



HERITAGE HYTHE

HELD AUGUST 2021



The Book of the Posters

Vol 2. Church Hill Walk Trail

An E-book by

The Hythe Civic Society



Heritage Hythe

Held August 2021

The Book of the Posters

Volume Two – Church Hill Walk Trail

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.

© 2022, Hythe Civic Society, Registered Charity, Registration Number 283177

Dedicated to Molly Griggs

1929 - 2022

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.

Church Hill Walk Trail

With the parish church of St. Leonard's at its heart, much of this trail covers the medieval core of Hythe. Consequently, the area contains some of the town's oldest buildings.

Just as its ancient passageways are steep, this area is steeped in local history. Church Hill or Clyme Hill as it was originally known, was once the main thoroughfare from Hythe harbour through the town to the north and on to Canterbury. Pilgrims from the continent would have used this route, having crossed the Channel to land at Hythe.

Commanding views across to the sea, this area was home to some notable local residents and important benefactors. The Deedes family lived at 'The Manor House' on Hillside Street, and the Mackeson family lived at a large house called 'The Dene', on which now stands a small development of houses and apartments bounded to the north and west by the original walls (listed) of the former house.

Centuries, on Bartholomew Street was once the home of St Bartholomew's Hospital, an almshouse for the aged local poor. It is Hythe's oldest domestic residence.

St. Leonard's is a fine Norman Church that proudly stands sentinel over the town and displays elements of Hythe's past prosperity. During our Heritage Hythe festival it hosted a magnificent display of posters telling the history of various aspects of the church and its interior. The Church also hosted a talk and a concert during the festival, both well attended. It is a popular music and concert venue.

To one side of the Church is the Crypt which houses an ossuary, one of only two in the country. From Easter through to September the ossuary is open to the public at certain times. It contains the skulls and bones of some 2,000 people. The first reference to the collection is dated 1678, although it is likely the collection was in place well before that time. For more information about this fascinating collection please visit the Parish of St. Leonard's website.

The graveyard is the resting place of many notable local people, including Lionel Lukin who invented the self righting lifeboat – his grave is close to the west door.

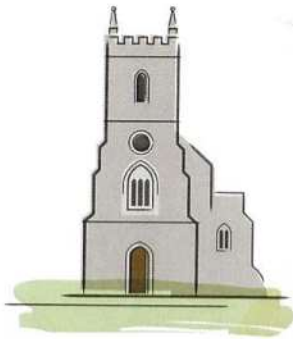
This is an area to explore at a stroll and at its prettiest in the summer when tall hollyhocks display their large blooms, particularly framing the steep Church Hill.



HERITAGE HYTHE

'KEEPING LOCAL HISTORY ALIVE'

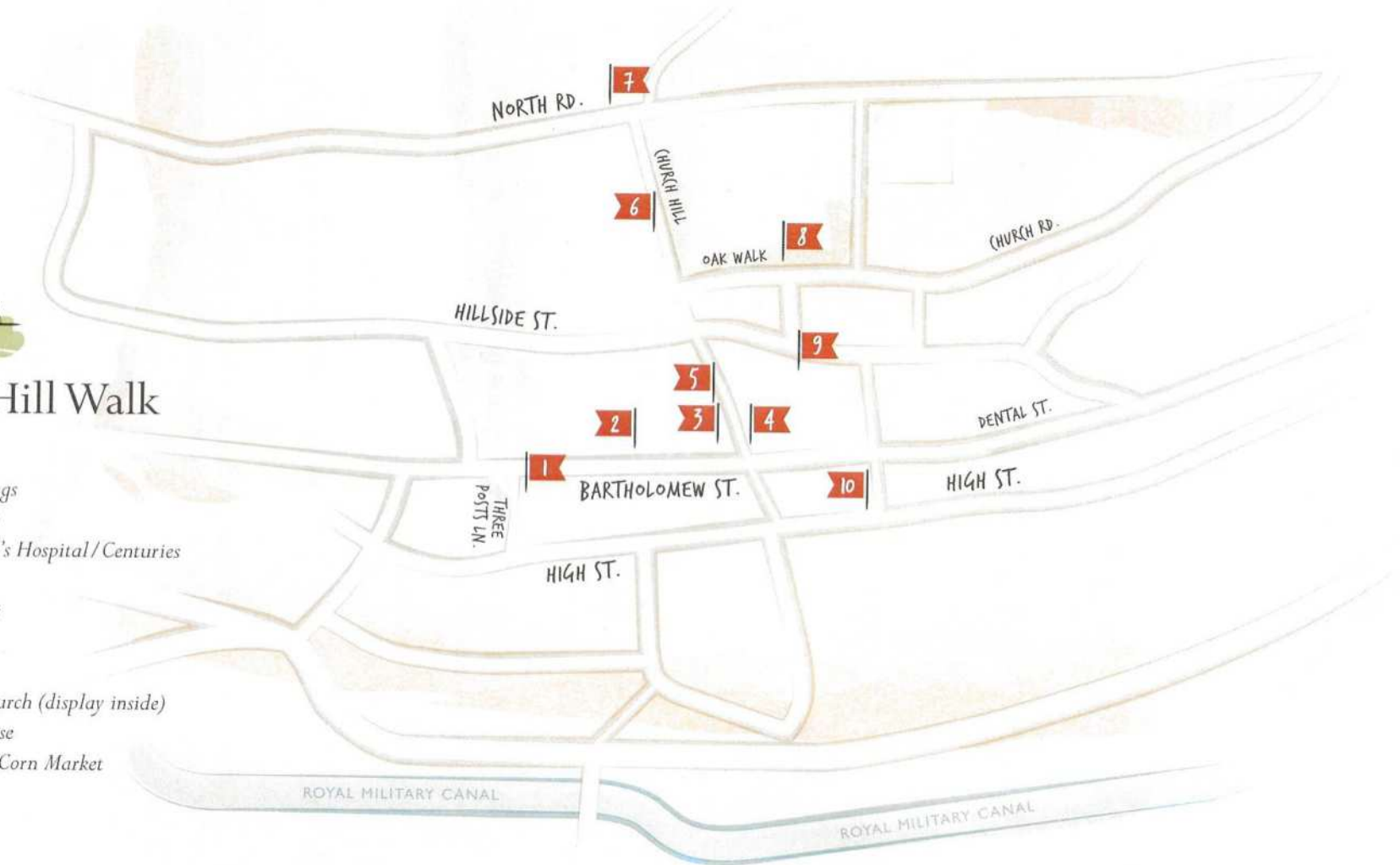
12th - 22nd
AUGUST
2021



Church Hill Walk

Key

1. Brewery Buildings
2. Yeoman's House
3. St Bartholomew's Hospital / Centuries
4. Church Hill
5. Botfield Cottage
6. Carbery
7. 82 North Rd
8. St Leonard's Church (display inside)
9. Old Manor House
10. Undercroft and Corn Market





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos.5-7 Bartholomew Street

The Prince of Prussia/

The New Portland Arms/Brewery Buildings



As the title header suggests, this building has had a number names over the years. Its precise history as a beer or public house is unclear in parts, including when exactly it was built.

It is thought to have been a purpose built beer/public house during the mid 1850s, possibly anticipating demand from military officers at the new School of Musketry, established in 1853. Its shape and style are similar to several London corner public houses, suggesting it was designed to appeal to Military Officers from London and elsewhere. It had many large rooms and a spacious basement. It was unlike any other Hythe public house.

Brewery Buildings were Grade 2 Listed in 1973.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos.5-7 Bartholomew Street

The Prince of Prussia/

The New Portland Arms/Brewery Buildings

Or was this building at one time 'The William Tell Inn'?

