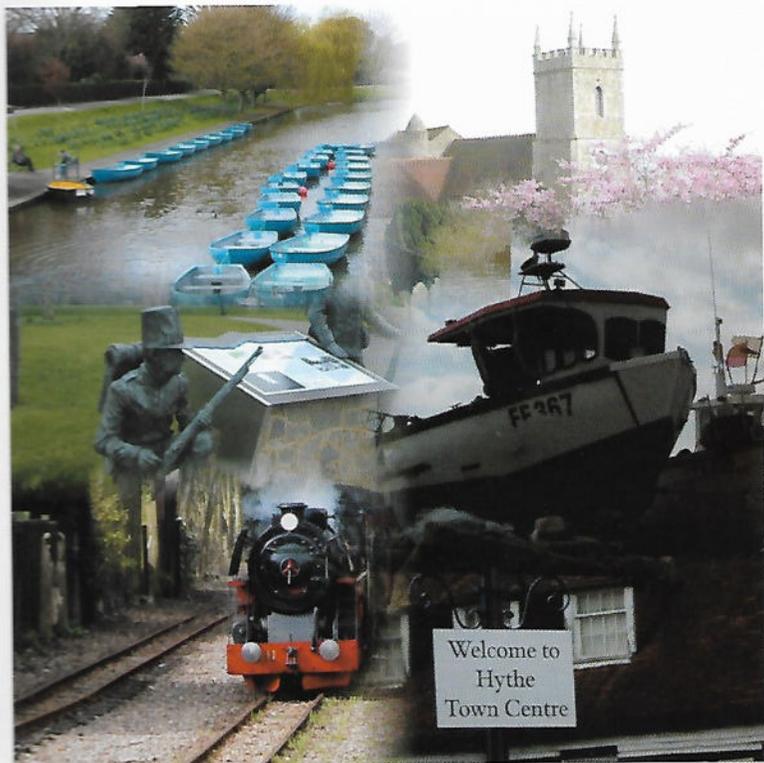


**HYTHE EVENTS**  
**SOME NATIONAL EVENTS**  
**&**  
**THE NATION'S RULERS**



**COMPILED**  
**by**

**BRIAN DOORNE**



**PUBLISHED BY THE HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY**



Church Parade, School of Musketry, Hythe.



*Ladies Walk (year unknown)*

# HYTHE EVENTS

## SOME NATIONAL EVENTS

&

## THE NATION'S RULERS



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This booklet attempts to tie in events in Hythe's history, both large and small, together with the country's rulers and some national events. It is not inclusive and is based partly on information given out by town walk guides, organised by Hythe Civic Society, plus details gleaned from various sources including: Duncan Forbes' *Hythe Haven*, Maurice Young's *The Last days of HytheHarbour*, Martin Easedown & Linda Sage's *Hythe a History*, the 'Frontline Hythe' leaflets produced by Shepway District Council and the information boards sited by the canal sculptures that were produced by Shepway District Council and English Heritage.

The editor would encourage readers of this booklet to study the above sources if they wish to gain further information. If due credit for any entry has not been given then it will be rectified in any future edition.

My thanks go to Hythe Civic Society members: Doug Amans, Sally Chesters, the late Stan Gow, Simon Hamilton, David Irwin, Chris Melchers, Mike Umbers, John Woodward, and the late Ronald Stokes, for their help in providing additional material and proof-reading this booklet.

The editor accepts full responsibility for any errors that remain.



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(Compiled and edited by Brian Doorne April 2005 ©)

## Early Historical periods

10000 - 3500 BC	Mesolithic	
3500 - 2000 BC	Neolithic	
2000 - 800 BC	Bronze Age	
800 BC - 43 AD	Iron Age	55 BC - Caesar's unsuccessful invasion of Britain
43 AD - 410 AD	Roman Occupation	
410 - 1066	Anglo-Saxon Period	

## Rulers

## Hythe & National Events

### RULERS OF ENGLAND

827 – 1016	Saxons	
1016 – 1042	Danes	1016 - 1035 King Canute. 1035 - 1040 King Harold Harefoot. 1040 - 42 King Hardicanute
1042 – 1066	Saxons (Edward the Confessor)	Hythe nominated by Edward to provide ships for communication with the continent and for defence against invaders. Saxon dwelling stood in place of present Manor Hse. and a Saxon Church on the site of St Leonard's.
1066	Harold II	

