covered with dry barley. This was dampened, which started a germination process that produced barley malt. The malt was then dried in the malt kiln. A wonderful aroma must have filled the town at the time.

The image below shows the dampening process in a typical malthouse.

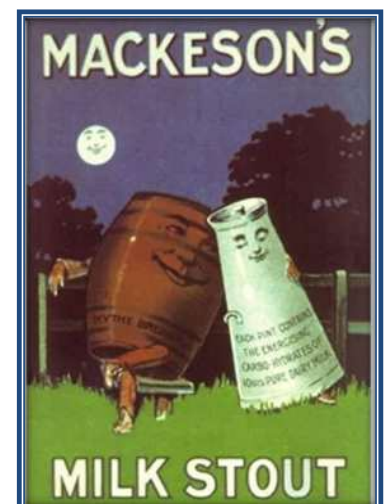


Image courtesy of 'brewerypedia' the database of The Brewery History Society

Production of malt ceased when the adjoining kiln was demolished in the 1930s. The building you see today then became a bonded warehouse for storing whisky and other alcohol.

Mackeson was famous for its Milk Stout (lactose being the unique ingredient) which is still produced and sold today, though at a lower alcohol content level.

Right: an advertising poster from the early 1900s.



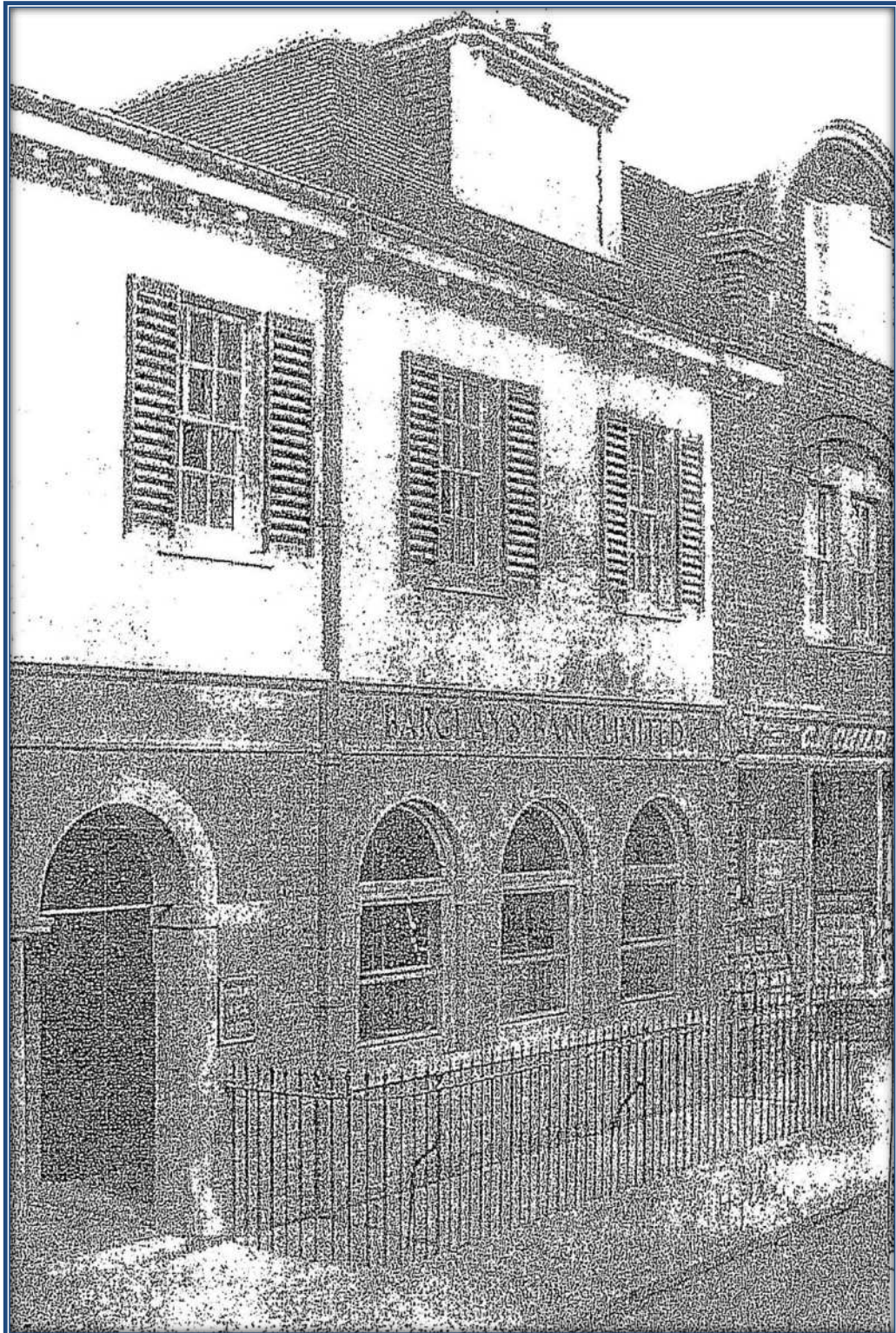


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On This Site...Home and Hobby

Barclays Bank, 1940-1968

Lloyds Bank, 1907-1923



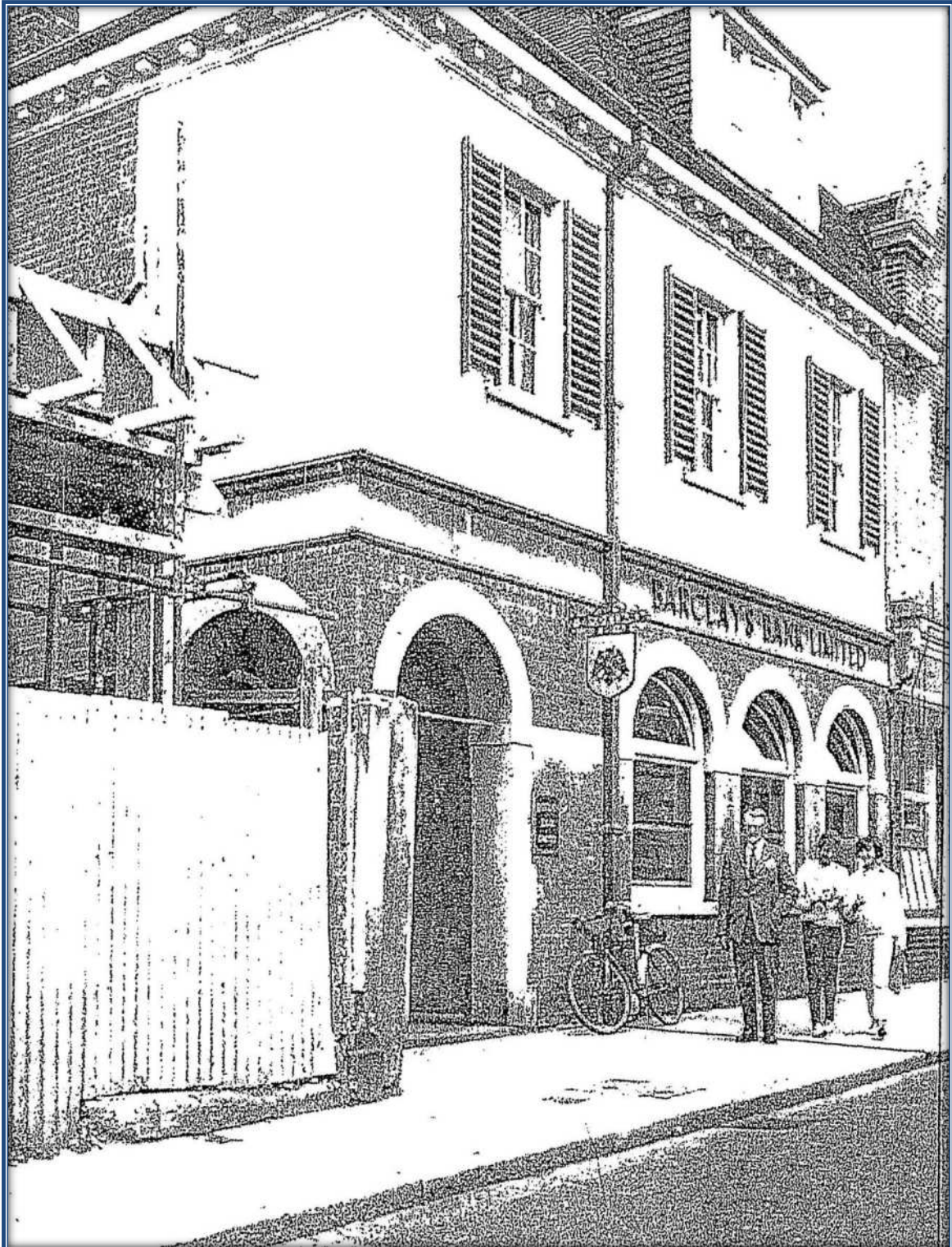


HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Home and Hobby

Barclays Bank, 1940-1968

Lloyds Bank, 1907-1923



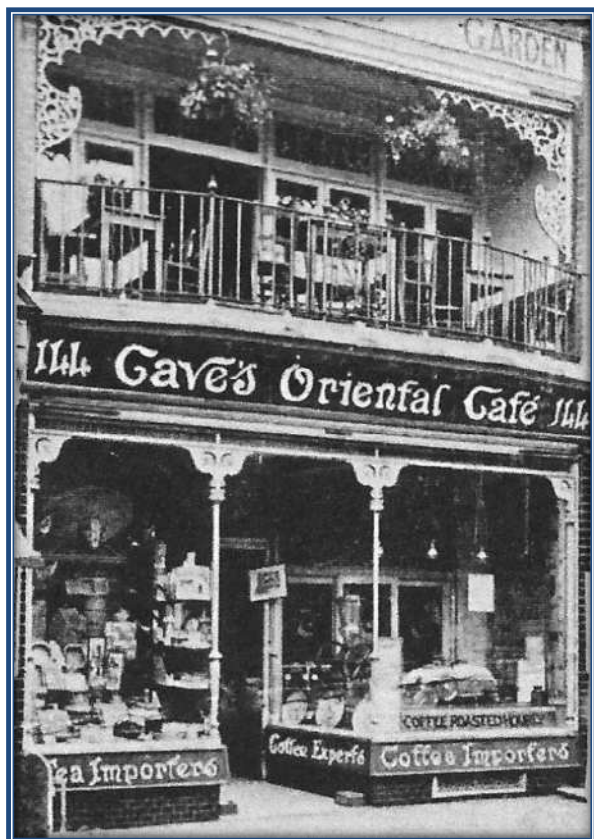


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On This Site...West end of the High Street

The buildings currently occupied by No 15 (Home and Hobby) along to No 27 (Anthony Charles Antiques) date from 1906. Previously on the site was Luton House, a large residence, the home of Dr Henry Cobb Wildash and his family.

The image on the left shows Caves Oriental Cafe (now the antique shop) circa 1906, with its fine balcony. Caves had a number of cafes in Kent and Sussex and were known for their afternoon teas with musical accompaniment. Below is an image from a similar period.



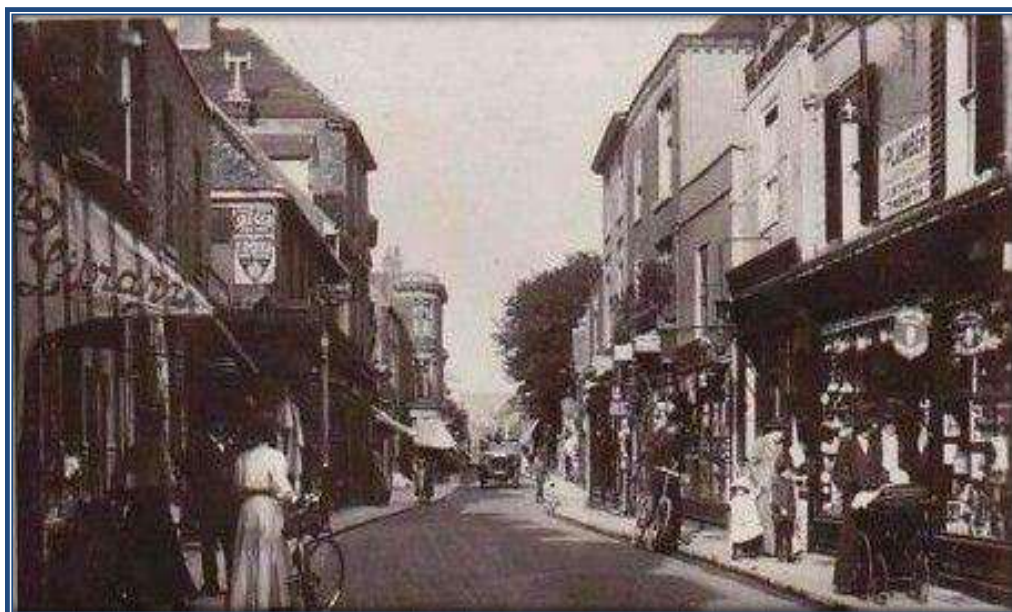


HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...West end of the High Street



Above photo postcard shows the south side of the High Street at this point more clearly. The fine shop on the right with its hanging lanterns is Lovick's stationers and booksellers, with Mr Lovick standing outside. Lovicks traded from the 1880s until 1958. Below is a later image.



Reflections on Hythe

THE HORTONS OF HYTHE – a piece by David A. Horton

Although I am not a Hythe resident, my paternal ancestors were, and since childhood I have spent many happy times in Hythe.

My great-great grandfather, Joseph Horton (a Hythe mills, collier fleet owner bringing coal to Hythe from the Durham coalfields, and High Street baker and flour/provisions proprietor – his shop being at what is now the Relate Charity Shop at No. 29) was a Hythe Green Covenant signatory (see next page for an image of the commemorative plaque).