Hodgson, Thomas, the William Tell Inn,
Bartholomew street
Hoile William fchmencey greenwood

Further curiosity about the building is added by the above reference from Melville and Co's Directory of Kent 1858. No other reference to a William Tell Inn is found elsewhere either in this street or in Hythe. Or was this entry simply a mistake?



Might the marriage in 1858 of Prince Frederick of Prussia to Victoria, Princess Royal (Queen Victoria's eldest daughter) be the origin of this public house being called 'The Prince of Prussia'?



Whereas it was not uncommon to find a 'King of Prussia' or 'Princess of Prussia' inn in the UK, no other record of a 'Prince of Prussia' can be found.

The outbreak of the Great War and in the preceding and following years saw a trend of renaming many public houses carrying the name 'Prussia'.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos 5-7 Bartholomew Street

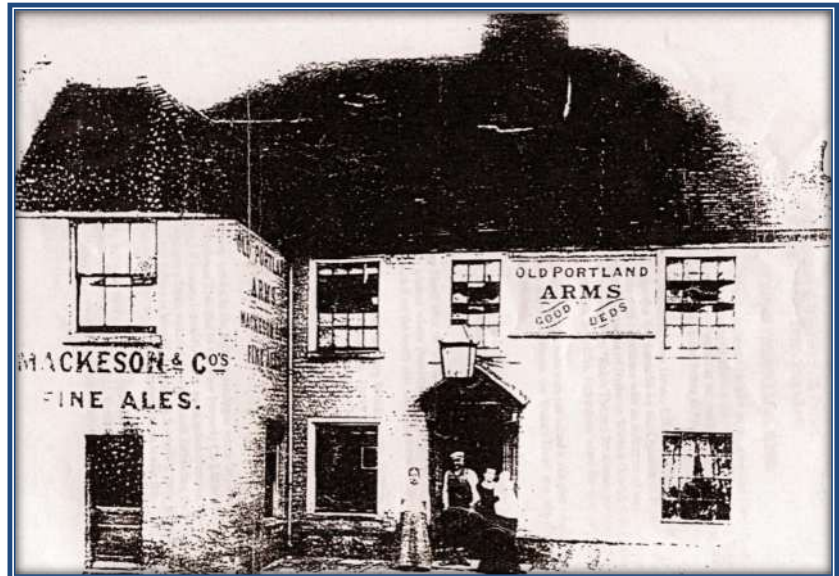
The Prince of Prussia/

The New Portland Arms/Brewery Buildings

Circa 1875 - A Change of Name

From about 1858-89 until 1875 these premises were known as the 'Prince of Prussia' beer or public house. The first recorded publican was Charles Steinbach, a monthly tenant.

Sixteen or so years later, in 1875, Sinnock and Co's 'Directory of Folkestone' records the building as the 'New Portland Arms', with Walter Howe as the publican.



At that time, another public house, the 'Old Portland Arms' (above) was trading near to the 'Red Lion' on what is now the Dymchurch Road. There appears to be no association.

The last direct reference to the building trading as the New Portland Arms was in 1887, when Edward Marsh was recorded as the publican.



In 1888, Henry Bean Mackeson (left), then head of the family brewing company Mackeson of Hythe, is recorded as the owner. Its time as a pub was short-lived, for it seems to have closed by 1891. From that point, the property is referred to as 'Brewery Buildings' and used by Mackeson as lodgings and for storage.



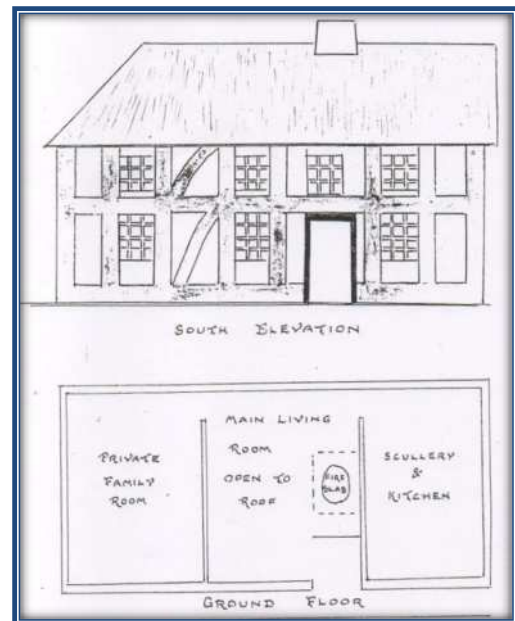
HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No 8 and 8b Bartholomew Street

Yeoman's House

Yeoman's House, with its neighbour – Centuries – is one of Hythe's oldest buildings (circa 1450). The house was probably built for a townsman of substance. It was unusual, since it was a country style house but built in a town. Parts of the original building remain

Its form was a simple rectangular block, parallel to the street and divided into three rooms, side by side, at ground level. At each end rooms above corresponded to those below but the middle room ran through two storeys. *Right: a simple sketch plan of the original structure.*



Over the centuries, the building evolved through a number of conversions, including into three cottages in the C18th.

It is thought a serious fire in the 18th century caused considerable damage. Years of neglect followed, including during WWII which added to its deterioration. By 1947, it had become a danger to the public and was due to be demolished by order of the Council. However, having begun demolition, parts of the structure were discovered in good condition and it was these with some additions which, circa 1948,



became 'Yeoman's House' – known today as 8 and 8b Bartholomew Street. The property, seen left in 1998, was Grade 2 listed in 1973.¹

It still stands today, some of the building in its original state, despite fires, bombs and efforts to demolish it.

¹ Information (abridged) and images are from 'The History of Yeoman's House', by HC Thomas 1998 (available from the Hythe Civic Society)



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...1-2 Bartholomew Street

Centuries and St Bartholomew's Hospital

Centuries, a 'Historic Building of Kent' and Hythe's oldest domestic building, has a long history. The Civic Society blue plaque on the wall refers to its age as '1107, extended 1334 and 1811' but there is little that remains now from before the C14th - although some say that there are indications of occupation of the site as early as Roman times.

The house was owned originally by the Noble family and was the childhood home of the most famous of Hythe's medieval residents, Hamo de Hethe. He became a Benedictine



monk and, in 1319, went on to become Bishop of Rochester. He left the house to the church upon his death in 1358. It was rebuilt in 1796 in the Gothic style of the day.

The stone bollard outside the house intrigues many visitors: was it a mooring post for boats in a creek of the old harbour, or a hitching post...or what...?

Source: Hythe History Group - 'Centuries A Brief History, Osborne'