### House of Normandy

1066 - 1087	William I (The Conqueror)	1066 - Battle of Hastings 1080 - St Leonard's Church started <sup>(1)</sup> 1086 - Domesday Book produced.
1087 - 1100	William II	1096 - First Crusade begins (1096-1099)
1100 - 1135	Henry I	1107 - First phase of <i>Centuries</i> begun. On main route from France to Canterbury via Saltwood <sup>(2)</sup> 1120 - St Leonard's church widened and extended.
1135 – 1154	Stephen	

### House of Plantagenet

1154 – 1189	Henry II	1155 - 1156 Oldest Hythe Cinque Ports charter. 1170 - Thomas Becket murdered in Canterbury Cathedral.
1189 – 1199	Richard I	
1199 – 1216	John	1200 - Chancel added to St Leonard's church. 1215 - Magna Carta signed. <sup>(3)</sup>
1216 – 1272	Henry III	1217 - The Battle of Dover. <sup>(4)</sup> 1229 - Henry issues instructions to Cinque Ports. <sup>(5)</sup> 1250 - 1252 Severe coastal storms, combined with a major one in 1287, spell the eventual doom for Port of Hythe.

1272 – 1307	Edward I	1275 - Bishop Hamo of Rochester born at <i>Centuries</i> . <sup>(6)</sup> 1278 - Charter of King Edward I to the Cinque Ports <sup>(7)</sup> 1287 - Great storm. <sup>(8)</sup> 1293 - French worsted in sea battle. Revenge attack on Hythe repulsed - 200 French killed on shore. 1298 - Second Charter of Edward I to the Cinque Ports.
1307 – 1327	Edward II	
1327 – 1377	Edward III	1328 - Charter of Edward III for Hythe to provide ships for the King's use. 1337 - "Hundred Years' War" (1337-1453) between England and France begins. 1348 - The Plague (bubonic) or Black Death
1377 – 1399	Richard II	1380 - 'Earthquake' at Saltwood Castle - walls severely damaged. (Most likely to have been a landslip)

### ***House of Lancaster***

1399 – 1413	Henry IV	1400 - Great Fire and Shipwreck. <sup>(9)</sup> 1412 - 1413 Use of experts from Holland to attempt clearing harbour. New port opened.
1413 – 1422	Henry V	
1422 – 1461	Henry VI	

### ***House of York***

1461 – 1483	Edward IV
1483 -	Edward V
1483 – 1485	Richard III

### ***House of Tudor***

1485 – 1509	Henry VII	
1509 – 1547	Henry VIII	c1534 - Dissolution of monasteries.
1547 – 1553	Edward VI	
1553 – 1558	Mary I	1555 - First recorded Innings. <sup>(10)</sup> 1558 - Loss of Calais, England's last foothold in France with consequent reduction in cross channel trade.
1558 – 1603	Elizabeth I	1573 - Elizabeth <i>may</i> have come through Hythe. <sup>(11)</sup> 1575 - Charter of Elizabeth I - granting the right to elect a Mayor. <sup>(12)</sup> 1580 - Mini-earthquake and landslip in Hythe. <sup>(13)</sup> 1582 - Moot horn presented to the town. <sup>(14)</sup> 1588 - Only one ship provided by Hythe against the Spanish Armada. <sup>(15)</sup>

## RULERS OF BRITAIN

### *House of Stuart*

1603 – 1625	James I	1605 - Guy Fawkes attempts to blow up Parliament. 1625 - White Hart's earliest record. <sup>(16)</sup> 17th Century - Judith Cottage. <sup>(17)</sup>
1625 – 1649	Charles I	1642 - Start of English Civil War (1642-1646).
1649 – 1660	Commonwealth (Lord Protector Cromwell)	1652 - Hythe Bowls Club founded. 1658 - Manor House built. <sup>(18)</sup>

### *House of Stuart (restored)*

1660 – 1685	Charles II	1664 - Return of the Plague – raged for a year. 1666 - Great Fire of London 13,000 houses destroyed. 1685 - The 'Hospital Map' shows no trace of harbour.
1685 – 1688	James II	
1689 – 1702	William III} jointly	
1689 – 1694	Mary II }	
1702 – 1714	Anne	1702 - First national newspaper in truest sense produced, called The Daily Courant.

