Hythe View Nursing Home

The present Nursing Home comprises two houses joined together, Nos. 89 and 91 North Road. These were originally Nos. 21 and 23. They were probably built in the early years of the First World War – a postcard of the area sent in 1914 shows empty plots and the first recorded occupation is in 1918.



North Road looking west in 1914.



Originally No. 21 North Road, later re-numbered No. 89 and now part of Hythe View Nursing Home.

The first owner of No. 21 was Melvill Hughes, a single man of deep religious beliefs, who called the house 'St Mary'. He had retired to Hythe after a lifetime working with the poor in east London. He wanted to build a Mission Church for Saltwood Church next to his house, but the Rector of Saltwood blocked the idea. In 1916, he created a war shrine at the top of Barrack Hill to commemorate the dead and asked people to leave flowers to decorate it at his house. He wrote an Ode about the shrine for the Hythe Reporter:

These are they, who with uplifted Spear or Sword, With Rifle, or with other instrument of war Have fought the Battle's day, and gone to rest Upon the Shore beyond. Their armour laid to rest, They honoured now by all, are sanctified "

Melvill Hughes died in May 1919.

No. 21 was then bought by Col. William Lewis Gray and his wife Janet. They re-named the house 'North Holt'. Col. Gray had previously served in the Royal Army Medical Corps in Thailand, Malta and South Africa and, during World War 1, in France. Although retired from active service, Col. Gray was now working as a Medical Officer at the Small Arms School in Hythe. He died in November 1924 and is buried Saltwood. His wife Janet continued to live at No. 21 until at least the outbreak of war in 1939, but then moved to Napier Gardens. She did, however, return to North Road, dying in No. 23, which had now become the Nursing Home, in June 1959.

After the war, No. 21 was owned by Mrs Mildred Constance Carlill, who kept the name 'North Holt' She was the widow of Dr Hildred Bertram Carlill. The couple had previously lived in Tavistock and London. She stayed there until the late 1970s, when she moved to Church Hill.



Originally No. 23 North Road, later re-numbered No. 91 and now part of Hythe View Nursing Home

Next door, at No. 23 was Edward Osborne, who had spent his working life in Hong Kong. He called his house 'Lok-Lo-Ka'. He lived there from about 1915 with his wife Phyllis and two daughters, Nora and Sybil. Edward Osborne was a business man and politician, and had been the secretary for the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company (1889–1913) and a member of the Legislative Council of Hong Kong (1906–1913). Having retired to Hythe he joined the local council and was mayor in 1922 to 1924. He also founded the Boy's Club in Portland Road and started a Cabinet making workshop there for training boys in carpentry & joinery. It is still called Osborne House.

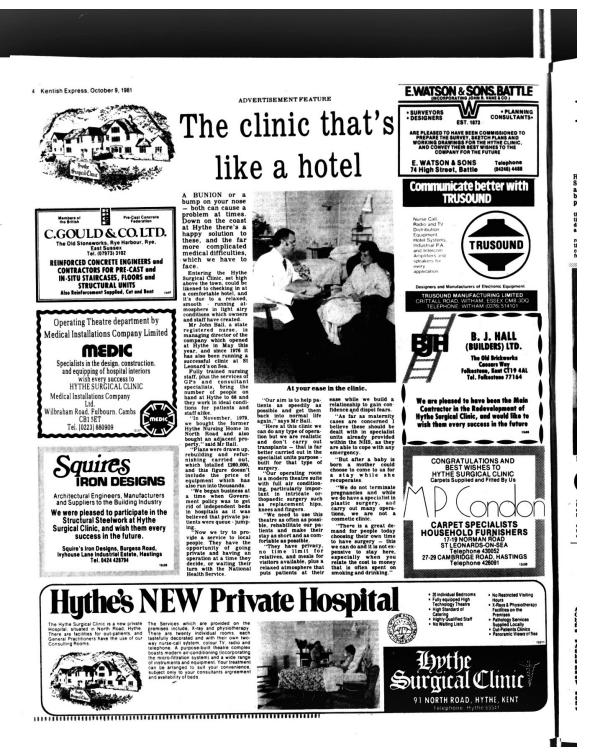


In 1936, he and George Mackeson, one of the brewing family, paid for a new organ for St Leonard's Church.



Edward Osborne died in on his 78th birthday in January 1939. His wife Phyllis later moved away to live in Castle Road.

In 1949, No. 23 had become Hythe Nursing Home, 'registered for maternity, medical, and surgical'. The matron was Miss E. R. Holland. The houses were re-numbered in 1958, so that No 21 became no. 89 and no. 23 was now no. 91. In 1980, the owners of No. 91 bought No. 89 and combined the two into Hythe Surgical Clinic



Later, under new ownership, it became Hythe View Nursing Home.