

## ***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 78<sup>th</sup> 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

4 Kentish Express, October 9, 1981

ADVERTISEMENT FEATURE



## The clinic that's like a hotel

A BUNION or a bump on your nose — both can cause a problem at times. Down on the coast at Hythe there's a happy solution to these, and the far more complicated medical difficulties, which we have to face.

Entering the Hythe Surgical Clinic, set high above the town, could be likened to checking in at a comfortable hotel, and it's due to a relaxed, smooth-running atmosphere in light airy conditions which owners and staff have created.

Mr John Ball, a state registered nurse, is managing director of the company which opened at Hythe in May this year, and since 1976 it has also been running a successful clinic at St Leonard's on Sea.

Fully trained nursing staff, plus the services of GPs and consultant specialists, bring the number of people on hand at Hythe to 68 and they work in ideal conditions for patients and staff alike.

"In November, 1979, we bought the former Hythe Nursing Home in North Road and also bought an adjacent property," said Mr Ball.

"Plans were drawn up, rebuilding and refurbishing carried out, which totalled £260,000, and this figure doesn't include the price of equipment which has also run into thousands.

"We began business at a time when Government policy was to get rid of independent beds in hospitals as it was believed that private patients were queue-jumping.

"Now we try to provide a service to local people. They have the opportunity of going private and having an operation at a time they decide, or waiting their turn with the National Health Service.



At your ease in the clinic.

"Our aim is to help patients as speedily as possible and get them back into normal life again," says Mr Ball.

"Here at this clinic we can do any type of operation but we are realistic and don't carry out transplants — that is far better carried out in the specialist units purpose-built for that type of surgery.

"Our operating room is a modern theatre suite with full air conditioning, particularly important in intricate orthopaedic surgery such as replacement hips, knees and fingers.

"We need to use this theatre as often as possible, rehabilitate our patients and make their stay as short and as comfortable as possible.

"They have privacy, no time limit for relatives, and meals for visitors available, plus a relaxed atmosphere that puts patients at their

ease while we build a relationship to gain confidence and dispel fears.

"As far as maternity cases are concerned I believe these should be dealt with in specialist units already provided within the NHS, as they are able to cope with any emergency.

"But after a baby is born a mother could choose to come to us for a stay while she recuperates.

"We do not terminate pregnancies and while we do have a specialist in plastic surgery, and carry out many operations, we are not a cosmetic clinic.

"There is a great demand for people today choosing their own time to have surgery — this we can do and it is not expensive to stay here, especially when you relate the cost to money that is often spent on smoking and drinking."

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We are pleased to have been the Main Contractor in the Redevelopment of Hythe Surgical Clinic, and would like to wish them every success in the future

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**Hythe's NEW Private Hospital**

The Hythe Surgical Clinic is a new private Hospital, situated in North Road, Hythe. There are facilities for out-patients, and General Practitioners have the use of our Consulting Rooms.

The Services which are provided on the premises include: X-ray and physiotherapy. There are twenty individual rooms, each tastefully decorated and with their own two-way nurse-call system, colour TV, radio and telephone. A purpose-built theatre complex boasts modern air-conditioning (incorporating the micro-filtration system) and a wide range of instruments and equipment. Your treatment can be arranged to suit your convenience, subject only to your consultants agreement and availability of beds.

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