### *House of Hanover*

1714 – 1727	George I	
1727 – 1760	George II	1739 - Collapse of church tower. <sup>(19)</sup> 1742 - Lionel Lukin born in Essex.
1760 – 1820	George III	c1750 - Beginning of Industrial Revolution 1785 - Lionel Lukin patents his lifeboat. <sup>(20)</sup> 1789 - Henry Tritton - Mayor. <sup>(21)</sup> 1794 - Town Hall built. <sup>(22)</sup> 1801 - Mackesons buy the brewery. 1802 - St John's Alms House rebuilt. <sup>(23)</sup> 1802 - Napoleon prepares to invade Britain. 1803 - Britain declares war on France. 1804 - Napoleon declares himself Emperor of France. 1804 - 1809 - Hythe Military Canal constructed. <sup>(24)</sup> 1805 - Battle of Trafalgar. Nelson defeats French fleet. 1805 - 1808 - Martello towers & Grand Redoubt built. <sup>(25)</sup> 1805 - Canal worker sells his wife. <sup>(26)</sup> 1807 - The Swan starts a packet boat service to Appledore – leaving at 10.30am and returning at 5pm 1810 - Ladies walk laid out to commemorate the Jubilee of George III. <sup>(27)</sup> 1815 - Battle of Waterloo (Wellington Lord Warden)

- 1820 – 1830 George IV  
 1830 – 1837 William IV  
 1837 – 1901 Victoria
- 1808 - 1874 - Sir Francis Pettit Smith. <sup>(28)</sup>
- 1839 - S.S. *Archimedes* equipped with Pettit-Smith's propeller. <sup>(28)</sup>
- 1843 - London to Folkestone railway completed.
- 1844 - St. Leonard's Church becomes a Parish Church in its own right.
- 1845 - Original Methodist Church built.
- 1845 - 1846 - Irish potato famine.
- 1853 - School of Musketry opens in Hythe.
- 1853 - Hythe Army Ranges opened. <sup>(29)</sup>
- 1860 - First Venetian Fete held.
- 1860 - Battle of the bill posters. <sup>(30)</sup>
- 1862 - Hythe Green obtained for the town by Joseph Horton.
- 1868 - Congregational Church built. <sup>(31)</sup>
- 1871 - Town Hall clock erected. <sup>(32)</sup>
- 1872 - Henry Mackeson - Mayor. <sup>(33)</sup>
- 1877 - Great flood of Hythe. <sup>(34)</sup>
- 1880 - Seabrook (Imperial) Hotel opened.
- 1881 - Prince's Parade opened by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Edinburgh.
- 1886 - Wm Cobay - Mayor
- 1886 - Drinking Fountain presented to town by Mayor Thomas Judge. <sup>(35)</sup>
- 1888 - Bitter 1/- a gallon. Light & Pale Ale 2/6 & 3/- a dozen respectively.
- 1891 - Folkestone, Sandgate, Hythe Tramway opened
- 1892 - Hythe Institute founded by Alfred Bull.
- 1893 - St Michael's Church erected. <sup>(36)</sup>
- 1894 - Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady of Good Counsel built.
- 1894 - Local Government Act (Rural District & Parish Councils set up)
- 1895 - Salvation Army founded in Hythe
- 1898 - Methodist Church rebuilt
- 1901 - Present Clock installed on St Leonard's Church as a memorial to Queen Victoria

### ***House of Saxe-Coburg***

1901 – 1910 Edward VII

- c1900 - Oaklands laid out.
- 1903 - Wm. Bushel's bike sold to pay a fine. <sup>(37)</sup>
- 1914 - Start of First World (1914-18) War.
- 1914 - Fishing boats had started to be fitted with engines.