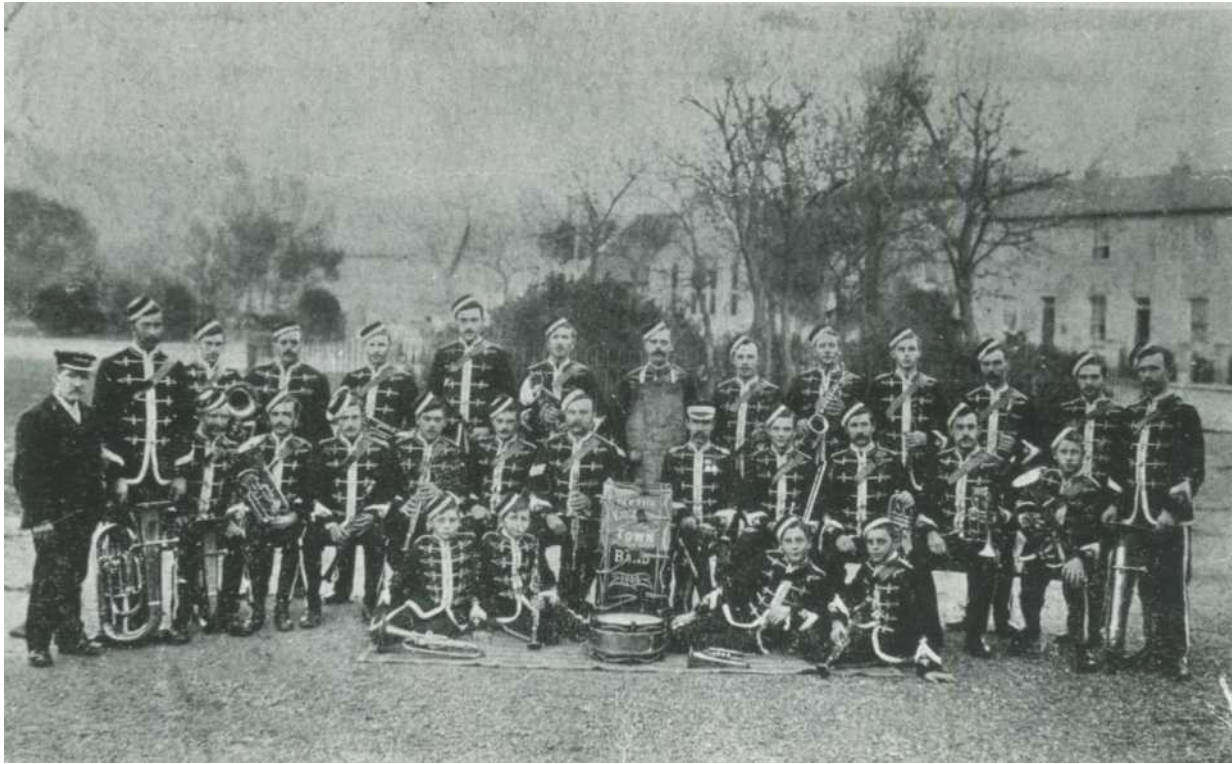
My great-grandfather Benjamin Bassett Horton was twice Mayor of Hythe, and owned Cold Harbour House, off Blackhouse Hill. My grandfather, Benjamin William and his siblings were born at Cold Harbour.

He was a photographer and took many glass plate photos of Hythe and elsewhere. Unfortunately only a small quantity remains and those of local significance have been donated to the Civic Society.

Below is one of Benjamin William Horton's photographs taken in the 1890s showing his two brothers, Alfred and Frederick, standing in front of Cold Harbour house (off what is now Blackhouse Hill and sitting below the ridge that is now home to the Sene Valley Golf Course) – HCS Archives/the Horton collection.



As a small boy I often stayed with Great-Uncle Alfred (“Uncle Fred”) in The Fairway (off South Road) at his house called ‘Cappa’, and would lie in bed, listening to the sea about 200 yards away. Like other Horton Hythe houses then, Alfred’s was crammed with Cold Harbour memorabilia, including a bison’s head in the middle of the living room – testament to a forbear’s visit to North America. Alfred was a long-serving Hythe Town Band clarinettist. I remember a 1950s Venetian Fete, standing laughing on the canal bank, while my mother tried to silence me as before our eyes the Band’s float sank with Uncle Fred, by then in his eighties, brandishing his clarinet aloft!



The Hythe Excelsior Town Band, with Alfred Horton seated in the middle row, centre left of the drum holding his clarinet. The Excelsior Band and the Hythe Band merged in 1915 to form the unified Hythe Town Band, Alfred Horton being made its first bandmaster - photograph HCS Archives

Grandfather's cousin, Frederick Bassett Horton's house in Dymchurch Road had been built by Joseph (at the rear of the property facing the Green is located the plaque which is shown below). It was a veritable museum, packed with antique firearms and stuffed birds - many regrettably Horton trophies. Abiding memories are the mothball aroma, freezing sheets, and a great bustard in a large display case in an upstairs room. A window had had to be removed and a hoist employed to install it. I still wonder how the wretched thing was removed and about its subsequent fate. Cousin Fred was passionate about Hythe, effectively fought for the Green's preservation, donated much of the memorabilia to Hythe Museum, and on his death in 1964 bequeathed a legacy to the town.





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On This Site...Nos.37-47 High Street

The High Street c. late 1950s



In this photograph (right to left):

- No.47 the former Midland Bank
- Nos.43-45 the former 'International Stores' (traded here from 1898-1973, after which the store moved to the site recently occupied by Aldi)
- No.41 former 'Dewhurst' butchers (1945-1988).
- No.37 'To Let' and previously a chiropodist

Then the High Street was 'One-Way' in the opposite direction.



HERITAGE HYTHE

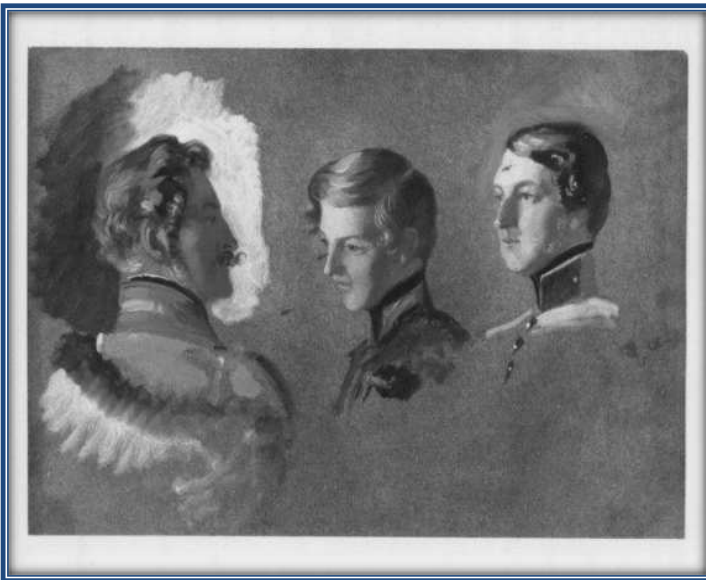
On This Site...No 59 High Street, the Swan Hotel

More on royal connections



In June 1814 allied sovereigns came to London to celebrate the defeat, abdication and exile of Napoleon Bonaparte. Tsar 1 Emperor of Russia and his wife the Duchess of Oldenburg, who had

stopped over at the Swan Hotel for refreshment were among the many sovereigns that attended the 14 day celebrations. This included a Review in London's Hyde Park. The above image is from a picture in the Royal Collection depicting the Review.



The Kentish Gazette of 15 March 1842 reported:

"On Monday evening about six o'clock, Duke Ferdinand [of Saxe Coburg] and his two sons and suite, changed horses at the "Swan Inn," on their route from Dover to Brighton. A great many persons congregated upon the occasion, anxious to get a view of them, and were not disappointed."

It is possible they had travelled to attend a 'sitting or viewing' for the artist Sir George Hayter, commissioned by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert for a painting celebrating the christening of their son. The artist's note to the above sketch, held in the Royal Collection, states: *'Their Serene Highnesses / Duke Ferdinand of Saxe Coburg, / and his sons. Augustus, and Leopold, / sketch's for the general complexion / to assist in the life size drawings. / of them, made by me at Brighton / 1842, as studies for the picture of the / Christening The Prince of Wales. G Hayter.'*



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No 59 High Street, the Swan Hotel

Below: the Swan Commercial Hotel in 1904, with the then landlord, George Elliott, standing in the doorway.



(Photo courtesy of Paul Skelton, Dover Kent Archive, a specialist Kent pub history site)

As a former coaching and posting inn, the Swan was an important stopover on the London to Folkestone/Dover ports route. It had its own stables and livery, situated opposite on what is now the town square. In 1814, the Swan hosted royalty, when Tsar Alexander 1 of Russia and the Duchess of Oldenburg stopped for tea as they were passing en route to Dover. Earlier the same day, the King of Prussia had passed through. Allied sovereign royalty had gathered in London to celebrate the Peace of Paris and the abdication and exile of Napoleon Bonaparte.

The milestone was removed during WW2 in case of a German invasion. Post war it was found on a pile of rubble (!) and reinstated.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No 59 High Street, the Swan Hotel



Above: The Swan Hotel circa 1934-37 (Mackeson/Whitbread)

Photographs: above with kind permission of Whitbread plc; below courtesy of Dover Kent Archive

Below: The Swan Hotel in the 1980s (Whitbread/Fremlins)





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.61 High Street,

Jackson's Drapers/

Stebbing's Ironmongers/SEEBOARD

Before 1975, a three-storey Victorian building had stood on this site. The image on the right shows the premises pre-1914, with its white painted upper facade.

During the period 1888-1907, the premises housed George Jackson's drapers and silk merchants.

During 1911-1918, the building was empty, before becoming 'Arcadia Pastimes' for three years until 1921.

For over 50 years, until the mid-1970s it was home to 'Stebbing Ltd', that sold furniture, glass, ironmongery and household items.



Disaster struck in 1975, when a fire broke out and razed the premises to the ground.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.61 High Street,

Jacksons Drapers/

Stebbing's Ironmongers/SEEBOARD

Fire destroys the former Stebbing's ironmongers and household store in 1975.

Subsequently, a new property was built and became the showroom and offices of SEEBOARD, seen below right in the 1980s. The building was further developed once SEEBOARD departed the town. A new shop frontage and residential flats above and to the rear of the premises were constructed.



The premises have seen a number of uses since, including a video/DVD rental and the former Hythe Auction Rooms.



Above: the completed remodelling of the premises by C Jenner and Sons.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No. 171 High Street,

The White Hart Hotel

This is one of the oldest public houses in Hythe. It was first built as a private residence in 1395, though the present facade dates from the late C17th. Some original internal features remain in place.

In 1475 it became an inn, when purchased by Francis Burley, a fisherman and ale house keeper, and became the "Whytte Harte".



In 1670 the owner and landlord, John Bassett, was licenced to issue his own coin tokens as small change, due to a shortage of official coinage. Above image is of a rare *'Jon Bassett halfpenny token'* dated 1670, sold in 2015, with the wording *'Hythe in Kent'* and *'Bassett Halfpenny'*, also displaying the Grocers Arms.



Moving on to more recent times, the novelist Elizabeth Bowen (1899 - 1973) was twice a resident of Hythe. In her last years she lived at 'Carbery' on Church Hill. She was a frequent visitor to the White Hart.

In some of her novels and short stories, she used Folkestone and Hythe as settings, referring to Hythe as *'Seale'*.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No. 171 High Street

The White Hart Hotel



Above: the White Hart and a view of the High Street circa 1912-1914. Mrs Julia Cobay was the landlady at the time.

Parked outside the Town Hall is a Pullman Motor Charabanc of the type used on the *Folkestone - Sandgate - Hythe* route. These charabancs were built at Maltby's works in Sandgate from 1912.

Beyond the White Hart is: Edwards' bakery - the premises became Crunden's greengrocers circa 1924 - Wood's pork butchers (with customers queuing outside) and Freeman Hardy Willis' shoe shop with the awning. It looks a fine, but chilly day.

Below: one of the Pullman charabancs of the same era.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On this site...No 171 High Street,

The White Hart Hotel



In the late C18th and early C19th the White Hart became a commercial and posting inn - a hotel and mail coach staging post where horses would be changed - advertising the luxury of a *'hip and bath shower'*. In this time the inn passed from the Bassett family, to the Deedes family, and then later to the Cobay family. Heads of these families became Mayors of Hythe several times over.

Over the years a number of notable guests have stayed at the White Hart, including Jim Mollinson and Tommy Rose, famous aviators of the 1920s-40s. Mollinson is pictured above. He and Rose stayed on 23 March 1932, before making a record flight from Lympne Airfield to Cape Town in 4 days 17hrs and 30mins. The following year, Mollinson married Amy Johnson.

Further information about the flight is available from 'The Friends of Lympne Airfield' website.



Left: the White Hart Hotel circa 1934-37, much as it would have been when Mollinson and Rose stayed in 1932. Then the landlady was Mrs Humphreys.