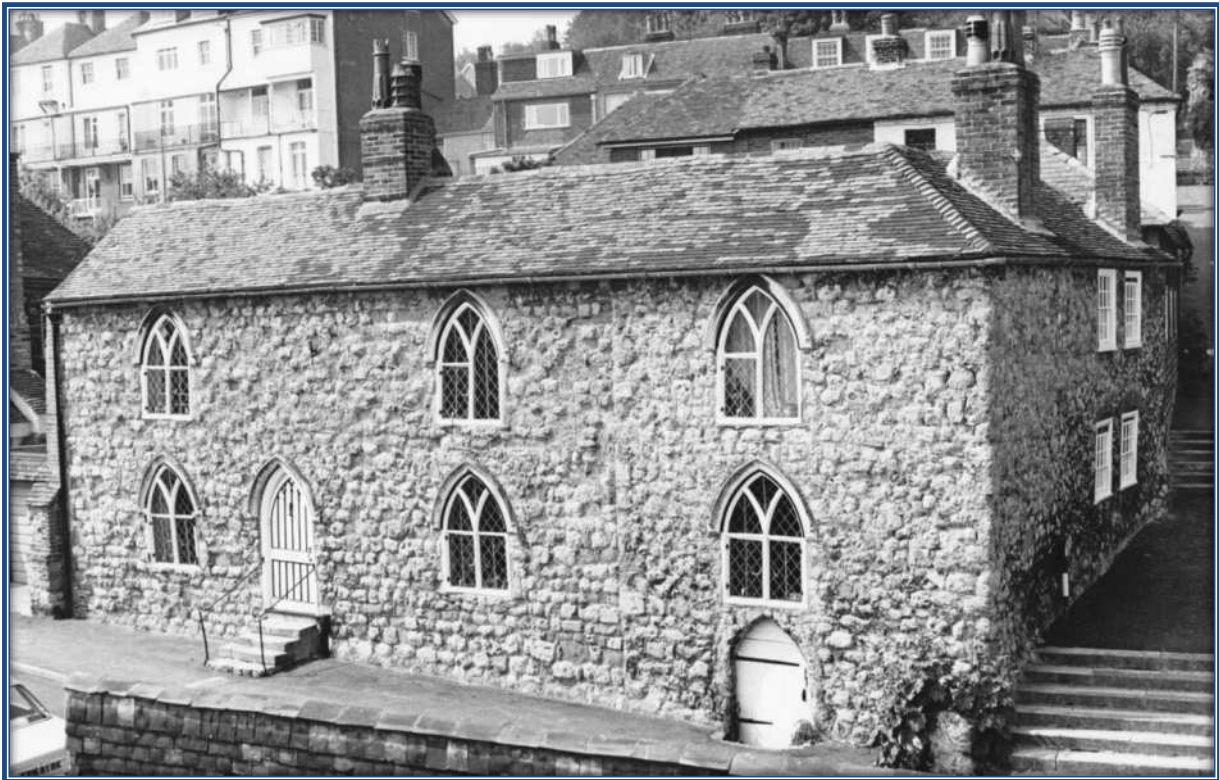
Photograph from the John Osborne Collection



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...1-2 Bartholomew Street

Centuries and St Bartholomew's Hospital



In 1336, Edward III granted Bishop Hamo de Hethe (see previous poster) a licence to found a 'House for poor people'. It was to be for ten 'brethren and sisters fallen from affluence into poverty' – note no segregation of the sexes in pre-puritan England! No leper was to be received as there was already a hospital in Hythe – St John's Hospital in the High Street – dealing with that condition.

The original hospital/almshouse is thought to have been located in Bartholomew Lane, Saltwood, but moved here in 1683 at which point the building became St Bartholomew's Hospital. In 1949 the residents of St John's Hospital and St Bartholomew's were combined and in 1950, the building ceased to be owned by the church and became a private residence.

Photograph from the John Osborne Collection

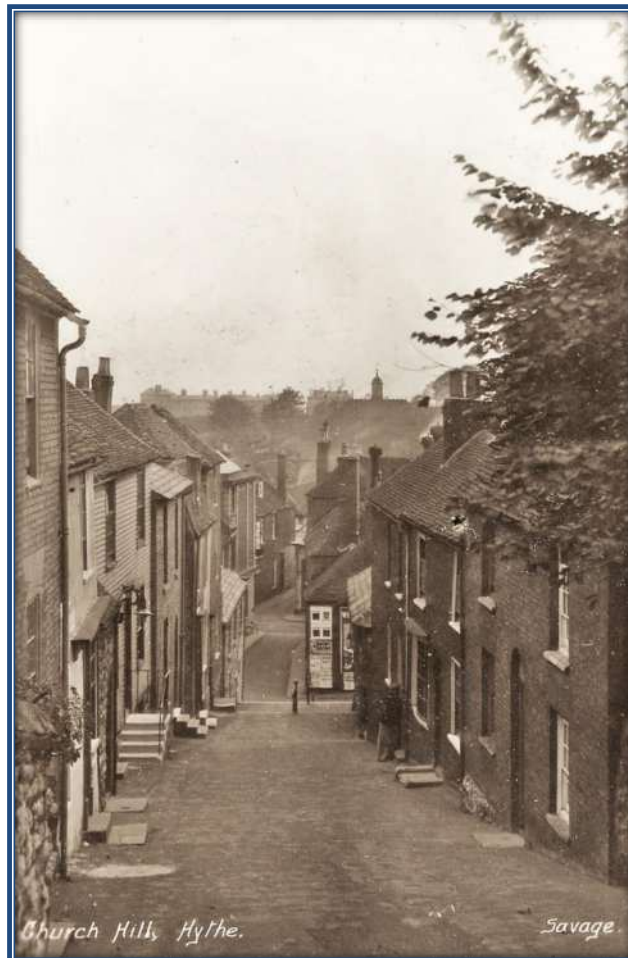


HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Church Hill

Lower Clyme/Church Hill

In medieval times, Hythe was an important landing point from the continent. Church Hill – formerly Clyme Hill – was the principal route from Hythe to Canterbury and the shrine of St. Thomas à Becket. It is believed that some of his assassins moored at the nearby harbour (that once was below what is now the High Street) and passed this way one winter's night in 1170 en-route to Saltwood Castle to plot his murder.



Early C20th postcard of lower Church Hill looking towards Dental Street, the High Street and the sea. In the background is the tower of the Hythe Institute that stood in Prospect Road.

The lower part of Church Hill contains several charming C18th /early C19th listed cottages, including Neptune Cottage (formerly Botfield Cottage – see separate display), Cantle Cottage and Overbury.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...13-15 Church Hill

Formerly Botfield Cottage

Believed to be built around 1790 – but possibly earlier – originally as two cottages, the building has two floors plus a cellar. A corridor ran from front to back, between the two houses, with the internal doors opening from it offset to avoid collisions on exit. It probably began life as two single-roomed dwellings but has been extended to the rear over time.

The main part of the building is of a typical 'cruck' frame structure ('A' framed from top to bottom) but the façade is Georgian- evidenced by the proportions of the windows- and it is likely this brickwork was added at a later date.

The floor in the kitchen comprises quarry tiles made in Le Havre which were reclaimed from a shipwreck in Rye in the 18th century.

The two cottages were Grade 2 Listed in 1973 and knocked into one during the 1980s.

Smugglers' End, further down the hill, has a cellar – possibly connected to the one in the former Botfield Cottage. They reputedly formed part of a tunnel linking the cellars of all the houses in Church Hill¹ as far as the Church and were used by smugglers to evade the Excisemen!



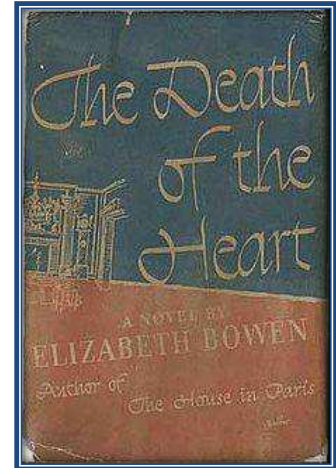
¹ Image is courtesy of www.britishlistedbuildings uploaded by Trevor Hayman



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site... 'Carbery'

'Carbery', was the home of Elizabeth Bowen - the renowned Anglo-Irish novelist - from 1966 until 1973 - the year of her death. A central figure in social and literary London in the 1930s and 40s, Elizabeth Bowen wrote some 27 books of which the novels *The Death of the Heart* and *The Heat of the day* are perhaps the best known. She was twice a resident of Hythe.



Elizabeth was born in Dublin, but when her father became unwell her mother moved the young Elizabeth out of the family home (Bowen's Court, County Cork) to stay in Kent - firstly in Folkestone, then Lyminge, settling later in Hythe. Her mother, who died in 1912, is buried at Saltwood Church.

