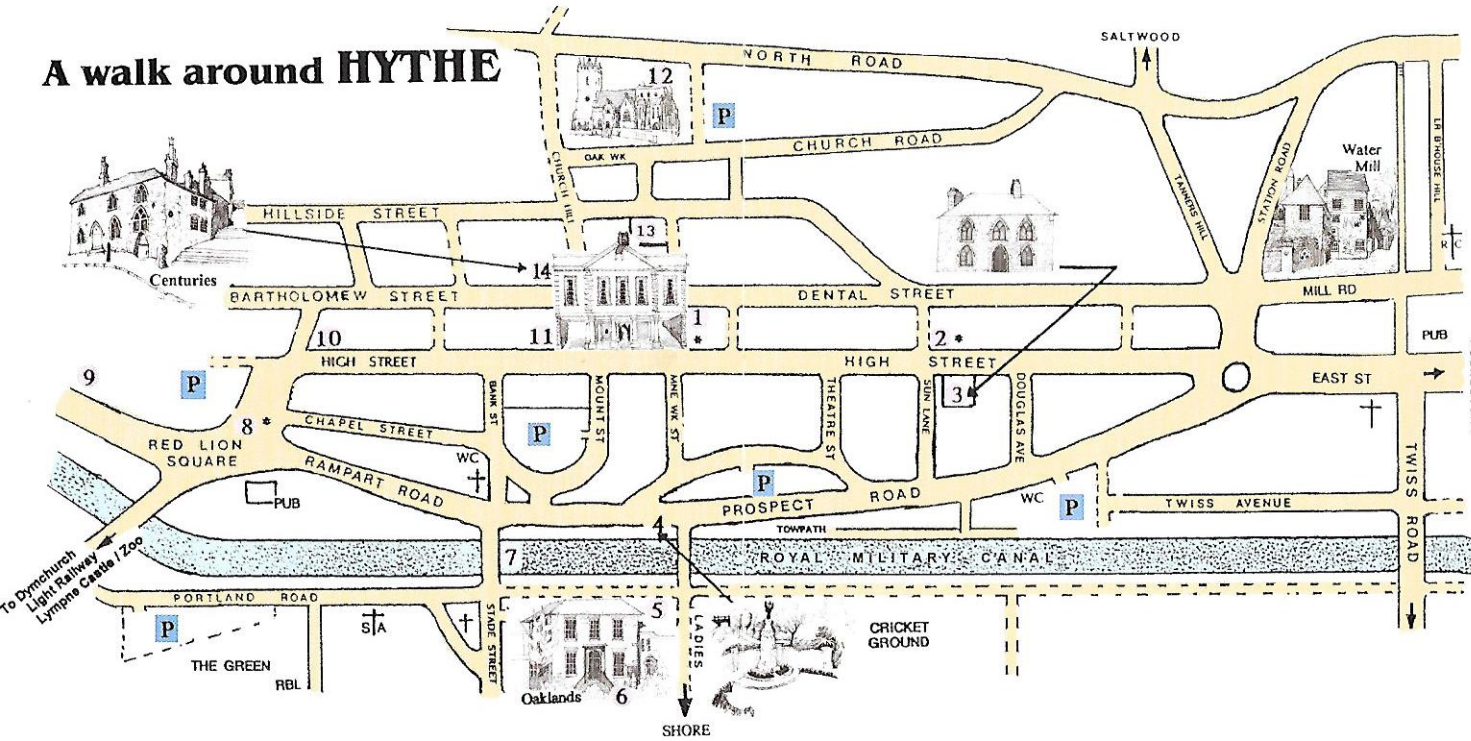


# A walk around HYTHE



## Starting from the Town Hall:

The Council used to meet in the Church, but in 1794 the **TOWN HALL (1)** was completed; the **UNDERCROFT (\*)** below was the old Town Market, and on an oak panel in the Council Chamber are recorded Bailiffs from 1349 and Mayors from 1575; the Moot Horn and the Arms of the Cinque Ports and Seals of the Town and Jurats of Hythe are displayed. The **CLOCK** was added in 1871, lighted by gas.

Walk **EAST** along the **HIGH STREET** to the **KINGS HEAD\* (2)** and **St JOHN'S ALMS-HOUSE (3)** then down Sun Lane. Cross the main road to the **ROYAL MILITARY CANAL**; it is now a pleasant walk beside the Canal (note the Mayors' Stand opposite, used in the famous Venetian Fete) to the **WAR MEMORIAL\* (4)**. (There are additional Boards here describing the role of the Canal). Many old elms were lost along here to Dutch Elm Disease, but the Hythe Tree Campaign has provided replacements.

Cross the Footbridge to the **BOWLING CLUB (5)** and entrance to **LADIES WALK**, laid out in 1792. (You can walk to the SEA that way). Otherwise turn into the grounds of **OAKLANDS\* (6)**, the fine house donated by Dr Randall Davis in 1932, which now houses the Council Offices, **TOWN LIBRARY** and **LOCAL HISTORY ROOM** - do spend a little time here. You can then turn into **STADE STREET** (another route to the **SEA** - 'stade' means landing place, and passengers from Boulogne had to land here after the Harbour silted up). Or go **RIGHT** from Oaklands, past the '**TIN CHURCH**' (1893) and cross the **Canal** again at the **TOWN BRIDGE (7)** built in 1956 to replace the Bailey Bridge which itself had replaced one damaged by enemy action.

A short cut past the **METHODIST CHURCH** leads back to the High Street, or a **LEFT TURN** takes you into **RED LION SQUARE\* (8)** long ago called Market Square but re-named

after the **PUB**, formerly a Mackeson House, which stood right opposite the Brewery, home of the famous **MILK STOUT**. Brewing ceased in 1968, and the same year saw also the removal of the Army's **SMALL ARMS SCHOOL** nearby - hence **MUSKETRY PARK (9)**. These were serious losses economically at the time. Also in **RED LION SQUARE** is a splendid Drinking Fountain (1896), and a couple of Tramlines - here was the Terminus of the horse-drawn Tram Service to Sandgate.

Returning to the High Street past No 1-3, a fine 18th Century building, and the **MALT-HOUSE ARCADE (10)** you reach No 31/33, site of the first home of Francis Pettit Smith who invented the 'Screw Propeller' for ships, and then the Town Square - once the garden of a fine house. Note the **MILESTONE** on The **SWAN INN (11)** and pass the **WHITE HART** where Mr Pitt planned the defence of Britain with the Duke of Wellington, and FM Lord Montgomery stayed, planning for a later war.

If you don't mind the climb, extend your walk up to the **CHURCH AND CRYPT OF St LEONARD\* (12)**. (You can pick up a **GUIDE** there.) En route, you pass the 17th Century **MANOR HOUSE (13)** where Saxon and Norman remains have been found. The ancient 'Listed' **WALLS** you pass mark the boundaries of medieval properties.

The pleasantest way down from here is via **OAK WALK** (where the **STOCKS** once stood) and **CHURCH HILL**, once the 'main road' from the Harbour to Saltwood. Look up the hill and note the **PLAQUE** recording the home of Elizabeth Bowen, the Novelist. Finally, before returning to the High Street, look at **CENTURIES\* (14)** an Historic Building of Kent; Bishop Hamo of Rochester, born here in 1275 founded the Almshouse which moved here in 1683 and exists still in **St JOHN'S (3)**.