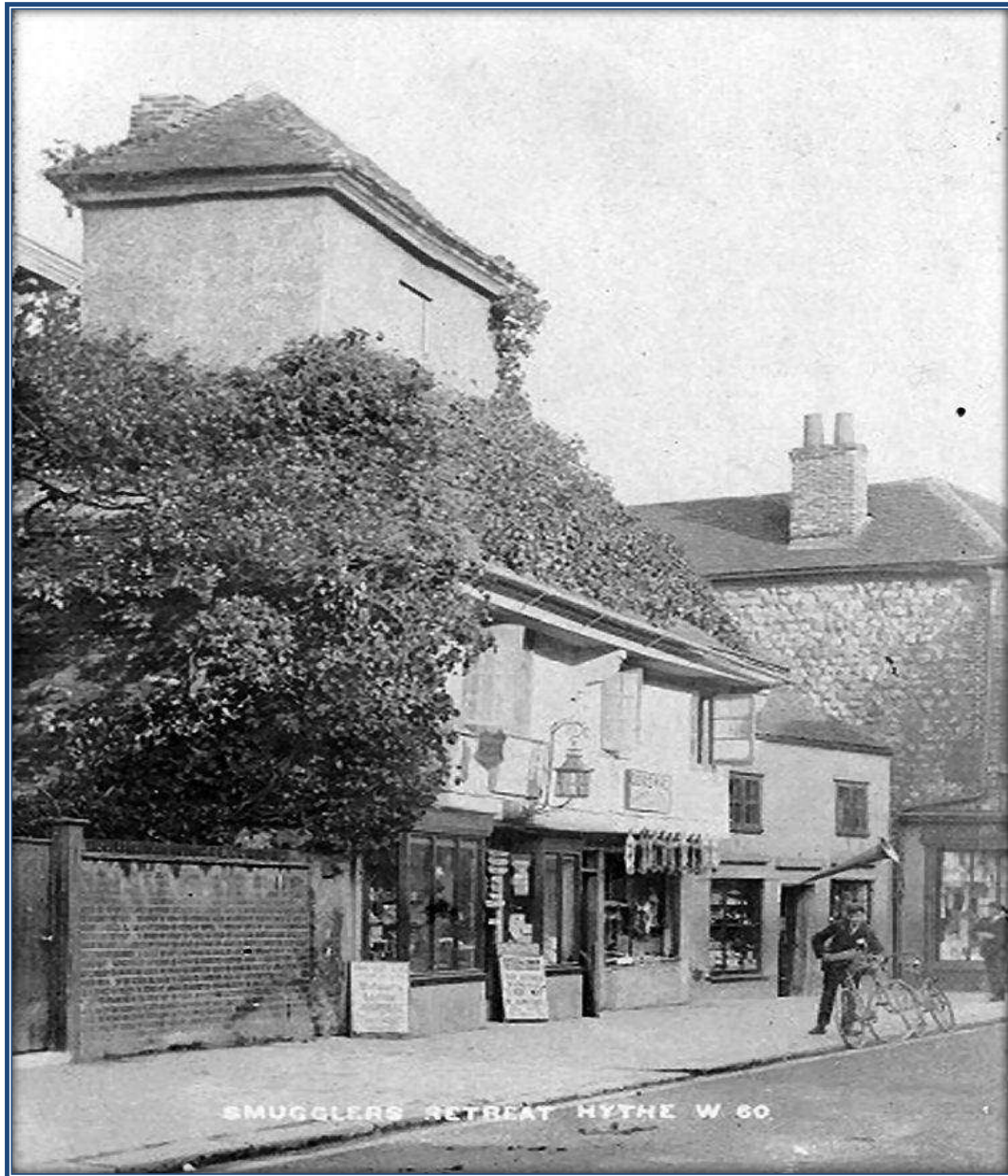
(image is with the kind permission of Whitbread plc).



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos 81-85 High Street,

'Ye Olde Smugglers' Retreat'



This photograph is circa 1905. Dating back to the C16th the premises shown were demolished in 1907 when dilapidated and unsafe. The Smugglers' Retreat, an old inn frequented by smugglers, had closed long before. It is said a lantern was lit in the top window as a guide to assist the safe landing of booty. The large horn above the door of the adjoining shop was a promotional feature for Snashall's toy depository.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos 81-85 High Street,

'Ye Olde Smugglers' Retreat



This photograph is circa 1906. In the centre, it shows the former 'Smugglers' Retreat' then as a newsagents, tobacconists and tea room. To the right is George Wire's Fishmongers, previously 'Griggs' fishmongers.

A sign above the newsagents advertises viewings of the *'Olde Smugglers' Retreat'* rooms for 3d per person. The news placards publicise *'Kent's Huge Score and Splendid Batting'*. Kent became county champions for the first time in 1906, with Frank Woolley making his debut that year. Flags are flying across the High Street, possibly celebrating Hythe Cricket Week.

To the left of the 'Retreat' is the London and County Bank (LCB) present on that site from 1887. In 1920 the LCB merged with the Westminster Bank, before becoming the National Westminster Bank in 1969.



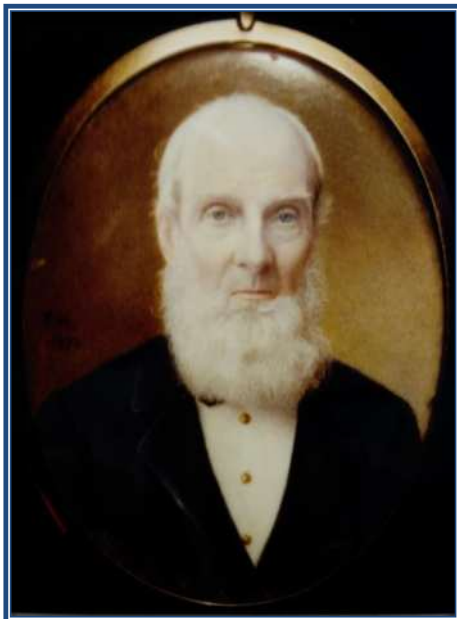
HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos. 87-89 High Street,

Eldridge's (1)



Above: Eldridge's drapers circa 1900. George Eldridge acquired the shop in 1896, previously Lorden's drapers, but it had been a drapers for many years prior to that.



Alfred Bull (pictured left) established his drapers shop here circa 1844 having acquired the leases of two separate shops on the site (also drapers). He then acquired the freeholds and created a single shop.

At the age of 75, Bull unexpectedly inherited a fortune (£10million in today's money). He turned to philanthropy as a result.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos. 87-89 High Street,

Eldridge's (2)



A view of the High Street circa 1906, with Eldridge's in the centre. A private house stood on its right. This later became a creamery. Eldridge's expanded into those premises circa 1960. To the left of the shop is 'Bull Passage' taking its name from Alfred Bull.



Bull's unexpected fortune in later life partly paid for the construction of the Hythe Institute, a large building on Prospect Road, which included a theatre. It was demolished for road widening purposes in 1968.

Right: above - the Hythe Institute and below - its foundation stone bearing Bull's name.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos.95-97 High Street

'Timothy Whites' Household Store



'Timothy Whites and Taylors' - a chemist and hardware store - was present on this site from 1939 until circa 1962. *'Boots the Chemists'* then moved to this location from its store previously at No.29 High Street.

The photograph shows *'Timothy Whites'* Household Store in the late 1950s, displaying some of the latest appliances at the time, including 'Valor' paraffin heaters.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.103a High Street,

Wilberforce Temperance Hotel (then No. 113),

J. Sainsbury's Store.

The current use of the premises as a butcher's shop has connections to this site's past.

In 1891-92 a Frank White, who established his first butcher's shop at the old Smuggler's Retreat (on the site of what is now 'Torbay of Hythe Fish and Chips') then ventured to establish *'The Wilberforce Temperance Hotel'* on this site, which previously was a private residence. As its name suggests, the hotel did not serve alcohol, White being a supporter of the temperance movement's principles. Back then, alcohol consumption was a very significant social issue.



White's wife, Clara was the proprietor.

Above: a postcard image showing the hotel; possibly the lady in the doorway is Clara White. Right: a typical advert for the Hotel regularly placed in the local newspaper.

Rigden £1 1s., Mr. G. Bailey £1 1s., Mr. H. Manning 10s. 6d.

THE WILBERFORCE TEMPERANCE HOTEL
113, High street, Hythe. Proprietress C. White. Dinners, teas, light and other refreshments can be provided at this establishment. Visitors will find it conveniently situated in the High street. Large parties catered for. 4584.

THE MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.103a High Street,

Wilberforce Temperance Hotel (then No. 113),

J. Sainsbury's Store.

Frank White, who established the Wilberforce Temperance Hotel on this site in 1891-92, was an interesting character. He was a committed 'republican' and a supporter of better social conditions for the poor. He founded the Hythe Liberal and Radical Association. However, he was not altogether successful and in later life became bankrupt. Soon after coming to Hythe in 1888, he established a butcher's shop further along from this site selling the finest of meats (*advert right*). Newspaper images copyright The British Library Board. All rights reserved. With thanks to The British Newspaper Archive (www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk).

grant the necessary connection.

Hythe.

For fine choice meat of the very best description, Mr. Frank White, Butcher High Street, Hythe, promises to carry off the palm in this year's Christmas show. The spacious and handsome premises will show off his judicious purchases to great advantage which include five horned Scots, Caledonian Market; two very large steers from Caterham Market, five steers from Ashford, three purchased from the Newing Green sale, five splendid Down sheep from Caterham Market, ten sheep purchased from the Newing Green sale, twenty-five sheep from the Ashford Cattle Show. The Welsh mutton and Scotch beef are particularly fine specimens. Mr. White has in addition some superior pork; indeed, for prime quality, there is not a better show in East Kent.

Cheriton.

Complaints are made of the dirty state of

The premises remained as a temperance hotel until the early 1930s, when the building was demolished and replaced with a new J. Sainsbury's shop (*right*). Sainsbury's remained until 1972. J.C Rook has been on this site since 1974.



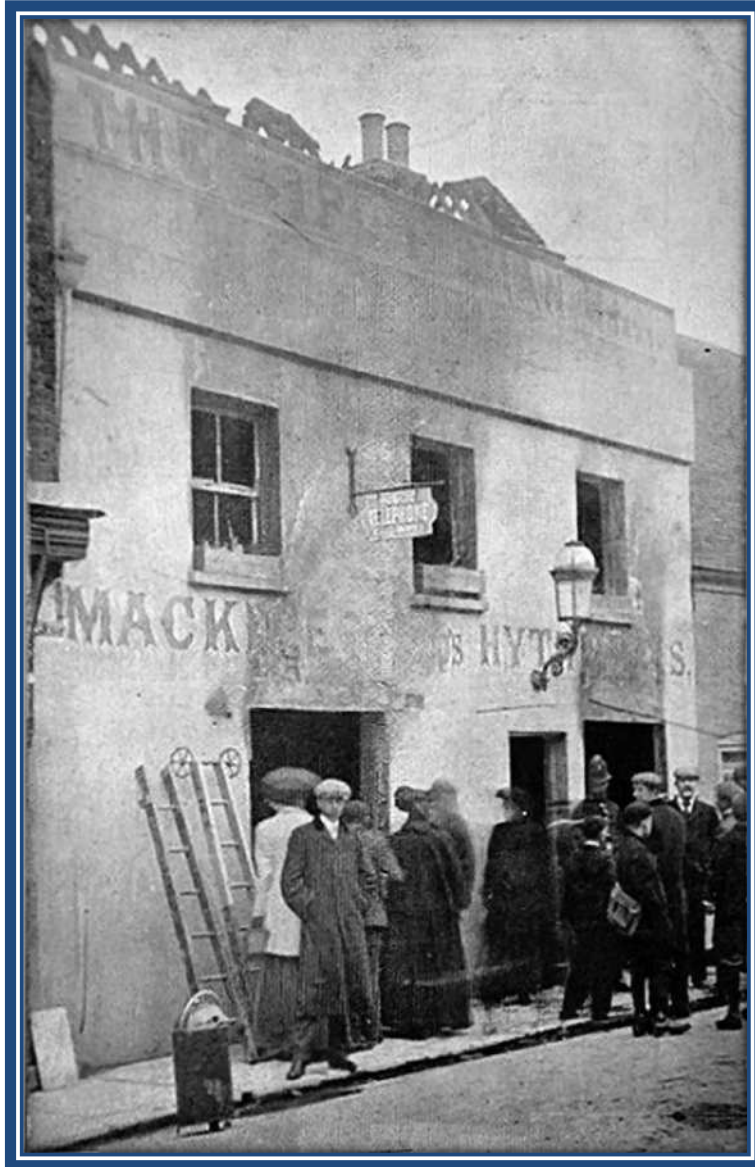
Image courtesy of 'The Sainsbury's Archive, Museum of London Docklands'



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.107 High Street,

The Sportsman, the Picture Palace and the Arcade



Dating from circa 1850s the Sportsman was a Mackeson public house, present on this site until it was destroyed by fire on 2 June 1907 - landlord then was a Mr D Kemp. The above photograph is from the Folkestone and Hythe Herald showing the pub following the fire.

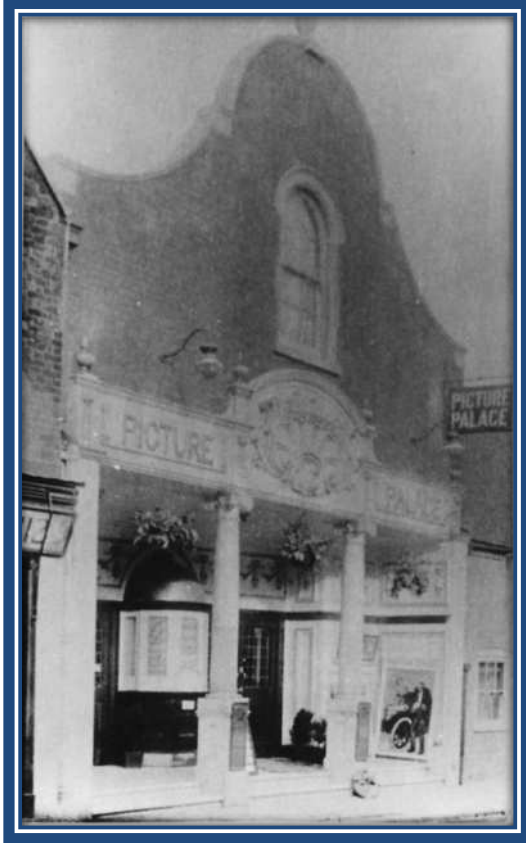
A previous landlord (until 1903) Edward Munds was prominent in local cricket and was the groundsman for Hythe Cricket Club. Two of his sons, Arthur and Raymond, played cricket for Kent CC.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No. 107 High Street,

The Sportsman, the Picture Palace and the



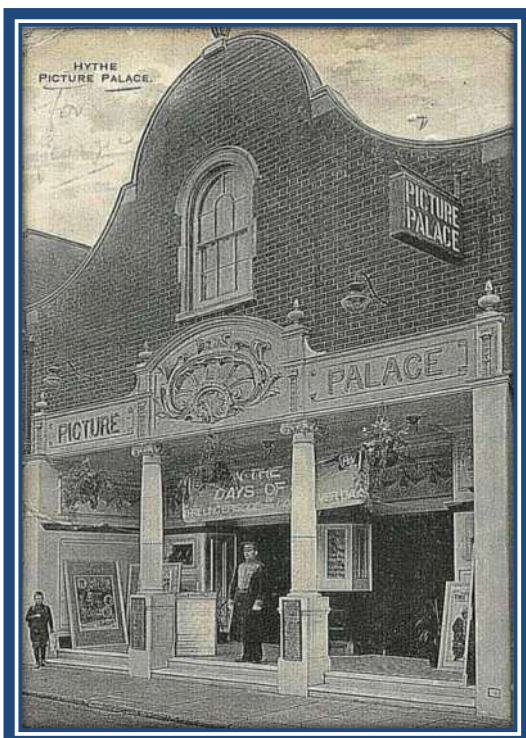
After the 1907 fire which destroyed the public house, the site was sold at auction in February 1909. Hythe's first cinema (or electric theatre as then known) was built on the site and opened in 1911. On the left is a photograph circa 1911-14, showing the box office facing the street. It had a capacity of circa 450 seats.