In 1923, Elizabeth married Alan Cameron and lived in London. It is believed it was a "marriage of convenience" as Elizabeth was known to be attracted to both men and women. She had a complex and sometimes fraught personal life with many affairs, including a long-term affair with a Canadian diplomat seven years her junior. Elizabeth returned to Hythe in 1966, to live in this house - Carbery.



Elizabeth was known for her generous hospitality. She would put friends up at the White Hart close by in the High Street, prepaying their bills. Her many literary friends included Iris Murdoch, Virginia Woolf, Vita Sackville West and T S Eliot.

Sources: Elizabeth Bowen by Victoria Glendinning; Elizabeth Bowen: A literary life by Pat Laurence



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Church Hill

Upper Church Hill/Clyme Hill

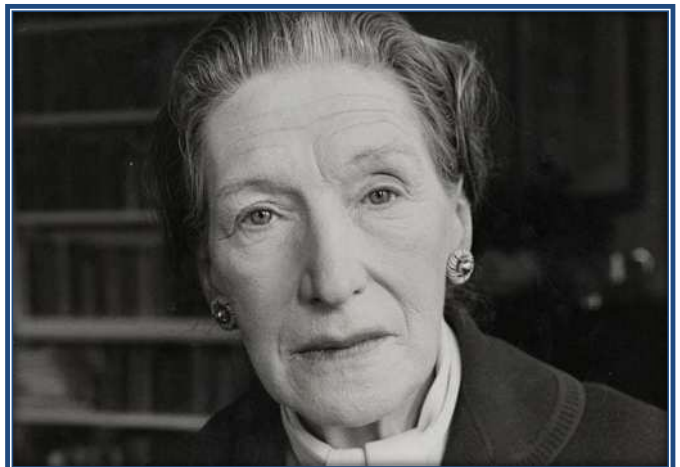
This stretch of Church Hill also contains several attractive 18th Century listed cottages, including: Boundary Cottage, Sundown, Masefield Cottage and Duck Cottage.

If you look to your right on the way up, along Oak Walk, you will see the site of the town's stocks to the left of the South porch of the Church.



Church Hill - looking down from North Street one wintry day

'Carbery' – home of British novelist Elizabeth Bowen (below) between 1966 and 1973 – is half way up the hill. The author purchased – for £4,700 – the 'modest brick house' then called 'Wayside', and first named it 'Carbury' before changing to 'Carbery', after her mother's family estate in Kildare, Ireland. One of the last photographs of Elizabeth Bowen, with Cyril Connolly the literary critic and writer, was taken outside the house¹.



¹ Source: Elizabeth Bowen by Victoria Glendinning; Elizabeth Bowen: A literary life by Pat Laurence. Elizabeth Bowen photograph courtesy of Alchetron.com



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.82 North Road

This Grade 2 Listed house would appear to date from around 1500, or quite possibly earlier.

There are substantial soot deposits in the original open hall area, on each of



the closed trusses in the roof space and on the roof members between the two closed trusses. These signs indicate a build period of around that time. Also the

heavy square and unchamfered floor joists are typical of the 15th century.

The house is not a 'Wealden hall house' as found elsewhere in Hythe, but is a timber framed, four bay, box framed open hall house, of typical construction and layout. It would have been constructed from barely seasoned oak.

Window openings would consist of mullions or staves, mortised into the top and bottom frames. There would have been no glass; instead planked shutters would slide horizontally across the openings.



The original external walls would have been in-filled between horizontal and vertical timber framing probably with lathe and daub and finished with a lime wash, possibly earth coloured or red or yellow ochre. This would appear to have been replaced by brick in 1785, as shown in the photograph.

The road running north to south Church Hill (originally Clyme Hill) and Castle Road was the main road from Hythe to Saltwood and on to Canterbury.

Reflections on Hythe

Notable local people – a piece by Anne Petrie

For me, history is about people. We have our fair share of the great and the good – Lionel Lukin, inventor of the lifeboat; Thomas Finnis, Lord Mayor of London; Francis Pettit Smith, creator of the screw propeller – but it is the ordinary people who interest me.

Some lived here all their lives as did shoemaker, champion bell-ringer and ‘chief constable’ John Friend and William Worthington who started as a wheelwright and founded a successful coach building company. Some retired here, like George Lawrie (d.1848), founder of Madras College and a poet, and John Tunbridge, a former Metropolitan police officer who in 1892 had helped capture the ‘Lambeth Poisoner’ (Thomas Neill Cream) and later served as head of the New Zealand police.

Others came here to work such as Frank Bourne, a hero of the 1879 Battle of Rorke’s Drift (Anglo-Zulu war) and who was made adjutant at the School of Musketry; and Alfred Winnifrith who in 1864 set up a school in Prospect Road (Prospect House Academy) and later in 1876 having moved from Hythe became a priest.

And there are those who were born in Hythe but left, not always voluntarily. Emigration or the armed forces offered escape routes to many who found small town life restrictive. Descendants of Hythe families can be found in Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Australia and America. Some are descended from men and women who were transported for what we would consider petty crimes: Thomas Hyham who in 1826 stole a watch; John Cheeseman of West Hythe who in 1838 took two bushels of potatoes; John Ifield who in 1826 stole nine shillings.

Women of course played their part in our history, mostly quietly but some came to attention. Suffragette Georgina Cheffins went on hunger strike in Holloway prison for ‘Votes for Women’ (1912); Dorothy Logan who in 1927 exposed the failings of the Channel Swimming Association and tragically, the last woman to be publicly hanged in England was Fanny Kidder of Hythe, in 1868 at Maidstone Prison.

Sinners and Saints alike, they are endlessly fascinating.

You can read the full stories about the people mentioned in this piece by searching on Anne’s magnificent local history blog:<https://hythehistoryblog.wordpress.com>



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St. Leonard's Church

Brief History (1)

Construction commenced in about 1080, not long after the Norman invasion, and the chosen location may have been next to an existing Anglo-Saxon church, which stood on the site of the present north transept. Despite the significance of Hythe, until 1844 St Leonard's was a 'Chapel of Ease' attached to the Saltwood Church parish and under the patronage of the Rector of Saltwood.



John Rogers engraving circa 1830, from a drawing by George Shepherd. Courtesy of the British Museum ©The Trustees of the British Museum

It is a much altered building since its first construction. In circa 1120 and then a century later, aisles and transepts were added. The town of Hythe, an important Cinque Port, could afford to display its wealth. By 1220, pilgrims were arriving in Hythe from Europe en route to Becket's shrine in Canterbury and would have visited the church, which had a relic of St Leonard to be venerated. They left offerings which enabled the further enlargement of the church, including a three-storey chancel, side chapels and screen. In the 14th century, a west tower was added and a new entrance from the south.