## ***House of Windsor***

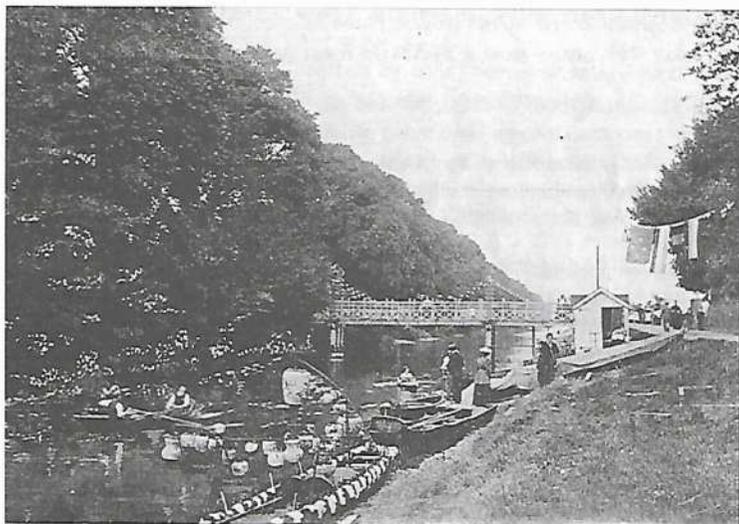
<b>1910 – 1936</b>	George V	1920 - Trams to Folkestone cease to run. 1921 - Port Lympne built. <sup>(38)</sup> 1927 - R.H.D. Light Railway opened. 1932 - Oaklands House bequeathed to the Corporation by Dr Randall Davis. <sup>(39)</sup>
<b>1936</b> <b>1936 – 1952</b>	Edward VIII George VI	1938 - Lord Wakefield opens improved Princes Parade and Promenade. 1939 - Start of Second World (1939-45) War. 1944 - Montgomery meets with American Ambassador, Joseph G Winnant, at the White Hart. <sup>(16)</sup> 1945 - Laurel & Hardy re-open the R.H.D. Light Railway after its war role as an armoured gun carriage.
<b>1952</b>	Elizabeth II	1952 - First Lady Mayor of Hythe, Cllr. Mrs Farmer, installed 1956 - Town Bridge rebuilt. <sup>(40)</sup> 1968 - Mackeson's Brewery closed. 1968 - Small Arms Wing, School of Infantry, leaves Hythe. 1973 - Court of Brotherhood and Guestling meet in the nave of St Leonard's church. 1974 - Old Borough of Hythe included in the new Shepway District. 1980 - Queen Mother visits Hythe as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. 1980 - Hythe twinned with Poperinge in Belgium and Berck-sur-mer in France. <sup>(41)</sup> 2005 - Installation of Admiral Lord Boyce as Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.

## EXPLANATORY NOTES

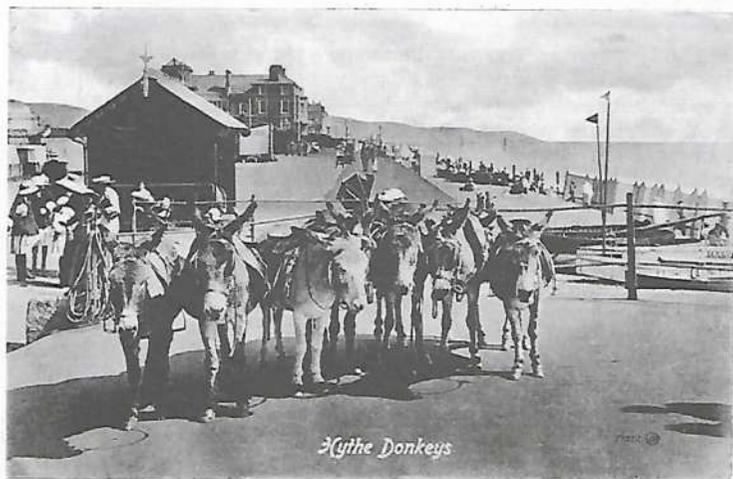
- (1) **St Leonard's Church** was started in **1080** and greatly enlarged in the **13th Century** but has Saxon origins. Inside, in the North transept, a well-preserved SAXON arch, once the doorway of the earlier church, can still be seen.
- (2) The first phase of **Centuries** was begun in **1107**. The original arched entrance can still be seen and behind the door there is an original internal aumbry, and stair.
- (3) **1215 - Magna Carta** declared illegal by Pope, the punishment to be exacted by a French fleet, but this naval expedition was defeated by the Cinque Ports ships.
- (4) **The Battle of Dover** occurred in **1217** when French ships crossing the channel, in support of the Dauphin's claim to the throne in place of Henry III, were met by the Cinqueportsmen and routed by having quicklime showered on them from upwind.
- (5) In **1229 Henry III** issued his instructions to the Cinque Ports. Hythe was required to provide five ships each with a master and a crew of 20 men and a boy for up to fifteen days a year free of charge. If the ships were required for a longer period payment would be made at the rate of sixpence a day for a ship's master and three pence a day for a member of the crew. The master of the ship was sometimes known as the governor and there was a constable on board who maintained order and dealt with victualling.
- (6) **Hamo**, who became Bishop of Rochester, and was one of the best known of Medieval Hythe's benefactors, was reputedly born in Centuries in **1275**. He served his noviciate under the Benedictine monks who looked after St Leonard's Church. He later studied for the priesthood at the Priory of St Andrew in Rochester. Becoming private secretary and chaplain to the Bishop of Rochester, he was well placed in the corridors of power, and so became bishop himself in **1319**. Styled "Hemo de Hethe", he retained the appointment until he resigned it in **1352**.  
During this time he had the family house in Hythe enlarged. He bought farm land nearby and created a hospital, or almshouse as we would call it, for ten needy men and women who had been born in the town and fallen from affluence to poverty through no fault of their own.
- (7) The **1278 Charter of King Edward I** required Hythe to provide 5 ships each with a crew of 22 men and a boy – and, with the towns of Hastings, New Romney, Dover and Sandwich formed the Confederation of the Cinque Ports. Their fishing boats could be converted into warships by the addition of portable 'castles' and archers.  
A photograph of the Charter can be found in the Local History Room.
- (8) In **1287** there was a Great Storm that, combined with those between **1250 & 1270**, caused two dramatic alterations to the river Rother and the destruction, "by high roaring tides", of the outer protective bank of Hythe Haven. These storms heralded the end of Hythe as a port.