The Picture Palace was a popular venue, particularly with Canadian soldiers during the First World War – 40,000 arrived in February 1915 alone, being stationed at the Shorncliffe military training base and camps surrounding Hythe.

It closed in 1927 with the opening of a new cinema, the Grove, situated on what is now the former Aldi site and present car park.

The Picture Palace was demolished and a parade of ten shops built, called the Arcade, which opened in 1928.

On the afternoon of 4 October 1940, the Arcade was hit by a German bomb, causing its total destruction and the loss of three lives.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.107 High Street, The Sportsman, the Picture Palace and the Arcade



Bomb Damage 4th October 1940

Extract from 'WW2 People's War' – Memories of Jessie Trott of Hythe, as recounted by her daughter and contributed in 2005, gathered by the BBC.

"A bomb also fell in St Leonard's Churchyard and shops in the Arcade and Prospect Road were destroyed with loss of life. I was then called up to war work in London. In order to get home to see my parents I needed a pass and the police were always at the station checking."

Afterword from Jessie's daughter (Emily Trott).

"I was born in 1948 and clearly remember the bombsite in the centre of the High Street. I used to play on it whilst my mother was shopping in Sainsbury's which used to be next door. There was a flight of steps at the back as I remember and it was covered in buddleia. This was not built on until the late 1950s or early 60s when a small parade of shops was erected there."



HERITAGE HYTHE

**On This Site...No 117 High Street,
The King's Head**



Photograph with the kind permission of Whitbread plc

Here we see the 'King's Head' in the period circa 1934-37, one of many Mackeson/Whitbread public houses in the town. At that time its landlord was William Joseph Gravener (publican 1915-1940).

This site has a long history as a public house from when it was first established as a coaching inn in 1583. Then it was known as 'The George', retaining this name until 1714, when it became 'The Sun', giving its name to Sun Lane just opposite. Its current name was adopted in 1750.

Is this a haunted pub? Allegedly, spiritual manifestations of a former cleaner of the King's Head, Catherine Scothers who died in 1897 and who is buried in St Leonard churchyard, have been experienced.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No 117 High Street,

The King's Head



Photographs are with the kind permission of the Maidstone Museum

The top photograph shows the High Street looking west towards the Kings Head (on the right).

Also shown in the right foreground is Henry Sisk's 'Old Curiosity Shop' that sold Antiques, China, Glass etc.



The bottom photograph looks eastwards, with the King's Head on the left. In the left foreground is a drapers shop, and on the right is Sun Lane with Inge's ladies outfitters and milliners on the corner with the High Street.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site No. 125 High Street

1913 – 1947 Henry Sisk's Old Curiosity Shop





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...High Street - East End,

Spring House and the Providence Beerhouse



Above image, is circa 1870 and shows cottages in a poor state of repair, which approximately were situated on what is now the site of Bitzer's Pet Store and 'The Shed' going east.

Beyond the boundary wall at the far end stood 'Spring House', at the time the premises of Finnis and Ronalds, livestock and property auctioneers - approximately on the site of what is now 'Hythe Bay Financial' and 'Cyclefixit'. Spring House had been the home of George Finnis (auctioneer and several times a Mayor of Hythe).

ROMNEY MARSH SHEEP.
TO BE SOLD BY AUCTION,
By FINNIS and RONALDS,
On Tuesday, 12th September next, on the LAND
near the Town of New Romney.
THE whole of the valuable, and well-selected
GRAZING STOCK of the late JOHN WAL-
LEN, Esq. deceased, consisting of about 136 Ewes,
81 Ewe and Wether Tags, and 158 Lambs, two
Milch Cows, one Barren Cow, and one Calf.
The sheep will be put up in small Lots for the
convenience of Purchasers, and the sale commence
precisely at twelve o'clock.
On the same day, and on Land adjoining, Messrs
FINNIS and RONALDS, will offer for Sale
by Public Auction,
One Hundred and Twenty-five Ewes, 100 fat We-
thers, 200 Wether Lambs, 2 Barren Cows, 1 Hei-
fer, forward in calf, 8 Country-bred Steers, and 3
Welsh Steers, the property of a Gentleman leav-
ing Land,
24th Aug. 1826.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...High Street - East End,

Spring House and the Providence Beerhouse



Above: the east end of the High Street circa 1966-1968.

On the right, Wyards 'library' and stationers can be seen, part of a parade that is called 'Spring House', taking its name from the property that was once present on the site.

The premise nearest on the right (then a shop named 'Gemini') was once the 'Providence' beerhouse". The lane beside the property is Providence Lane and part of the property is now called Providence House.

The beerhouse was present in the mid-1800s until circa 1911. Beerhouses differed from public houses as they were licensed to sell ale only, and generally operated from private residences with a single and plain serving room; tables and chairs were not permitted.



HERITAGE HYTHE

**On This Site...No.147 High Street,
The Cinque Ports Arms**



Image courtesy of Whitbread plc

Above, the Cinque Ports Arms circa 1934-37, one of a number of Whitbread Mackeson public houses in Hythe at that time. The Cinque Ports Arms first opened in the 1880s and continued until its closure in 1961. Frequented by smugglers and local fisherman it was a quirky pub in its time, with a stuffed two-headed lamb in a glass case on the bar. Several of Hythe's pubs were linked to the smuggling business, which included the notorious 'Aldington Gang'.

To the right is Dove's boot repair shop, possibly the smallest shop on the High Street at that time. Doves closed circa 1947. To the left is Manning's ironmongers, which traded on the premises from the 1880s through to the late 1940s/early 50s.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.147 High Street,

The Cinque Ports Arms

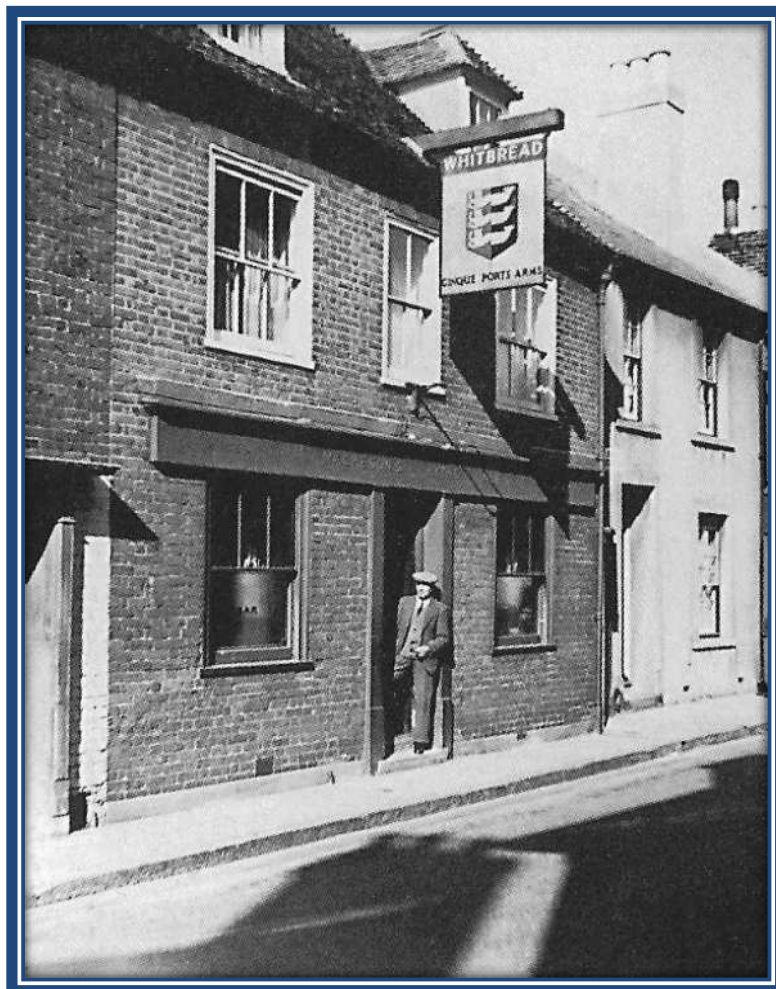


Image courtesy Melville and Johnson – 'Pocket Images of Hythe'

Above is a later post war image of the Cinque Ports Arms. The gentleman at the doorway might be the landlord at the time, Edgar Charles Flack.

Though it is not clear from the angle of the photograph, it is possible that Dove's boot repair shop was not present, as it closed in 1947.

Note, the hanging inn sign confirms the post-war timing of the photograph. Whitbread inn signs of this type were produced from the late 1940s, being hand-painted by their skilled sign painters at the Watlingbury brewery, near Maidstone.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos. 151-153 High Street

Shops here in the mid-1960s



In this photograph (right to left):

No 153: Jack Adams – photographer in the town from 1954. Photographers had been at this address since “Windsor Studios (Charles Aldridge)” in 1907.

No 153a: East Hythe Post Office – formerly at this address since 1928.

No 151: John H Carmichael – greengrocer of Hythe 1956-1976. To the left of Carmichael's is Robson's solicitors - the premises formerly the 'Cinque Port Arms' and before that in the 1830's the 'Chance Inn'.

Extract from Hythe Gazette of 1930 in possession of Mfs. Gardner Waterman.
HYTHE HIGH STREET IN 1837.

These lines will bring back to their minds the old cobbles stones with which the High Street was paved, the departure and arrival of the London coach and later on the old Westenhanger bus, the old cattle market and the corn market in the Town Hall, the fun and horseplay at the Parliamentary elections, when it was all open voting and the votes were all recorded under the Town Hall, the barges which used to ply regularly between Hythe and Romney Marsh, and the old inns with the chimney corner.

They will recall the appearance of the town when half a dozen houses constituted the only residences on the sea front, and when Twiss Fort formed the end of the Parade with its flagstaff, *cheveaux de frise*, and its battery of guns. They will picture Garret's Lane, now Bank Street, Stade Street with a few scattered houses, Park Road area, then a field, no Coastguard Station, Hardway's end where the National Schools and Corporation Yard now stand, a narrow little bridge which did duty as a town bridge, Duke's Head Bridge and Bell Bridge, the miserable pavements and mud and slush everywhere.

Householders were supplied with water by pipes (or Conduits as they were called) one at No. 1 High Street, another where the Lloyd's Bank is, another near Mr. Price's the Grocer, and others. The biggest one was at the corner of the old Wine Vaults, owned then by Mr. Duckworth. Called the Great Conduit, from this we get Great Conduit Street. The older inhabitants will recollect the stream which emerged from the East end of the School of Musketry, and rippled onwards towards the new malthouse, crossing the road way in front of the Red Lion, and over which was then West Bridge. The stream then flowed onwards towards Mr. Hogben's forge in Chapel Street (now demolished) and emerged again and passed at the back of the Wesleyan Chapel and thence past Mr. Shiphem's at Paddock House before the new wing was added and by the back of the present Avenue Terrace and along the side of the wall at the back of the present Douglas Avenue on its way under the road near Eastbridge House, so named because of the bridge which crossed the stream, and round the row of whitewashed houses long since pulled down to make room for Eastbridge House, until it joined the millstream. Years before this the stream ran over the road until a Member for Hythe built the Eastbridge as a bribe for returning him to Parliament. Many will remember the pleasant walk from Paddock House along the pathway across the fields at the side of this stream and the swing gates through which they had to pass.

High Street

1. John Clarke, Grocer, now Mr. Willmore. Mrs. Willmore is the Granddaughter of Mr. Clarke.
2. Eliza Back, Milliner, (the late Mr. Back's Mother) now Mrs. Elgar.
3. John Cocks, painter and Clerk of the Market. It is now the Globe Inn but it was a private residence at that time.
4. William Reynolds, baker (Mrs. Tomsett's father, now W.J. Cowell).
5. John Raveller general shop, house pulled down and two others erected on the site.
6. Thos. Boorn, saddler and ropemaker, now J. Ashtown and Sons. Established 1770.
7. Mark Turner, sweet shop, now Dray and Co. Cycle dealers.
8. John Smith, butcher, accidentally killed one Christmas Day by running a meat hook into his eye. His predecessor was the late Mr. R.J. Back's father, who was also killed near Sellindge whilst returning from Ashford Market by being knocked down by a pony with which he was racing.