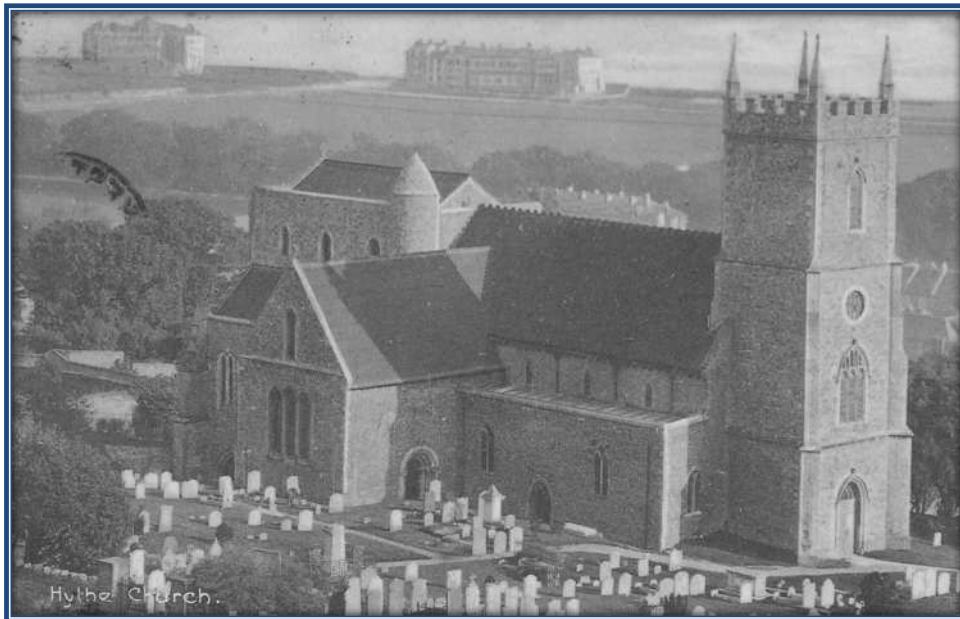
HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St. Leonard's Church

Brief History (2)

The cult of Becket withered after the Reformation and the revenue dried up. The Black Death carried off many craftsmen and the town's income fell, too, as the harbour silted up. We see the decline of the church's fortunes in the architecture: the nave arches became progressively smaller and windows were left unfinished.

The church tower collapsed in 1739, but was rebuilt and galleries were added for poorer parishioners and servants: those who could afford it rented box pews in the nave. The pulpit was then twelve or thirteen feet high, so that those in the galleries could hear the sermon.



St Leonard's Church circa 1910 – postcard image, Hythe Civic Society archive

In 1887, the church was thoughtfully restored and renovated, completing the work which the medieval craftsmen had left unfinished. The vaulting to the chancel and aisle roofs was completed, albeit five centuries late, and a lower mosaic pulpit was added. It has changed little since then except for the addition of a choir vestry on the north side of the church during the 20th century'.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St. Leonard's Church

Brief History (3)

There are numerous images of St Leonard's. Below left: the Proclamation of King George V in 1910 by Mayor F.W. Butler with the



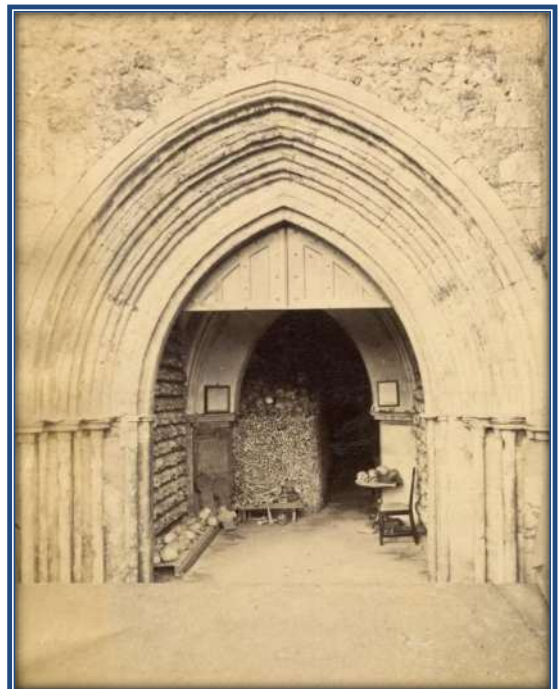
Reverend H. Dale, then Vicar of St. Leonard's at his side and many others on the steps of the South Porch (source Civic Society archive).

Elsewhere in the church display you may read more about the South Porch and the 'Parvise' room above. For over 250 years the Parvise was used by the Hythe Town Corporation before the Town Hall in the High Street was built in 1794.

St Leonard's Church has the largest and best-preserved collection of ancient human skulls and bones in Britain. The collection (housed in the Ossuary) consists of shelves in four arched bays that contain 1,000 skulls

in total, and a single stack of bones and skulls measuring 7.5m in length, 1.8m in width and just over 1.8m in height. The stack of bones was reassembled on its brick base in 1910.

Right: the Ossuary and Crypt entrance c1860s – image courtesy of the Friends of St Leonard's

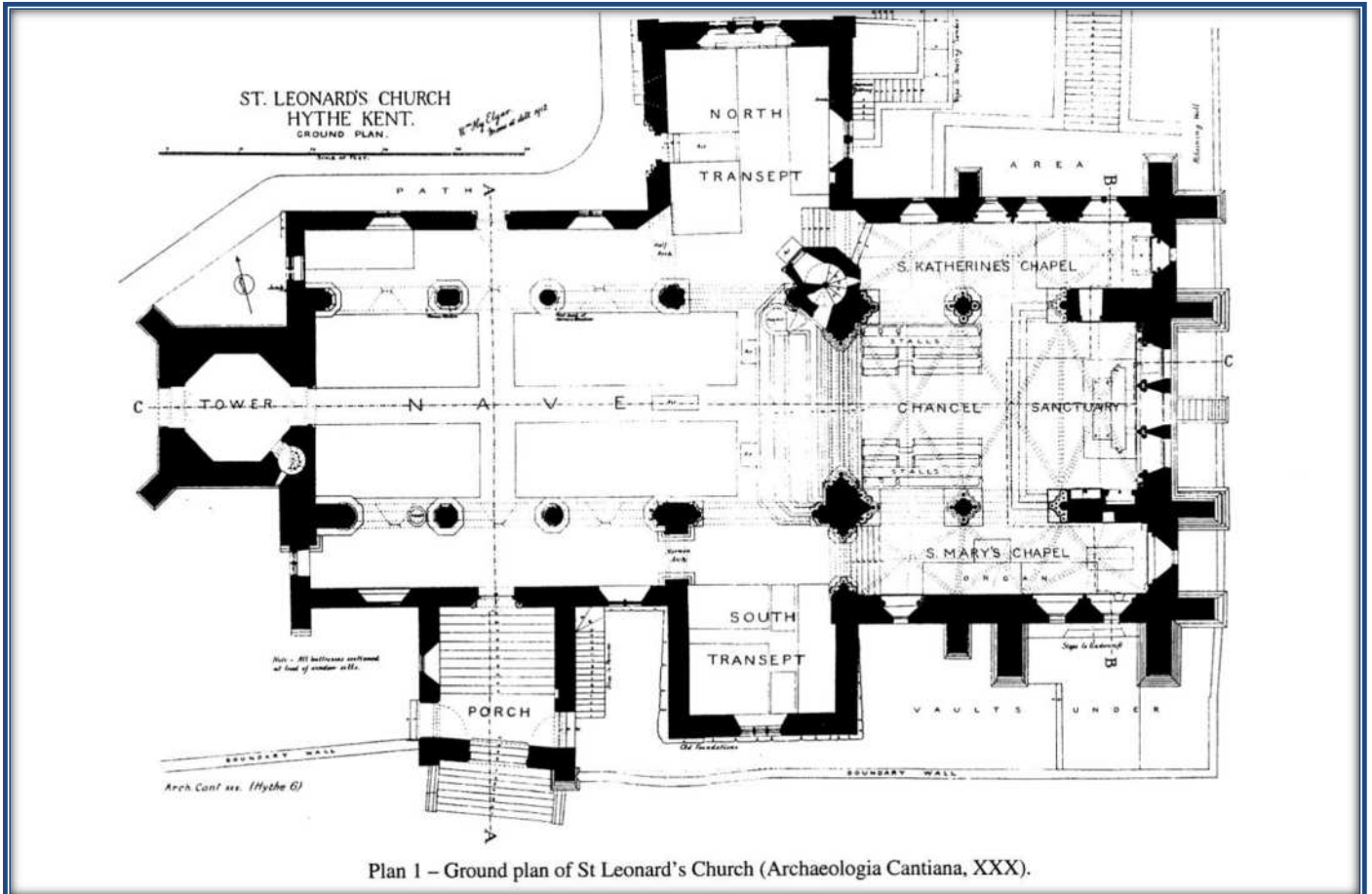




HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St. Leonard's Church

Brief History (4)



Plan 1 – Ground plan of St Leonard's Church (Archaeologia Cantiana, XXX).