- (9) In **1400** there were two disasters, one on land, the other at sea. In the former **200 houses were burnt down**, probably accounting for most of the town, and in the latter **five ships and a hundred men were lost**.
- (10) As the former harbour dried out the land was 'inned' and reclaimed from the sea. The first recorded Innings were those of John Knight in **1555** and were consequently called **Knight's Innings**. As time progressed more land was inned from the dried out harbour and became town land which was then leased out by the Corporation to individuals.
- (11) On **August 25th 1573 Queen Elizabeth I decided to visit Kent**, with a baggage train of no less than four hundred caravans, some of them drawn by six horses. She left Westenhanger and dined at Sandgate Castle that had been built by her father Henry VIII which means she may have come down through Saltwood. From Sandgate, she went up to Folkestone Down where she received several hundred men of Kent.
- (12) The 1575 Charter of Elizabeth I granted Hythe the right to elect a Mayor. This superseded the former arrangement of government of the borough by a bailiff and twelve jurats sworn in as town councillors since 1349.
- (13) The **mini-earthquake and landslip in 1580** shook the church tower and caused the bells to ring. An earthquake was reported but a landslip seems the most likely cause.
- (14) In **1582 - Thomas Tournay** presented a **Moot Horn** to the Corporation. The horn mysteriously disappeared for some years in the nineteenth century until it was fortunately identified in an antique dealer's shop and recovered for the town. It was the custom to blow the horn on the admission of the freemen to the Assembly, when voting was to take place, new freemen having paid 15 pence for admission. It is now only used on ceremonial occasions. In 1957 it was sounded on Wakefield day and in 1975 it was blown on the 400th anniversary of the granting of the charter of Queen Elizabeth I. It was last blown on Millennium Day - July 1st 2000 by Councillor Richard Carroll.
- (15) When the **Spanish Armada** was defeated in **1588** Hythe provided, or paid for, **only one manned ship of 50 tons**.
- (16) The White Hart seems to have been the inn most connected with the government of the town. There was a passage between the White Hart and the Town Hall that allowed the visiting judge a robing room from where he could walk, out of the weather, to the judicial chamber.
- The **earliest reference to the White Hart was in 1625**. An Assembly held in January, at which the Duke of Buckingham's letter, recommending the Chancellor of the Exchequer for Hythe's parliamentary election, was read out. The mayor, jurats and commons stuck to the two men they had already elected, drafted a letter to the duke in reply, and then 'went down to the **White Hart**'.

*(continued on page 12)*



The Grand Military Canal—Fete Night.



The Parade with Donkeys



*Hythe Institute.*



*War Memorial & Bandstand Grove*

Other 'Claims to Fame' for the White Hart include:

Prime **Minister William Pitt** and The **Duke of Wellington** met there to discuss the defence of Britain against Napoleon.

Providing accommodation for **Charles Scott, Tommy Rose, Jim Mollinson and Jean Batten in the 1930s** for their **record breaking flights from Lympne Airport.**

In 1944 it provided overnight accommodation for **Field Marshall Montgomery and the American Ambassador, Joseph G. Winnant**, when they met in order to gain a first hand impression of the V1 flying bomb crisis.