10. This was at one time the Post Office and Mr. Thomas Fisher was the postmaster. Now the Oak Inn.
11. Jas Page, carpenter, now Harmer and Co.
12. Was Robertson, draper now Harmer and Co.
13. Jas Horne (of Cocks and Horne) auctioneer, now C. Duruz.
14. William Gilbert, bootmaker, now London Meat Co.
15. William Marsh, chemist and independent preacher, now John C. Cole.
16. Mr. Shaw, solicitor, now J. Lovick and Sons.
17. John Tucker (the late Joseph Tucker's father) the Rose and Crown, now E. Ellis.
18. Wm. Brunger, baker, now a private house.
19. Tom Marshall Jnr., butcher, premises demolished and rebuilt. Mr. G.L. Court now T. Medcraft.
20. Robert Bailey, plumber etc., (the late Mr. George Bailey's father; now H.B. Hodgson).
21. Wm. Bassett, bootmaker, now ~~W. Griggs~~ (W. Snoad.) ?
22. Richard Baker, basketmaker, now W. Lee and Sons.
23. Henry Hudson, cornfactor premises, pulled down and rebuilt by Mr. H. Lee, tobacconist.
24. Mr. Thorpe, tailor, now Mr. H. Lee.
25. Jas Thomas, chemist, brother of the late Miss Thomas of Park Rd., now G. Burch.
26. Jas Pankhurst, baker, now G. Burch.
27. George Martin, tailor, now W. Griggs. (W. Snoad) ?
28. Robert Peel, fellmonger, tawer and glover, now Alf Richards.
29. The Bank Buildings. Built about 1845. Previously Mr. Wheeler, Wesleyan minister and a Miss Sarah Buckle lived in houses here which stood halfway across present Bank Street. Here was the entrance to Garrett's Lane, now Bank Street.
30. Thomas Garrett, baker, now Mr. Sharpe, baker.
31. Rebecca Ashdown, bootmaker, (Mrs. Tomsett's mother), now Leytone & Co.
32. Thomas Gilbert, watchmaker, now B. Ninnis.
33. Jas Driscoll, bootmaker, now Swan Hotel harness room.
- 33&34 Edward Sedgwick, Clerk of the Peace and Town Clerk, now Dr. Murdoch. Previous to Mr. Sedgwick, the late Mr. William Tourney's father lived here.
35. Jas Brittender, baker, rebuilt now occupied by Leytone & Co.
36. William Tiffin (late Mr. John Stokes Uncle). Rebuilt now J & J.J. Brocke.
37. John Page, grocer, now Dan West.
38. Jane Pawley, day school. Rebuilt now F. Longley, fruiterer.
39. Mr. Jacky Myers now Mr. W. Maycock. Greengrocer and afterwards at 126 opposite.
40. John Leeds, grocer. Rebuilt now Messrs. Cobay Bros. Mr. G.L. Court's father was assistant to Mr. Leeds whose business he bought and transferred to J. Lovick (16
41. Eliza McLean, private school, rebuilt now Walter & Son.
42. Phillips Monypenny (seven time Mayor of Hythe), a private house now R. Lemmon.
43. Thomas Marshall, butcher, now Axtell and Short.
- 44&45 Wm. Shipwash, tailor and outfitter, now T. Fordred and W. Day.
46. Richard Keeler, baker, now Walter his son lives here.
47. Robert Down, carpenter and campanologist, now C. Capon.
48. Miss Hart, private house, now A. Longley.
49. Mrs. Mary Rayner, private house (the late Mr. John Rayner's aunt.)
50. Mr. Dangerfield, solicitor, now Axtell and Short.
51. Thomas Caister & Sons, grocers, now C.W.R. Eldridge.
52. William Marshall, coal merchant, now H. Barnett.
53. Mr. Jas Watts (Shaftesbury House) now Rowlstone & Co.
54. Mr. Knott's coach office, premises rebuilt, now Mr. G.S. Wilks office.
55. Wm. Conley (Mr. John Conley's uncle) now Sharp's Creamery.
56. Mrs. World, private house, now E. Blunden.
57. Mrs. Pope, cowkeeper, now Mrs. Cloake.
58. Mr. Cocks, private house, now Mrs. Dowker.

59. Silvester Eastes (father of Dr. Eastes, Folkestone), ironmonger, now Godden & Sons.
60. Thomas Hole, now Harry Wighton.
- 61&62 Miss Joliffe, dressmaker, now T. Chester (private house) and Mr. P.T. Dray.
63. Henry Elgar, hairdresser and town crier, later D. Hyam, now T. Bear's toilet saloon.
64. Wm. Marshall, now W. Lorden.
65. Morris, baker, now B.B. Baker. Next was Walnut Tree Yard, now Congregational Church.
66. Wm. Durden, bootmaker, now the Misses Lorden. National School stood next to this. The name of the master was William Vile, his wife was schoolmistress. The ground is now occupied by the Walnut Tree Stables (not the Yard previously mentioned).
68. Chas Horton, now H.W. Wood.
69. Tom Marshall senior's private house, now T. Caister.
71. Mr. Burgess, Parish Church organist, now T. Cooper.
72. St. John's Hospital.
73. Charles Chamberlain, bricklayer, son of the old parish clerk.
74. Mr. Boorn, now J.E. Chittenden.
75. Mr. Philpott labourer now Mr. Wratton.
79. Alexander Douglas and Lady Rachel Douglas, house demolished. Stood at North end of Douglas Avenue.
81. Captain Frampton, private house.
82. Mr. Ovenden, carrier. Daughter married late Mr. Henry Usher and took over carrier.
83. Jos Chappell, shoemaker lived next door. Both houses pulled down and one built on site, occupied by Mr. Alfred Usher.
87. First house on North side of High Street. Mr. Paine, Mr. John Conley's uncle private house, now Mr. Bushell.
88. Mr. Mills, excise officer, now Richard Constable.
89. Mr. Hyder, grocer, previously landlord of Bell Inn.
90. Lawrence Eastes, painter and plumber, (uncle to Mr. Eastes, Folkestone) now Miss Gardner.
91. Mr. Pilcher. 'The Chance' now 'The Cinque Ports Arms'.
92. Thomas Shrewsbury, printer, now Mrs. Manning. Apprenticed to and bought Mr. Tiffins. Many years only printer in Hythe.
93. Nathaniel Lade, baker, now Wm. Burgess.
94. George Finnis, several years Mayor of Hythe. Brother Leonard was Mayor of London. Another brother was killed at Meerut in 1897.
95. Mrs. Reely, dressmaker.
96. Mr. Stringer, bricklayer.
97. Mr. Marriage (father of late Harry Marriage).
99. Thomas Uden, bootmaker and bird fancier.
101. Thomas Ward, bookbinder, demolished and new house by late Rev. Valentine Ward, now Stanley House.
102. Mrs. Allen, grocer.
103. Mr. Wiles (late Miss Burgess's grandfather).
106. Henry Stokes 'King's Head' now T. Richards.
107. Wm. Beadle leathercutter, business now carried on by son.
110. Mr. Sissons, now South Coast Dairy.
111. Wm. Gardner, grocer (Miss Gardner's father) now 'The Sportsman'.
112. Mr. Reynolds (of Finnis and Reynolds), auctioneer. His son later lived where Cobay Brothers live now. Now Coronation Tea Rooms.
113. Mr. Rayner, many years President of Hythe Liberal Party. Father of late John Rayner of Saltwood. Now Wilberforce Temperance Hotel.
114. Mr. Barber, carpenter (John Barber's father). Now Mr. Davidson.
115. Edward Ashdown, tailor, now Doctors Hackney and Davis's surgery. Mr. Ashdown later moved next to Swan Hotel.

116. Rev. E. Biron, Curate at Parish Church. Father of Rev. E. Biron, Lympe, who was born in this house in 1835.
117. Mr. Chas Fagg, Junour ~~xxx~~ surgeon, now F. Beaney.
118. John Friend (Mr. J.D. Friend's grandfather), campanologist and Supt. of Borough Police. Sole Constable in Hythe at that time.
119. Edward Stillman, draper, afterwards Mr. Collier, Mr. Alfred Bull, who built the Institute, Mr. Lorden, and now Mr. Eldridge.
- 120-122. These premises were demolished last year and the present Smugglers' Retreat built on the site. In No. 120 lived Mr. Hole, fishmonger and Greengrocer, now R. Neve. No. 121 was occupied by Daniel Dane, butcher. No. 122 was the Old Smugglers' Retreat inhabited by Jas Begent, bootmaker. Now Stahan's Library.
123. Chas Fagg Snr., surgeon, now London and County Bank.
125. John Hills, 'White Hart' Hotel.
126. John Myers, fruiterer and chimneysweep, now George Edwards. Myers was the tallest man in Hythe.
127. James Kennett, Tailor.
128. ~~James~~ James and Stephen Gibbons, ironmongers, now Freeman Hardy and Willis.
129. Brockman and Watts, attorneys and clerks to the magistrates. Now the Post Office.
130. Tritton and Sons, drapers, now Mrs. G. Jackson.
131. George Pilcher, landlord 'Swan Hotel', now George Elliot.
- 132-3 James Hope, hairdresser, premises demolished, now Victoria Restaurant & Mrs. Studle
134. Mrs. Plank, now J.B. Munn. 9
135. Mr. Hilton, grocer, now R. Price.
136. George Jenkins, hatter, now Kinosford and Drake.
137. John Roger Fryer, grocer, now International Stores.
138. Edward Hussey, saddler, now J.C. Savage.
140. Thomas Wood, carpenter, (father of Rev. T. Wood, St. John's Clerkenwell) now H. Williams.
- 141-2 The Old Post Office, Charles Smith, postmaster, now W. Bushell. Smith's son invented the Archimedean Screw, for which use the Government allowed him £700 per an
143. Joseph Horton, baker, Mr. William Horton's father, now S.A. Crunden.
144. (Luton House) Scrope Hutchinson and James Le, surgeons, Now being demolished.
- 146-7 Mr. Scott, stationer, and Miss Gardner, schoolmistress. Rebuilt and now occupied by W.W.S. Paine.
148. Mr. Hewitt, greenmaster and a malster, now J. Ward.
- The Elms, Henry Mackeson, grandfather of the present Mr. Harry Mackeson.

The following were a few of the inhabitants of Market Square and Market Street:-
Mr. Sherwood (carpenter), Leonard Watches (blacksmith), and Mr. Ashtell (carrier) lived in the cottages that were demolished a few years ago to make way for the Tram Stables.

Mr. King was the Landlord of the Red Lion.

Mr. Marchant lived at 1 Market Street, now Miss Crunden.

Wm. Lorden lived next door, relative of W. Lorden, painter.

Mr. Lukehurst, now Mrs. Finn. Next Mr. Sacree now S. Keeler. Mr. Godfrey, saddler, Ben Pacy and Mr. Jerratt lived in the adjoining houses.

Mr. Warrington, landlord of Dukes Head who was followed by Mr. Wm. Clarke.

Portland Place Wm. Hadden, stonemason, now Godden and Loder; The Misses Hardcastle;

Mayor King, now Portland House; Miss Anne Guyhampton 'Beachcroft'; Mrs. Loud, now

Mr. W. Horton; Rev. Innies and Mrs. Innes 'The Hermitage'; Maurice Stokes, Pork Butcher and carrier, now Mr. J. Griffey.

Mrs. Blatcher and Mr. George Blatcher lived in the cottage adjoining Sheeps Head Square (now Boxley Square). The people living in the Square were Mrs. Tomkinson,

Abraham Tomkinson and Mr. & Mrs. Vile.

In the two cottages adjoining St. Nicholas Road lived Tom Back and John Stapeley (afterwards Inspector of Nuisances).

Jesse Sanstall occupied the house where Mrs. Booth now lives (Cambridge House).

He afterwards was toll keeper at the ~~xxx~~ turnpike at the foot of Hythe Hill.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.6-8 High Street,

The Globe Inn (1)

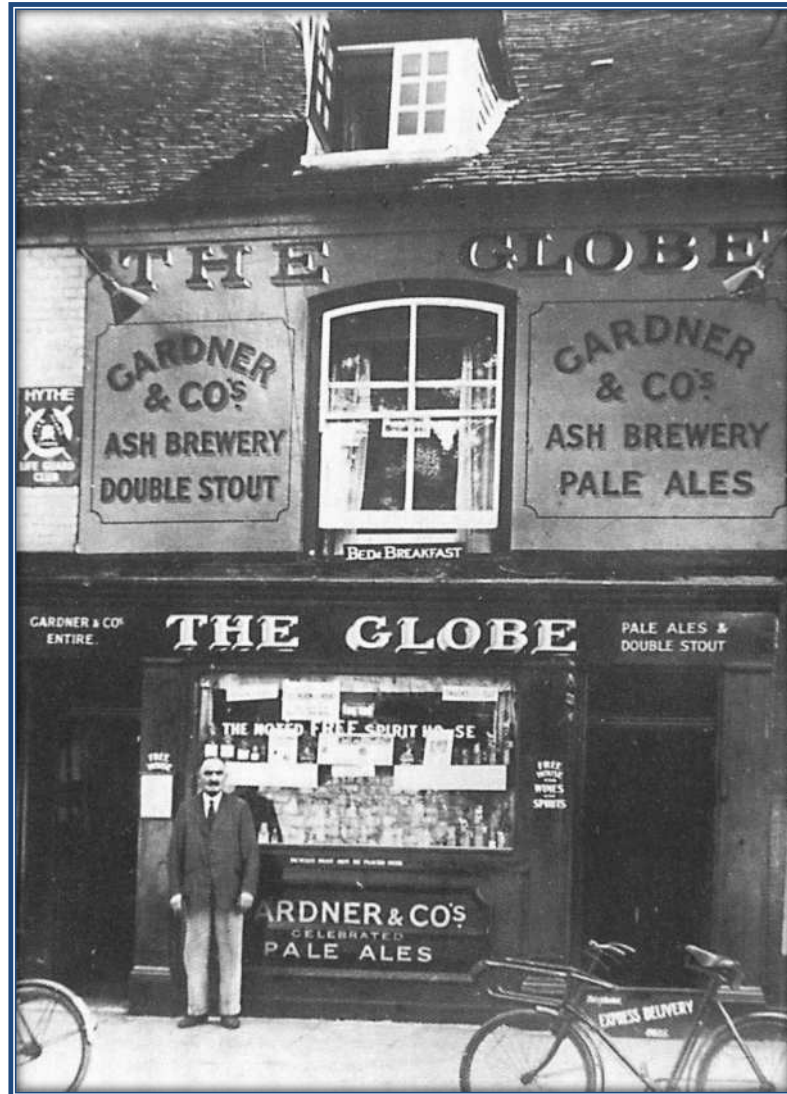


Image courtesy of Melville and Lewis-Johnson

Originally thought to be a 1920s photograph, more likely this is of The Globe Inn circa 1935-1939, as the clue is the Hythe Life Guard Club sign on the wall (see next poster). The gentleman standing outside is possibly Henry Timms, the licensee.

At that time the Globe was smaller than today. Circa 1946 it expanded to the left, as you look, into a former butcher's premises (Hogben's).

The bicycles outside are typical of 1930's delivery push-bikes, used here for the newsagents which was next door.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.6-8 High Street,

The Globe Inn (2)

Right: the Globe Inn circa 1983

(image courtesy of 'www.dover.com' a specialist Kent pub history site)



The premises date back to the late C16th/early C17th.

Although it was situated opposite the Mackeson Offices and Brewery, the Globe was a Gardner, Godden and Co (of Ash near Sandwich, Kent) public house – one of few public houses in Hythe not owned by Mackeson.

Gardner and Co ceased brewing in 1954.



Image courtesy 'breweryhistorypedia'

As the sign on the wall to the left of The Globe in the first display shows, the pub was headquarters to the Hythe Life Guard Club.