Ground floor plan dated 1912



HERITAGE HYTHE

St Leonard's Church

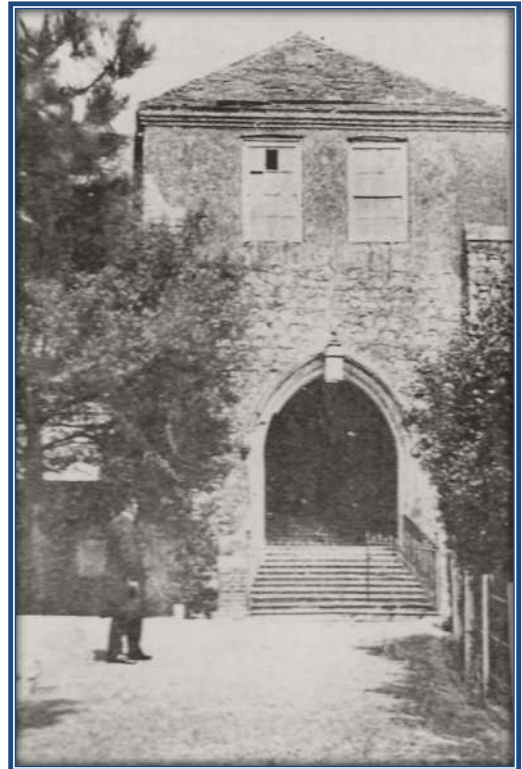
The Parvise

In the fourteenth century, when the Cinque Port of Hythe was at its richest, a new south door and porch were built at the church, with a room above for the priest – the Parvise. Inside was a small circular window so he could see into his church. The only way in was via an external staircase.

The Parvise was used by the Corporation of Hythe for meetings from about 1540 until the Town Hall was built in 1794 in the High Street.

Right: the South Door and Parvise c1860.

The Parvise room was also used to store the funeral hatchments of Isaac Rutton of Sandgate Castle, who died in 1683.



Left: the Parivse circular window as it is today.



Right: the diamond-shaped hatchment of Issac Rutton.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St Leonard's Church

Font

Hythe did not become a separate parish until 1844. Before then, it was a 'Chapel of Ease' to Saltwood and under the patronage of the Rector of Saltwood. To mark the separation of the two churches, the then Rector, James Croft, presented to St Leonard's a handsome font.

It is a hybrid: the bowl dates from the C14th, the stem from the C19th and the base from 1952. It has moved around the church over the years. A print from 1860 shows it was just south of its present position. Then it was moved to the present Calvary Chapel, until it was displaced by the new organ in 1875. By the 1920s, it stood by the south door and finally, in 1921 was moved to its present position.

Why did St Leonard's not have its own font? Some historians think the original was destroyed by the Puritans during the Interregnum because it would have been adorned with depictions of the saints. When the monarchy was restored, the theory goes the church could only afford an inferior font, not worthy of its grand surroundings, hence the rector's gift.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St Leonard's Church

Medieval Graffiti

There are three to four hundred individual graffiti in the church, many only visible when a light is shone obliquely across the surface of the stone. They include masons' marks, crosses, 'witch marks', and depictions of ships, fish, demons, a dragon and human figures.

Masons' marks may be seen on the Norman arch in the south aisle. 'Witch marks' of various sorts, designed to ward off evil influences, are found throughout. A pillar near the south door is particularly rich in graffiti. Here you can see: ships, a demon, a cat, St George and the Dragon and two knights duelling.

There are also scattered about dozens of initials, the earliest dated 1607. Many are in the chancel.



Left: Demon and Cat - enhanced

Right: St. George and the Dragon - enhanced





HERITAGE HYTHE

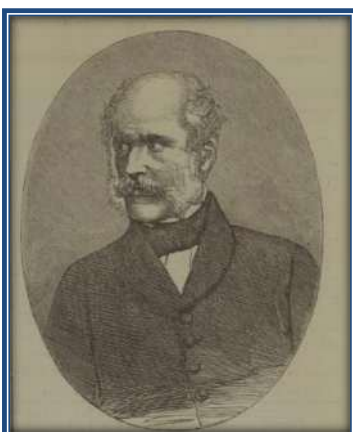
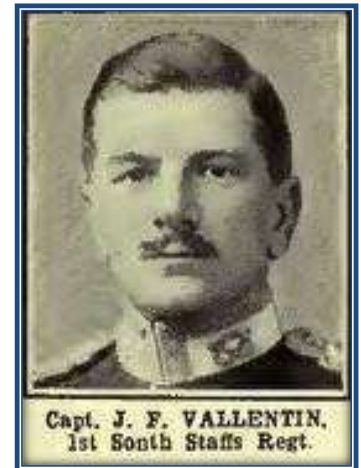
On This Site...St Leonard's Church

St Edmund's Chapel

In the North Transept of the church (sometimes known as the Soldiers' Chapel) are grouped together memorials to Hythe members of the Army and Royal Navy who died in the service of their country and Empire. These include Capt. Patrick Hamilton (right) a pilot in the Royal Flying Corps killed in a flying accident in 1912 and Capt. John Franks Vallentin VC (below right) who died at Ypres in December 1914.



The Finnis family are well represented here. The family was connected with Hythe for over 150 years and produced many military men. Col. John Finnis (bottom left) was the first British officer killed in the Indian Mutiny of 1857. His sons served in the Army and the Royal Navy. His grandson John Fortescue Finnis (bottom centre) died leading his troops in Mesopotamia during the First World War and John's brother Robert was killed in a short-lived American war in 1813 (Lake Erie funeral picture bottom right).





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St Leonard's Church

St Edmund's Chapel

This Chapel probably stands on the site of an earlier Saxon church dedicated to St Edmund and has an Easter Sepulchre on the north wall, a reminder of the empty tomb after the Resurrection.

High up on the west wall hangs a jousting helmet with a wolf's head crest, reputed to have belonged to Capt. John Warde, formerly the captain of Sandgate Castle and 'Captain of the Town and Port of Hythe'. Given the time, John Warde (1505-1601) lived a long life. In the 1580's he was mayor of Folkestone with an aggressive personality, which was borne out by his nick-name – The Stormy Captain.¹



Jousting helmet with wolf's head crest

¹ Capt Patrick Hamilton image on previous display sheet is from Don001 www.lothian-blogspot.com. Capt J F Vallentin image on previous display sheet is from www.vconline.org.uk. All other images and information courtesy of Anne Petrie Hythe History Blog and Chris Melchers.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St Leonard's Church