This club was officially formed in October 1935 at a meeting held at the Globe, including attendance by the Mayor. The local newspaper reported that it was a much appreciated initiative. When asked if a rescue service could be provided, the Mayor thought that one would not interfere with the Lifeboat service, but added *"A swimming pool is what we need"*. As topical a subject then as it remains today.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.22 High Street,

The Oak Inn



Left: The Oak Inn circa 1934-1937 (photograph with kind permission of Whitbread plc).

At that time, the landlord was John Slade. Typically then, Mackeson pubs were not adorned with a colourful inn sign. These first appeared in the late 1940s/early 1950s.

The pub is mentioned in the 1871 Census; Henry Higgins (formerly a buyer and seller of wool) being the Innkeeper. The building housed the Hythe Post Office in the 1830/40's.

The cast iron Unicorn and Lion cited in the Grade 2 Listing dated 1973, are no longer in situ.

Just visible to either side of The Oak Inn are: Left: Frank Britcher's Bon Marche' drapers and family outfitters. Right: Tom Wright's family butchers.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.22 High Street,

The Oak Inn



A 1949 rooftop photograph, taken from what is now the Pilgrims Hospices shop. The Oak Inn (arrowed at the far end) closed in 1979. Between 1980 and 1986, the building housed Benham's stamp dealers. Thereafter, the building has hosted a number of wine bars and restaurants.



Left: The building in 2004 as 'La Bamba Cantina Bar'



Right: Subsequently as the 'Terracotta Ristorante'



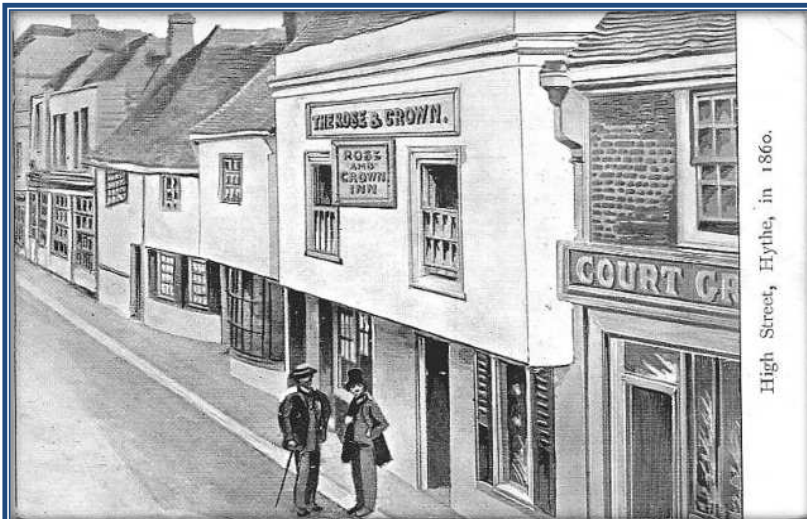
HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.38 High Street,

The Rose and Crown



Mentioned in Bagshaw's 1841 Directory of Kent, the Rose and Crown occupied these premises until 1971 (another Mackeson pub) and housed other businesses to the left. The above photograph is circa 1900. To the right of the pub is Lovick's stationers and booksellers. To the left of the pub at that time was Issac Ellis' pork butchers.



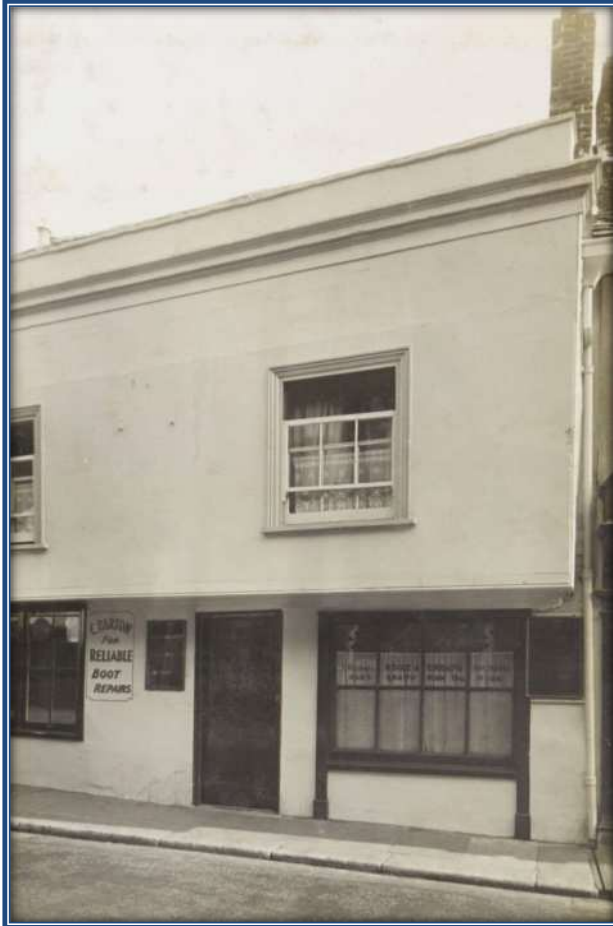
Left: a postcard image dated 1860. Court Grocers is depicted to the right.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.38 High Street,

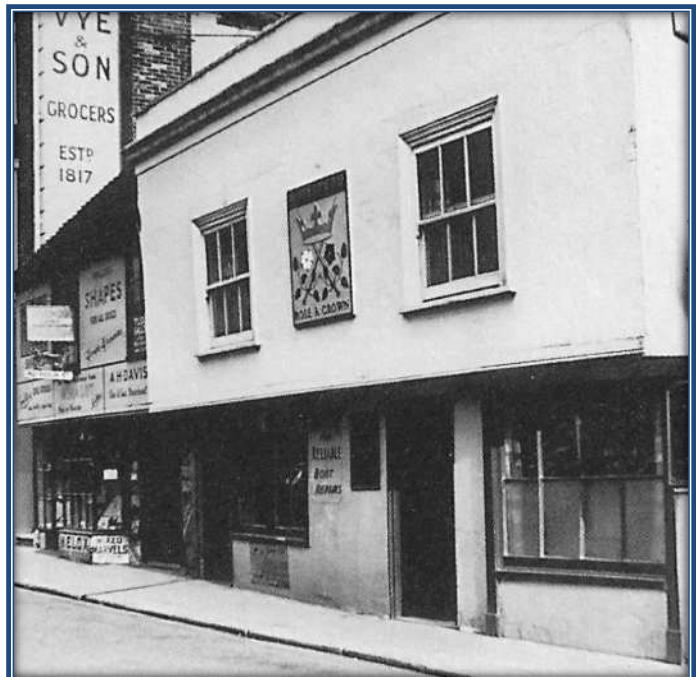
The Rose and Crown



On the left is the Rose and Crown circa 1934-1937 as a Mackeson/Whitbread pub, with its plain frontage at that time. A colourful inn sign was added later (see below). The landlord at that time was Albert E Wells. From 1933-1958, Barton's shoe repairers occupied the left side of the building.

(photograph with kind permission of Whitbread plc)

Right: the Rose and Crown circa the late 1940s. To the left is Davis' corn and seed merchant, and beyond that Vye's grocers. From 1987 No.38 was home to Carriages Wine bar, later to become a free house and restaurant in 1991.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Town Square – The Swan Hotel's Livery Stables and Hythe Motor Cab Company

As a coaching and posting inn (a place where mail coaches watered, fed and changed horses) it was essential for The Swan Hotel to have livery stables. These were sited opposite, on what is now the Town Square and were present until 1914. In the picture below, taken in 1905-6, the white stables building can be seen on the right of this view of the High Street.



The flags flying across the High Street at the time may be in celebration of the annual Hythe Cricket Week which was first held in August 1894 along with the Venetian Fete.



Left: the demise of the old Chestnut tree.

After disease struck, the chestnut that had stood for decades was sadly felled in the 1990s. Soon after, the London Plane that stands now was planted.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Town Square - The Swan Hotel's Livery Stables and Hythe Motor Cab Company

Following the demise of horse-drawn coach travel, the Swan Hotel's livery stables were closed and sold. From 1915 to the 1960s the site was home to the Hythe Motor Cab Co., a garage and Austin motor dealers from 1932. From 1964 to 1976, Caffyns motors operated from the site.

Below: the garage site in the early 1960s with some Austin A40s (introduced in 1960) on the forecourt.



Caffyns moved on in 1976 to East Street and was replaced with a new supermarket - the 'International' seen right - which had moved to here from its former nearby site in the High Street. Behind the garage are the twin gables of a former private residence - 'Chestnuts' - occupied in 1899-1900 by Mrs Mackeson (of the brewing family), part of the building remains.

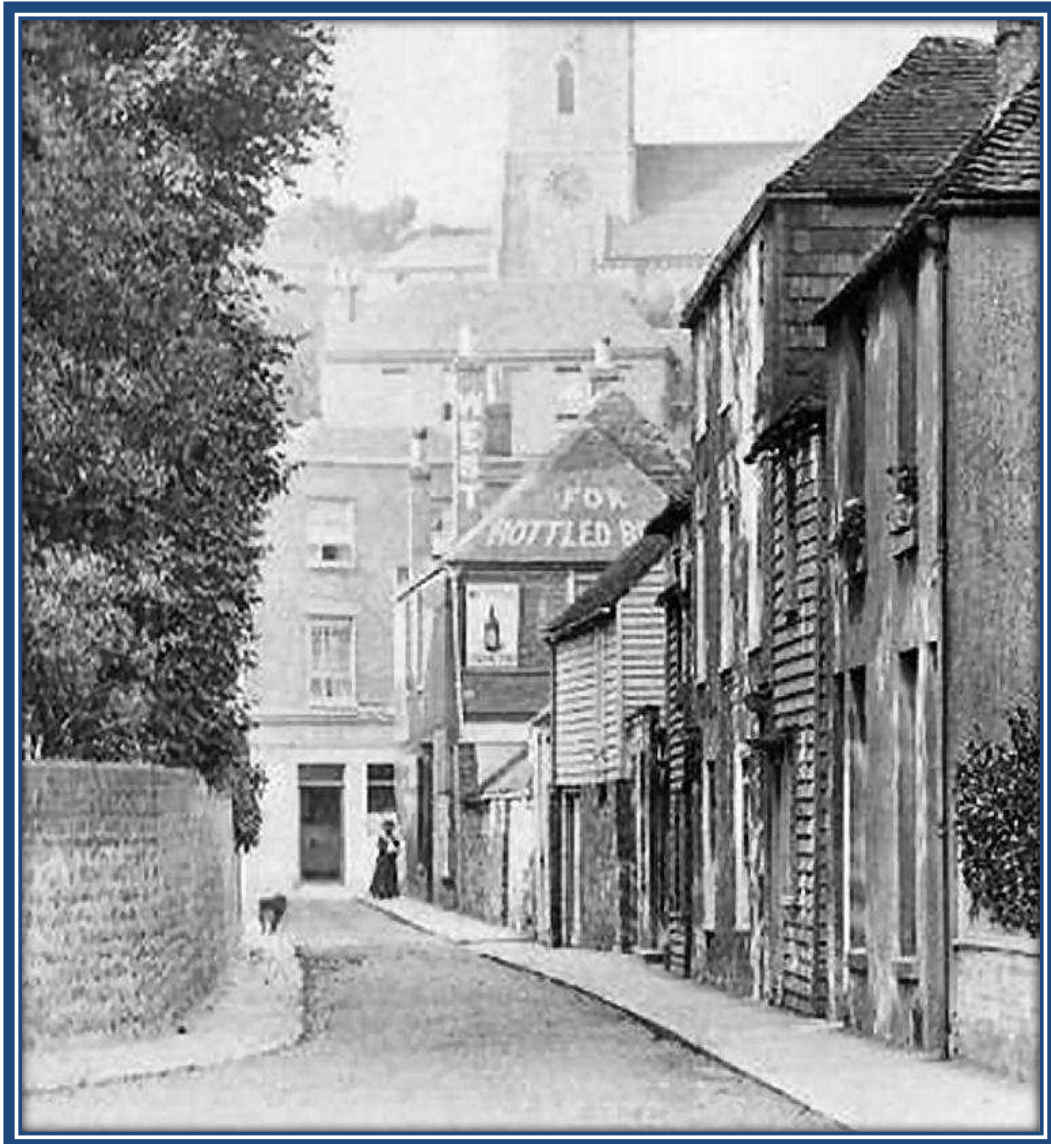




HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No. 80 High Street

Dan West's off licence and family grocers 1888-1936



photograph courtesy of Paul Skelton www.dover-kent.com a specialist Kent pub history site