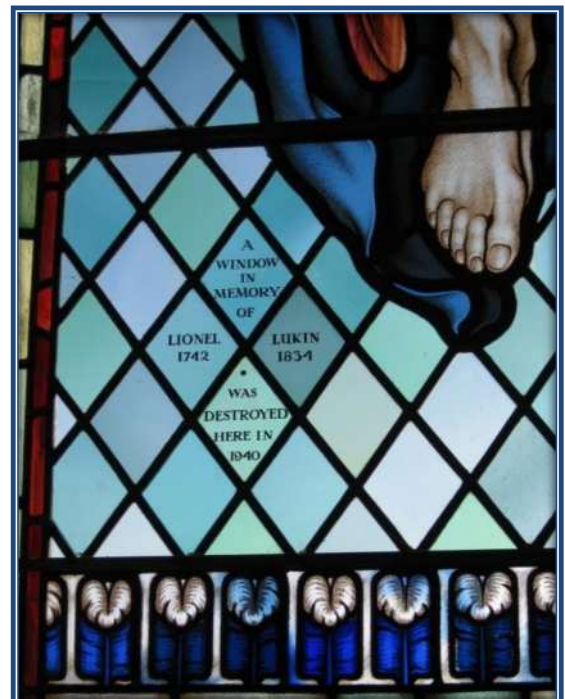
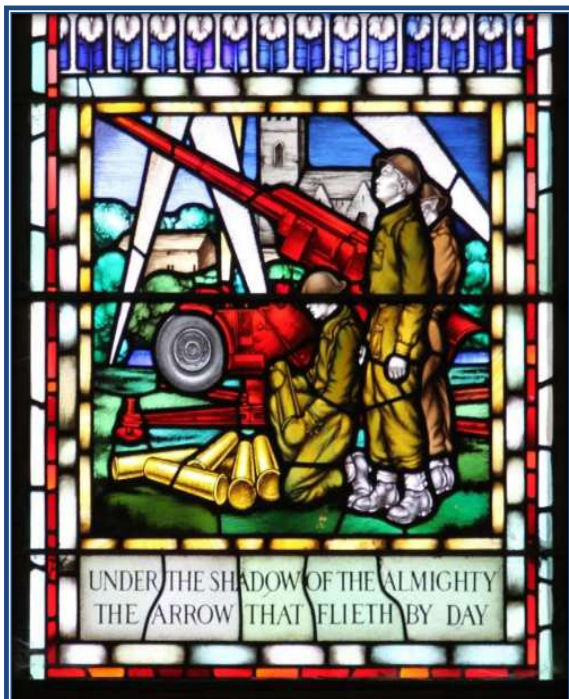
East Window

In 1940, the east window of the church (above the altar) was destroyed by enemy action, though the church avoided a direct hit. It had commemorated the achievements of Lionel Lukin, inventor of the lifeboat, who is buried in the churchyard, and of Thomas Quested Finnis, a local man who became Lord Mayor of London.

A replacement was finally installed in 1951, designed by Wallace Wood, a renowned artist who lived locally. In the outer panels he depicted the historical and modern defences of the ancient Cinque Port. Not many churches can claim to have an anti-aircraft gun depicted in their stained glass!



Altar and East Window c 1900



Detail from the East Window by Wallace Wood



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St Leonard's Church

The Armada Chest

The chest is made entirely of iron with strong bands. There is a tradition that it came from one of the vessels captured from the Spanish Armada of 1588, though another story is that it was brought here from Horton Priory, Monks Horton near Ashford.

It was used to keep the Church registers and other important documents. In addition to the main lock, there are two strong clamps for padlocks, which have separate keys. The minister would have held the main key and each of the churchwardens a padlock key, so all three had to be present when it was opened.

The original padlocks and their keys are now lost, but the chest can be opened using a key, with the assistance of an iron lever. Inside the lid is a cover for the cog wheels, made of chased steel. The outside of the chest has a painted design of tulips.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St Leonard's Church

The Hildyard Window

This touching memorial to Robert Aubrey Hildyard commemorates his death at the Somme in December 1916 and was installed by his parents in 1918. It is one of a number of 'off the shelf' designs available at the time and is entitled 'The Great Sacrifice'.

Robert was an only son, who when war broke out was seventeen. He tried to enlist but was too short. Two years later, he was successful and on 6 April 1916 he was gazetted 2nd Lieutenant in the King's Own Royal Lancaster Regiment.



Robert Aubrey Hildyard, who had sung in the church choir

He went to France in June that year. Acting as his battalion's Signalling Officer, he had returned from leave only the day before his death and was sheltering in a dug-out at Fregicout with another young second lieutenant (Godfrey James Wilding, of London) when they were both killed by a shell exploding overhead.

Beneath the window is part of the cross which stood over Hildyard's original grave.

Reflections on Hythe

ST LEONARD'S CHURCH – BELLS, CHOIRS AND CONCERTS – a piece by Brin Hughes

Brin sings as a tenor in the St Leonard's Church morning and evening choirs. He is also a former churchwarden and chairman of the Friends of St Leonard's Church. Currently he is concert manager for the Friends and responsible for organising the annual programme of concerts and recitals held in the church.

Bells

If you attend either the 9.30am or 6.30pm service on a Sunday at St Leonard's you will probably hear the fine peal of ten bells ringing out as you approach the church. The bells are heard at their best in the churchyard and, apparently, out at sea.

Historical records show that there were some bells in the tower in the 1400s. There is even a reference to an earthquake shaking the bells so much that they rang of their own accord in 1580. The same thing happened in April 2007. The bells were balanced in the 'up' position, ready for ringing on the Sunday, and two bells rang themselves 'down' as the quake occurred. Fortunately, there was no damage to any of the ten bells.

If you listen carefully you can count how many bells are being rung – usually six, eight or all ten. Tunes as such are not rung, but the order of ringing is in changing patterns – each time the bells are struck being called a 'change'.



Right – a clever composite image of the bells and bell ringers taken and created by Jack Adams in 1949 (HCS Archive – the Jack Adams collection)

Choirs

St Leonard's Church is the only parish church in Kent that still maintains a traditional choir of boys and men, singing at the weekly evensong service and contributing a special flavour to Advent, Epiphany and Easter carol services. Choirboys have sung in St Leonard's since at least 1442 although the modern foundation, with cassocks and surplices and singing in the choirstalls, dates from the second half of the nineteenth century.

Right - the Choir, 1949. Note also the temporary post-war East Window (HCS Archive – the Jack Adams collection)



An adult mixed choir (women and men) specialising in unaccompanied music well suited to the acoustic of St Leonard's chancel, sings at Sunday morning services.

The Hythe Girls Choir was set up in 2007 and provides similar opportunities as for the boys to sing and be trained in choral music. On occasions (such as annual carol concerts) all three choirs appear together.

Concerts

In addition to the church's fine organ and two grand pianos, the setting provided by the broad flight of nine steps leading from the nave to the magnificent chancel enables St Leonard's to be an ideal venue for the staging of musical events.



Above – the fine organ, 1949 (photo HCS Archive – Jack Adam's collection)

An annual programme of concerts arranged by the *Friends of St Leonard's Church* provides a stimulating mixture of major choral works performed by local choirs, engaging recitals by young professional musicians, organ recitals, chamber music, jazz, folk and much more.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St Leonard's Church

Organ

There has been an organ in the church since at least the 15th century, when the Churchwardens' accounts show that 'ten shillings' were paid to the Parish Clerk for 'keeping the organ'. In the 18th century, it was situated in a gallery at the west-end of the church, but a replacement was sited in the south choir aisle, where it took up much of the available space.

The present fine instrument was built by Harrison and Harrison of Durham in 1936, incorporating pipes from two earlier instruments.

The organ is divided. Most of the pipes are contained in the imposing main case at the west end of the nave. This is made of oak reputedly



from old ships' timbers. Further pipes are installed high up in the triforium (gallery) on the north-side of the chancel.

The three-manual mobile console is usually located in the south transept and can play both the west end and chancel sections together or independently. They produce the lovely music that accompanies services, weddings and funerals.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...St Leonard's Churchyard

Grave of Lionel Lukin (1742-1834)

Not far from the west door of the church is the grave of Lionel Lukin, inventor of the first unsinkable boat paving the way for first purpose-built lifeboat.

A coach builder by trade, he had a strong philanthropic bent and took up the challenge of building an unsinkable boat to be carried onboard sea-going vessels and used in case of wrecks.