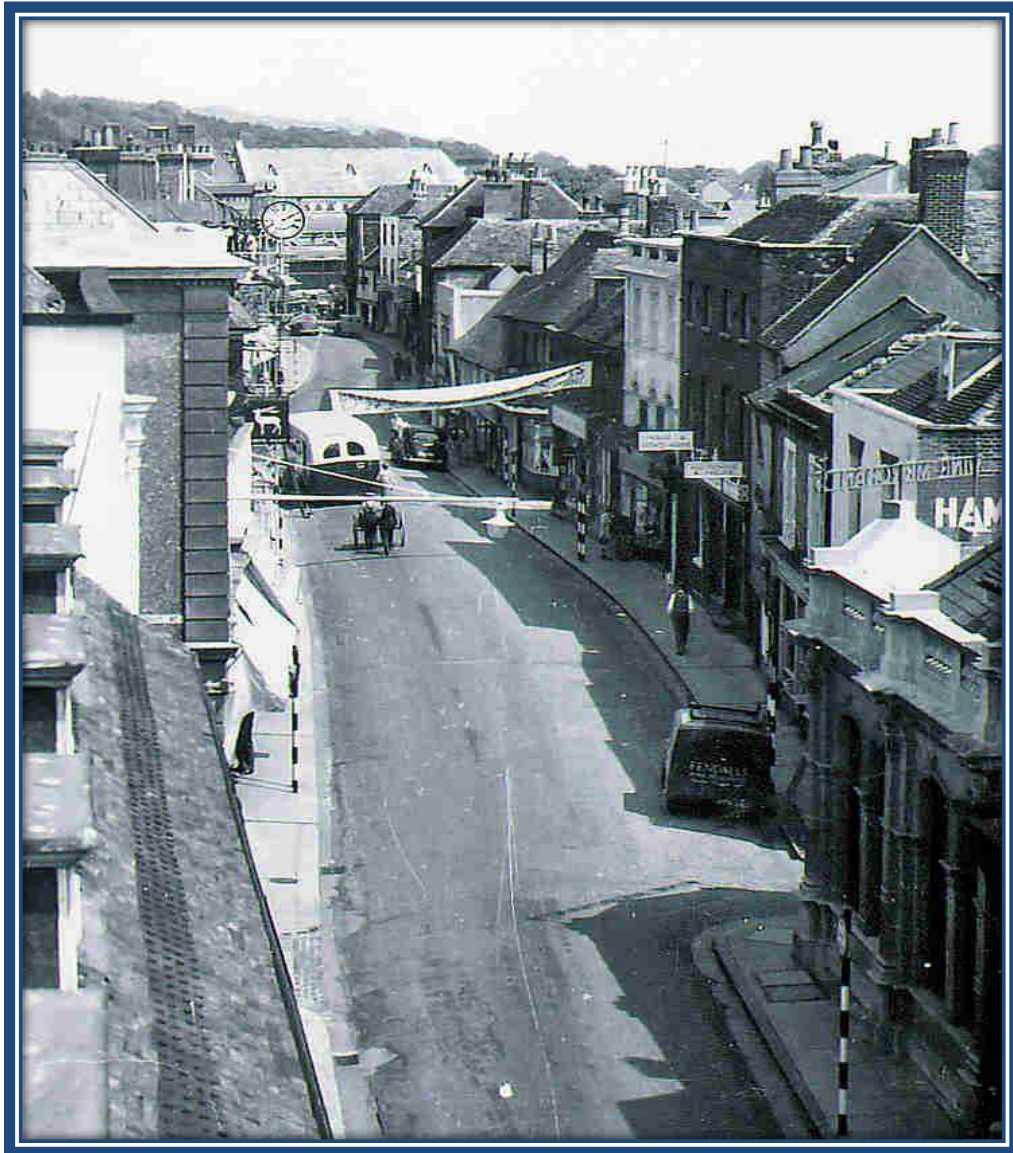
Here we see a view of Mount Street in the late 1800s looking towards the High Street, with Dan West's 'West for Bottled Beer' off licence and grocers at the far end (what is now the Nationwide Building Society). West's was a popular supplier for the military in the town. Mount Street was typical of others leading off the High Street, with clapboard cottages and peg tile roofs.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No. 80 High Street

Dan West's off licence and family grocers 1888-1936



photograph courtesy of Chris Melchers

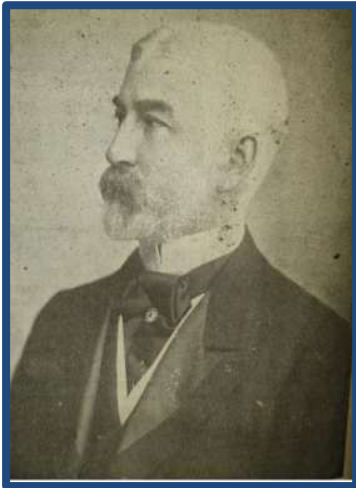
By 1949, the year of this photograph, Dan West's had become K H Fendall's wine and spirit merchants. Kendall's small van, in the right foreground, is parked outside. This photograph was taken from the rooftop of what is now the Pilgrims Hospices charity shop. At the time it was Stebbing's ironmongers. A disastrous fire in 1975 razed Stebbing's shop to the ground and which is featured in a separate display.



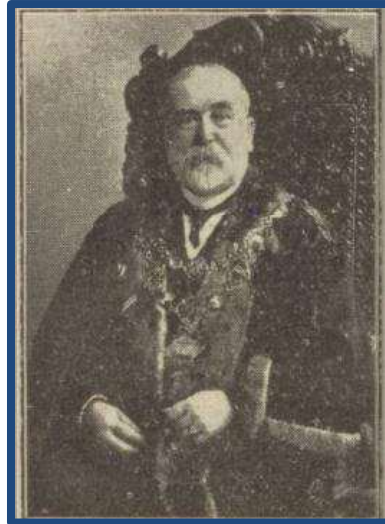
HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.86 High Street,

The House of Cobay



Robert Cobay



William Cobay



Henry Cobay

Above: images of three brothers from the Cobay family who at various times resided here in this fine Grade 2 listed property. Historic England's listing describes the property as 'probably once an inn'.

Robert, William Richard and Henry Thomas Cobay were the third, fourth and fifth children of George and Hannah Cobay respectively. None married, and like their father before them, all became mayors of Hythe and all spent their lives in property related businesses.

The house was large: five bedrooms, a drawing room, morning room, dining room and scullery. Double frontage business premises were situated on the High Street.

As Robert and William also operated a successful auctioneer business (Cobay Bros), an auction room was constructed at the rear, along with stables and storerooms.

A fourth and the eldest brother, John Cobay, had from 1881 taken on the licence of The White Hart Hotel (opposite). He remained there until his death in 1907.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.86 High Street,

The House of Cobay

William Cobay, ran in partnership a successful cabinet making and upholsterers business, with premises in London's New Bond Street (*the firm of 'Smee and Cobay'*). The partners refurbished several large hotels, including Eastbourne's Grand, and the then Royalty Theatre in London's Soho.

He headed a syndicate that purchased land for and built Folkestone's Metropole Hotel. William also refurbished the former Seabrook Hotel on Hythe's seafront; it re-opened in 1901 under the new name of the Imperial Hotel. Both are seen on the right, the Metropole (top) soon after its opening.



These hotels were large employers of staff at the time, and William Cobay added to Hythe's employment with the creation of the Metropole Steam Laundry to service both hotels.



The laundry was located on Hythe's Dymchurch Road. Every morning its whistle blew reminding staff they should attend for work! The laundry operated up to the Second World War.

Right: the Metropole Steam laundry, Dymchurch Road - courtesy of Melville and Lewis-Johnson.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No. 86 High Street,

The House of Cobay

William Cobay's term of mayoralty, 1914-1918, coincided with WW1. During this period he was popular and supported the war effort with significant fund raising. He had a great impact, raising over £2million in today's terms for charities, including: the Red Cross, the Belgian Relief Fund and the Hythe 'Heroes Fund' (a fund to support local families bereaved or left in need by men incapacitated through the war effort).



Above right: William Cobay, as Mayor of Hythe, promoting the Hythe Heroes Fund, being pulled by a donkey.

Below right: Cobay and his party in 1916 beside the Mayor's car at a pageant on Hythe Green, raising funds for the Red Cross.



William died in 1920 aged 67 at his London home. His surviving brother, Robert, tried to take on the business interests but found this difficult. He died two years later. Robert bequeathed to the Town Council a set of large oak panels on which are gilded the names of all mayors. The panels remain in situ.

(Content for this set of posters is with special thanks to Anne Petrie, Hythe Local History Group)



HERITAGE HYTHE

Feature Display at Art-Write

1920s-30s Hythe

High Street circa 1930s



Here you see the High Street, looking west, in the late 1920s/early 1930s from, on the left what is now Brooks Tea Rooms. Beyond, the motor vehicle on the left is parked outside 'Chapman's House and Estate Agents', and beyond is 'Harcombe's Chemists', now the site of the 'Chocolate Deli' and 'Art-Write'.

Image courtesy of Maidstone Museum



HERITAGE HYTHE

Feature Display at Art-Write

1920s-30s Hythe

Red Lion Square- Chapel Street – Rampart Road



A 1920s/early 1930s photograph of Red Lion Square.

The Tramway is no longer, which closed in 1921, and the former Tram Sheds have become 'Jane's Rooms' with the 'London Restaurant' to its left. A taxi is parked in the centre of Chapel Street. In Rampart Road, to the right, a 'Dennis' tanker is outside Hythe Dairy. The Red Lion is on the extreme right.

Image from HCS Archive



HERITAGE HYTHE

Feature Display at Art-Write

1920s-30s Hythe

Prospect Road – Marine Walk Street



A late 1920s/early 1930s photograph of Prospect Road.

On the corner of Marine Walk Street is 'F. Sissons Confectioners' and Tobacconists, adorned with a fine array of enamelled signs. A 'CAMP Coffee' sign can be seen further along Prospect Road.

Image from HCS Archive



HERITAGE HYTHE

Feature Display at Art-Write

1920s-30s Hythe

Military Road – Ordnance Arms (now the BP petrol station) – mid 1930s

Images courtesy of Whitbread PLC





HERITAGE HYTHE

Hythe High Street's Wealden Hall Houses

During the medieval period, Wealden Hall Houses were common in Kent. Essentially they were used as meeting rooms for a town's Jurats (or councillors as now known) and other such local officials. The 'middling sort', as they were known.

Being largely of standard design, a modest hall house comprised an open floor to roof hall which was a day room with an open hearth. The smoke would have discharged to the open air through the rafters. See next poster for a schematic drawing of a typical Hall House. 'Wealden' is a stylistic term referring to the place of their origin.

Within Hythe's High Street a few examples remain amongst its forty or so listed buildings. Smoke blackening is still visible on the interior walls of some of these.

Examples of Hall Houses (best viewed from across the street) will be found at:

No's 94-98: formerly a single property that is now 'Obidosh' and 'Shepherds Hut'.

No's 67-69: formerly a single property that is now 'Hairways', and in part for many years the site of 'Crunden's' grocer's store.

No's 49-51: formerly a single property that is now 'Lawrence and Co', and 'U Weigh'.

The Weald and Downland Living Museum, near Chichester in West Sussex, has a number of fully preserved hall houses including one moved from Chiddingstone, near Sevenoaks in Kent (right).

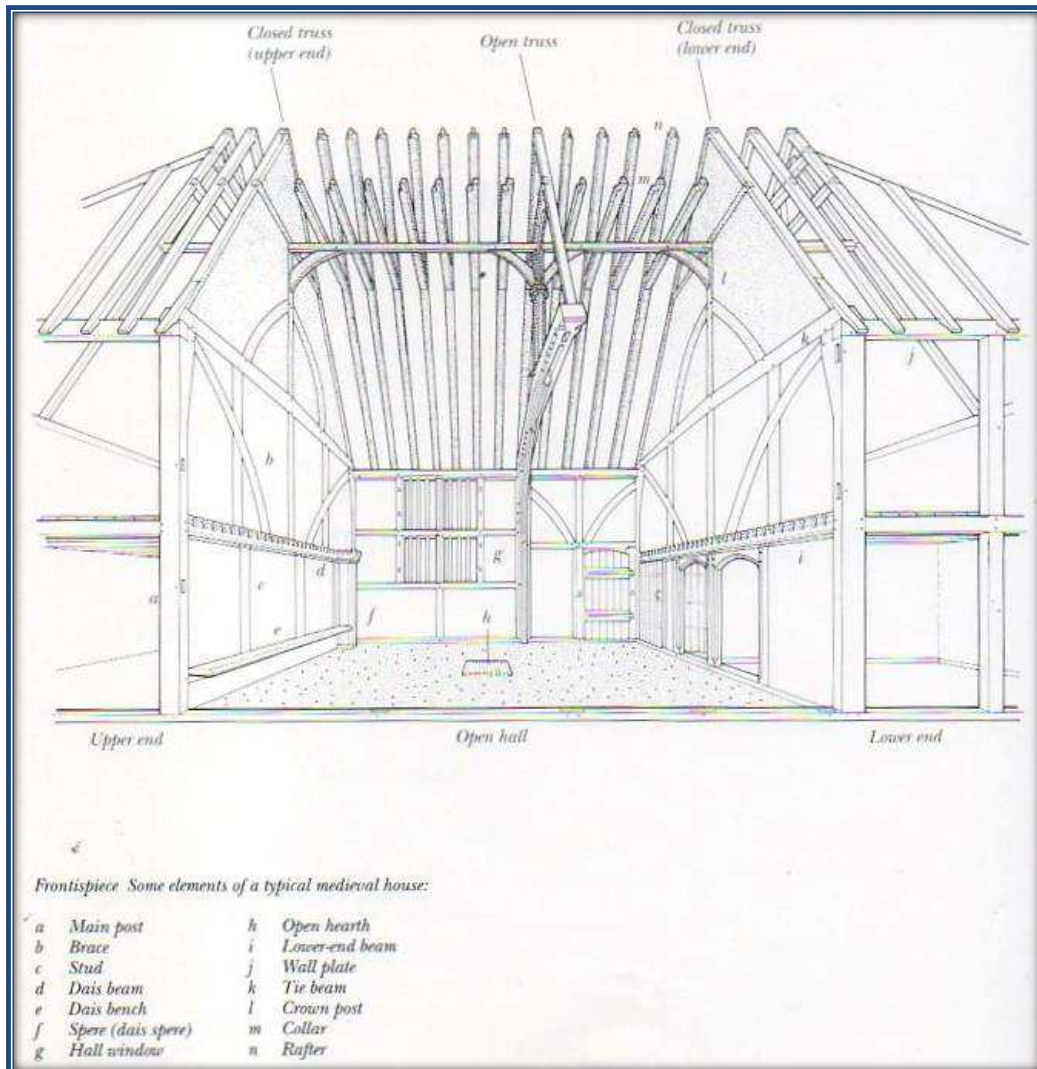
Image from Weald and Downland Living Museum





HERITAGE HYTHE

Hythe High Street's Wealden Hall Houses



A schematic drawing of a typical medieval house

*Source; The House Within
P.S..Barnwell & A.T.Adams*

Royal Commission on the historical monuments in England

The two ends of the hall would consist of an upper and lower end. The upper end would have been accommodation for the owner of the hall, with sleeping quarters and maybe a small garderobe (or earth toilet). The lower end would have comprised of a buttery and pantry and servant quarters, with a cross passage from the front to the rear doors.



HERITAGE HYTHE

Feature Display at Keeps

Bygone Scenes from Fisherman's Beach



A selection of photographs of the Griggs family members at work on Fisherman's Beach circa 1920s.

Courtesy of Molly Griggs



With the 'Live Fish' cart on the round in Hythe circa 1925.





HERITAGE HYTHE

Feature Display at Keeps

Bygone Scenes from Fisherman's Beach



Top: Shaking out the herring net circa 1912.

Right: herring hanging to dry.

Below: sorting 'Prickle' the fish basket – note the two gas holders that once stood on Fisherman's



Images courtesy of Molly Griggs.



HERITAGE HYTHE

Feature Display at Keeps

Bygone Scenes from Fisherman's Beach



On the beach after launching a boat. Martello Tower to the left before conversion to a house on West Parade.

Mackerel seining circa 1920s



Fisherman's Cottages, now the site of the OYO Stade Court Hotel

Images courtesy of Molly Griggs



HERITAGE HYTHE

**On This Site...The Butt of Sherry,
Theatre Street and the High Street**



The top photo postcard shows the *'Library'* at what is now the Demelza Charity Book Shop. On the corner of Theatre Street is *'Bear's Tonsorial Artist'* (a barbers) on the site of what is now *'The Butt of Sherry'*, and further east, the Congregational Church (demolished in 1987).

Below, circa 1910, is a similar view showing the *'Coronation Tea Rooms'* on the left (on the site of J C Rook and Sons) and a glimpse of the *'Picture Palace'* - Hythe's first 'electric' cinema, on the site of the 'Mind' charity shop.





HERITAGE HYTHE

**On This Site...The Butt of Sherry,
Theatre Street and the High Street**

Bomb Damage – Friday 4th October 1940



Extract from www.BattleofBritain1940.com – a timeline of events.

4th October, 1940

“After two attacks on convoys at 9 a.m. German fighters and fighter-bombers, flying singly for the most part headed for London in an almost continuous stream. Altogether sixty to seventy crossed the coast, and at 1 p.m. twelve penetrated the inner artillery zone to drop bombs on London. Canterbury, Folkestone, Hythe and Reigate were also hit. Later in the afternoon RAF fighters made interceptions and brought down two Ju 88s, making a total of twelve for the day against three British machines lost.”

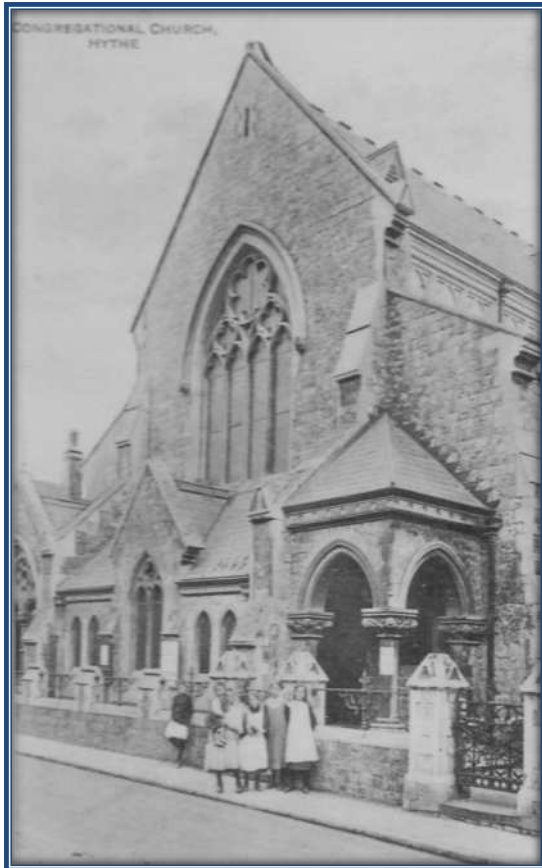
As the photograph shows, the ‘Arcade’ opposite this site was flattened and surrounding properties damaged. Three civilians lost their lives.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...the Congregational Church/

Saunder's Bakery/Evidence of Hythe's Harbour



A Congregational Church was erected on this site in 1867-68 on what was then Walnut Tree Yard. It cost £2,500 to build. A school was built on part of the site in 1872, but then used as the Church Hall.

In October 1940 a precinct of small shops across the High Street and known as the Arcade was hit by a German bomb, flattening that site and damaging surrounding properties including the church.

The church was demolished in 1987 and the congregation moved to a new United Reformed Church in East Street that remains in situ today.

Left: a postcard photograph postmarked 1911.

A bakery had stood on the adjacent site since 1837. That site, then Saunder's bakery, was also damaged by the 1940 bomb, but the damage was not as severe as the site across the road.

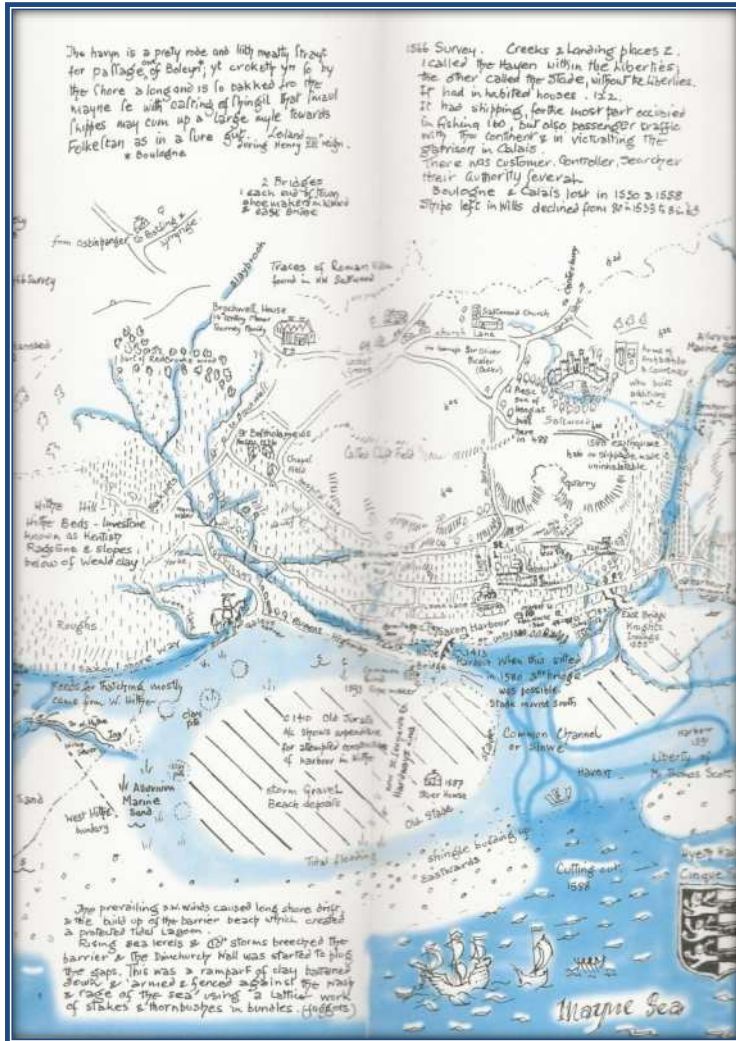
The bakery and the premises next door were re-built in 1966.





HERITAGE HYTHER

On This Site...the Congregational Church/
Saunders's Bakery/Evidence of Hythe's Harbour



Before Hythe's Harbour silted up, the sea was close to this site. On the left is a sketch map from *The Last Days of Hythe Harbour* by Maurice Young and Janine Umbers, showing a scenario for how Hythe's harbour may have appeared in the C15th and C16th.

C16th maps of the Romney Marsh drainage system show a similar scenario.



With special thanks to Janine Umbers for permission to display the sketch map, and to Andy Mills for permission to display the archaeological dig photograph.

Following demolition of the Congregational Church in 1987 and prior to the building of the houses now in situ, an archaeological dig took place (right). This revealed evidence of the Harbour's edge on what is now the High Street at this point.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos 152-156 High Street,

H G Wells' 'Kipps' bookshop (1)

It is long believed this building inspired HG Wells' location for 'Arthur (Arti) Kipps' bookshop, featured in Wells' *'Kipps - The Story of a Simple Soul'*, published in 1905.



'Book Three' of the *'Kipps'* novel contains the following line: *'The bookshop of Kipps is on the left-hand side of the Hythe High Street coming from Folkestone, between the yard of the livery stable and the shop-window full of old silver and such like things - it is quite easy to find....'* Back then, there was a builder's yard beside the property.

HG Wells (*above*) regarded the novel as his favourite work; it was generally considered a masterpiece.

He was born in Bromley in 1866, and had moved to Sandgate in 1901 where he lived in a large mansion named 'Spade House' until 1909.

The book was adapted for the theatre, a silent movie, film adaptation in 1941, and various TV and radio dramas. In 1963 the stage musical adaptation *'Half a Sixpence'* was released in the West End featuring Tommy Steele as 'Arti". A Broadway production followed, along with a film in 1967, also featuring Tommy Steele.

In real life, the premises were used for many purposes. From 1952, No 152 High Street became George Marrin's bookshop, which he called 'Kipps Bookshop'. From 1960 Marrin's moved to premises in Sandgate Road, Folkestone where the shop remains today.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos 152-156 High Street,

H G Wells' 'Kipps' bookshop (2)

Grade 2 Listed in 1950, these premises were most likely a single house in C16th. The building is timber framed, of two storeys and with a



steeply pitched hipped tiled roof.

Left: the building as 'Wells' Restaurant, Bar and Cafe.

Before George Marrin established his bookshop at No 152 (on the right of the property) it had been occupied by several

proprietors associated with the clothing business. In the late 1880s, No 152 was a private residence, home to the Cloke family.

From 1960, when it was Terry's, No 156 (on the left of the property) was a newsagents and tobacconists under various proprietors. During the period 1935-1960, it was J E Fagg and Sons confectioners.



Above: the superb 'cat-slide' roof at the rear of the building.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos.158 and 158a-d High Street

The Co-Operative Society



Above: the Co-Operative Society building in the 1950s which occupied the block of what is now several retail and business premises.

The Society was present on this site from 1907, with part of its frontage in Douglas Avenue. The Hythe branch closed in 1983.

From 1984 the building was divided into separate premises including: 'Sunspot Blinds', 'Hythe Health Studio', 'Stitch in Time' and a retail freezer shop.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...160a High Street

The Potting Shed Micro Pub

Our displays feature most of Hythe's past and present pubs and beer houses, which for centuries played a significant part in the town's history and its heritage. The Potting Shed was the town's first modern-era Micro Pub when it opened in September 2014 – the above image taken on that day.



By coincidence, it is located opposite what was once the Providence Inn, a Victorian beer house.

The Potting Shed is known for its interesting range of ales and ciders from around the country on gravity and on a hand pump. Usually at least one local Kentish beer is available.

Over the years the premises have seen many uses: a florist, a fruiterer, builders' merchants, an antiques shop, the 'Sly Corner' bookshop, and various tearooms.



Left: The Little Cafe, 2013 - photograph by Trevor Hayman, Britain's Listed Buildings

Originally 160a and the adjoining premises were one. During the period 1890-1924 they formed the Rev. Thomas Shipden's house.

Both properties were Grade 2 Listed in 1973.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

These events and particularly the display project were only possible with the help and encouragement of a good number of people to whom the Society gives lots of thanks:

For helping to compile the various poster sheets: Sally Chesters, Andy Curran, Crispin Davies, Alan Joyce, Kim Murton, David Paton, Anne Petrie, Michael Tubman, and Mike Umbers.

Hythe Town Council – for display consents and use of premises

Folkestone and Hythe District Council – for display consents

Kent County Council – for display consents

District Councillors Lesley Whybrow and Jim Martin – for their generous funding support

Colebrook Sturrock – for sponsoring the banners

Hythe Business and Tourism Association – for its encouragement and assistance

Paul Skelton, Dover Kent Archive (Kent pub history site) – for material use consent

Whitbread plc – for Mackeson pub photograph consents

Kent Photo Archive – for photograph use consent

The Mills Artchive – for photograph use consent

KCC County Archives – for material consent

Maidstone Museum – for material consent

Molly Griggs – for the loan of her fabulous albums and material consent

Chris Melchers – for photograph consent

Anne Petrie – for material consent

Chris O'Connor – for providing material

British Newspaper Archive – for material consent

British Pathe – for film material consent

Screen Archive South East, University of Brighton – for film material consent

Leon Cruz (Cream of Cards TV) – for film material consent

David Horton – for material consent (the Alfred Horton Diaries)

Hythe Local History Group – for their great support and help with material

Ron Greenwood Hythe Local History Group – for the website pages and designing the banners

Brin Hughes, and the Friends of St. Leonards Church – for help and display consents

Sainsbury's and the Sainsbury's Archive – for their wonderful display and material consents

Tina Naylor, for her patience and perseverance

Dan Naylor – for helping to create the poster style and templates

Jessica Naylor and George Brooks – for designing the Event Flyer and the e-book covers

Clive and Helen at Art-Write, High Street Hythe – for printing all the display material etc, their generous Quiz prize donations and for their encouragement throughout

Henry and Kerry at The Lazy Shack, Fisherman's Beach – for their fantastic help with the display at Fisherman's Beach

Harriet at the Book Den, High Street Hythe – for the generous Quiz Prize donation

Tertia at Keeps Tea Room – for the display consent and the generous Quiz Prize donation

The RHDR – for their display and material consent and the generous Quiz Prize donation

Frances at the Chocolate Deli, High Street Hythe – for allowing us to store the stand display equipment

Age UK and Tin Tabernacle – for the loan of display tables

All other retailers, businesses and residents who consented to display Heritage Hythe information sheets

St Leonard's Church – for hosting our Talk Evening and the Jazz Concert

Mike Umbers - for his excellent Talk, and to David Paton and Betty Black who had prepared to present talks but for different reasons were unable to do so

Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra – for an excellent evening concert

Brandons Music Shop, High Street Hythe – for kindly being a concert ticket outlet

Eldridges, High Street Hythe - for kindly being a Walk Trail Map outlet

Rowan Grant, Graphic Designer – for the design of the Walk Trail Maps

Frizbee of Tontine Street, Folkestone – for the production of the Banners

To all HCS Committee colleagues, members and friends of the Hythe Civic Society who have contributed their voluntary time towards our events, without whom this would not be possible – with a particular mention to Alan Joyce for his skilful logistical support.

To all others who helped and contributed

And finally, a big thank you to residents, visitors and local businesses for all the great feedback and the encouragement given.



The Book of the Posters Vol. 1

THE END

Other Volumes in the series

Vol 2 - Church Hill Trail

Vol 3 - Fisherman's Beach Trail

Vol 4 - Ladies' Walk Trail

Vol 5 - Red Lion Trail