He obtained a patent in 1785 and in 1786 accepted a commission to convert a 'cobble' as an unsinkable lifeboat for use at Bamburgh. His boats were eventually used as rescue vessels – the *Frances*

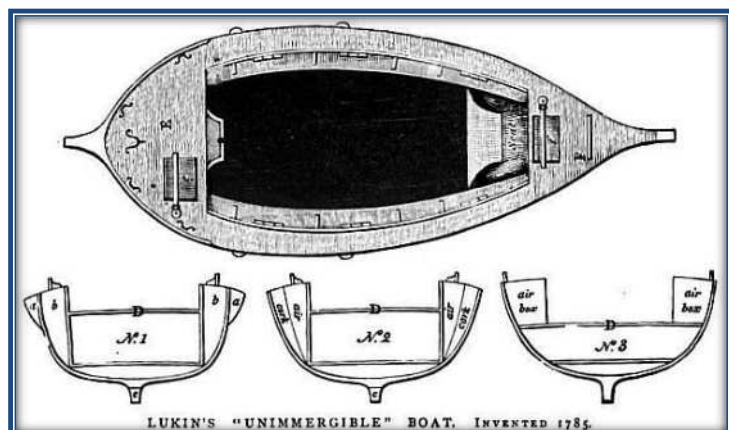


Anne at Lowestoft saved over three hundred lives.



Lukin (left) also invented a raft for rescuing people trapped under ice and an adjustable reclining bed for hospital patients.

Below: Lukin's patented '*Unimmergible*' boat design.



LUKIN'S "UNIMMERGIBLE" BOAT. INVENTED 1785.



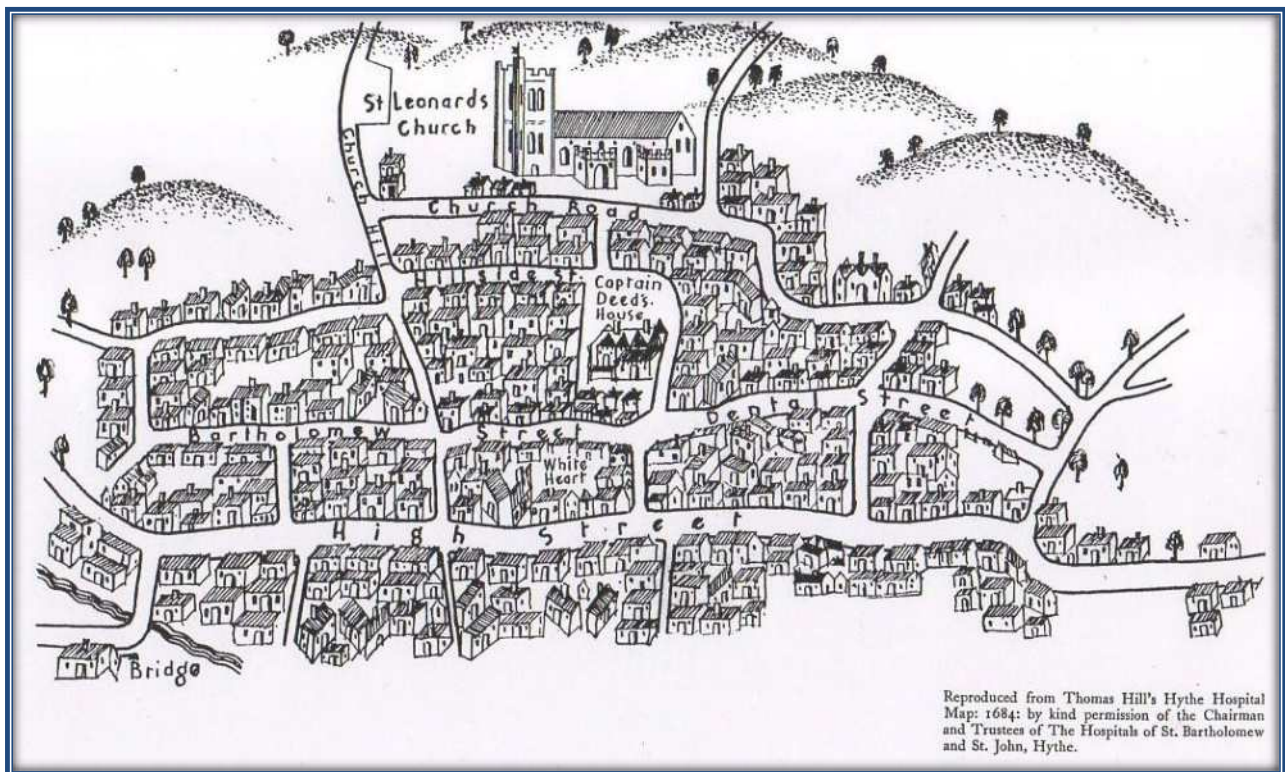
HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Hillside Street,

Old Manor House

Formerly called St Leonard's House, the Manor was home to the Deedes family until they moved to Sandling Park around 1800. The house is Georgian in appearance- with Dutch influence evidenced by a bell gable- although the actual date is 17th Century and the oldest part 1654.

The site itself was inhabited much earlier and a Norman wall and Saxon remains have been discovered here.



Reproduced from Thomas Hill's Hythe Hospital Map: 1684; by kind permission of the Chairman and Trustees of The Hospitals of St. Bartholomew and St. John, Hythe.

Captain Deedes House (Old Manor House) depicted centre, in the Thomas Hill's Hospital Map 1684 - courtesy of the Chairman and Trustees of The Hospitals of St Bartholomew and St John's Hythe



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Hillside Street,

Old Manor House

Originally one building, the Manor was used for some time as a school but is now divided into several apartments.



Rear of Old Manor House, 1972 with the old vicarage to the left – photograph by Mr M Jack

This conversion was probably carried out in the mid-20th century, some years after an extension was added to the eastern end of the building. There are cellars under the house and it is rumoured that they extend to a tunnel running from the house to the church or from the house to the High Street. The adjacent building to the right was once the vicarage and one of its bricks is dated 1785.

Several of the original windows remain bricked-up, probably to avoid the window tax in place between 1696 and 1851.

Gerald Holtom, designer of the Nuclear Disarmament symbol, adopted by CND, lived here in the 1980s until his death in 1985.



Peace symbol by Gerald Holtom, originally uploaded to en.wikipedia as Image:Peace Sign.svg., Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=579075>

Old Manor House information source: Colonel Duncan Forbes MA



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...

Town Hall Undercroft

Hythe Town Hall was built in 1794 on the site of an old open corn market. The new Georgian building incorporated an Undercroft so a market could continue. The market was small and not well attended. It was later moved to Market Square (later renamed Red Lion Square) where a busy fortnightly livestock market was held.



Just to the left inside the main door was a

holding cell for prisoners before they appeared before the Court which used to sit upstairs in the Town Hall. No toilet was provided, but then there was also none for the Mayor, Jurats (councillors) and staff working and attending meetings there. So, it is said, a men's 'open' urinal with a low wall hiding a drain, was located under the archway which probably accounts for the notice on the wall:

'All persons are requested to unite their endeavours to keep this Place clean and to prevent boys or others from dirtying the fame' (same).

These days there is just the Town Council's notice board. Nevertheless, the Undercroft is well used by the Mayor and Councillors as a reception base whenever there is a Town parade. It is also used for civic and national occasions and by voluntary groups such as the Rotary Club at Christmas and by other groups for fund raising or displays. The Town Hall and Undercroft are also used as a wedding venue.

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. 2

THE END

Other Volumes in the series

Vol 1 - The High Street

Vol 3 - Fisherman's Beach Trail

Vol 4 - Ladies' Walk Trail

Vol 5 - Red Lion Trail