- (17) **Judith Cottage**, the remaining one of three cottages built for three daughters, in Bartholomew Street was built in the **17th Century** and is of typical **Kentish clapboard** construction. Legend has it that there was once a tunnel, now blocked up, that ran from the cottage to the church. If a tunnel did exist then it was probably used by smugglers as smuggling was rife in the area as well as in the adjacent Romney Marsh. The area was terrorised by the Ransley Gang in particular.
- (18) **The Manor House** was built **c1658** and was shown as *Captain Deedes's House* on the St. John's Map of 1684. Members of the Deedes family were 22 times mayor of Hythe. It is known that the site was inhabited before then as part of a Norman wall has been discovered inside as well as a Saxon hearth. It was also known as St Leonard's House at one time. At the end of the eighteenth century it was given a face lift which gave it its Georgian appearance. A brick on the adjacent building with similar style is dated 1785.
- (19) The **Church Tower of St Leonard's** collapsed in **1739** and the following extract from the General Evening Post tells us about it:  
"We learn from Hythe that on Thursday morning last about eleven o'clock the Steeple of their church fell down and that they have been very busy since digging out the bells, being six in number. About ten persons were present when it fell, waiting for the keys in the Church Porch to go up to the steeple for a view. But some delays being made in bringing them, they all happily saved their lives and had no other Damage than being terribly frightened."
- (20) In **1785 Lionel Lukin** patented his lifeboat. He lived in Elm House, in Hillside Street, Hythe in his later years and is buried in St Leonard's churchyard near the West door. It is understood that across the channel there is a memorial to a Frenchman who also claimed to have invented the lifeboat.
- (21) **Henry Tritton - Mayor** - was responsible for building a new **Town Jail** in Stade Street in 1789.
- (22) The **Town Hall** was built in **1794** and, prior to that, the Corporation used to meet in the Parvise, a room over the church porch. The budget for building the Town Hall was £777 but the eventual cost was £1096. The cell where prisoners were held prior to their trial in the Magistrates Court was situated to the left of the Town Hall entrance.

- (23) In **1802 St John's Alms House** in the High Street was rebuilt. The original building housed lepers and was thought to have been built on a small peninsula.
- (24) The **Hythe Military Canal** was constructed between the years **1804 - 07** and was intended to protect Britain from Napoleon's army. The canal runs from **Seabrook to Pett Level** in Sussex, a **distance of 28 miles** and its construction *inter alia* was discussed between the Prime Minister, **William Pitt**, and the **Duke of Wellington** at the **White Hart Hotel**. **Huntingdon elms** were planted along the canal banks to provide a source of timber for making muskets. They became infected by **Dutch Elm Disease** in the late 1970s and had to be felled.
- (25) The **Martello towers** were built between **1805 - 1808**, also to defend Britain from Napoleon's forces, and were based on a type of tower that had been defended very effectively by the French at **Cape Mortella** in Corsica during a sea borne attack on St Florent. **Brigadier Twiss** of the Royal Engineers, recommended their construction, his commanding officer being **Sir John Moore** who was responsible for the defence of the coast from Deal to Dungeness.  
 There were **27 towers** built between Folkestone and St Mary's Bay with **No. 1** being at the former and **No. 27** the latter.  
 In **1803** the French built a vast number of barges, 1500 being at Boulogne and the neighbouring seaside places, their intention being to invade England. The threat receded but in the spring of 1804 the number of troops in camp on the cliffs above Boulogne was seen to increase. **William Pitt** emerged from retirement in May 1804 and formed his last government to prosecute the war. He was, himself, the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports.
- (26) Article in Kentish Gazette on March 15th, **1805**:  
 "Last week the **wife of one of the men employed in cutting the canal** at Shorncliffe (Seabrook), was conducted by her husband to the market place at Hythe with a halter round her neck and tied to a post; from whence she was purchased for **six pence** by a **mulatto, the long drummer** belonging to the band of the 4th regiment, lately in barracks at that place. She was a young woman, apparently not more than 20 years of age, tall, and of likely form and figure; her face, however, exhibited evident marks of incompatibility of temper; vulgarly, she had a pair of black eyes; notwithstanding this, the new partner led her away, with much apparent satisfaction from his bargain."  
 This may have led **Thomas Hardy** to include the idea in his novel **The Mayor of Casterbridge**.
- (27) To celebrate the **Jubilee of George III in 1810 Ladies Walk**, a footpath, that led from the town to the seafront, was built and flanked with elm trees. In **1813** a new bridge called Marine, or **Ladies' Bridge** was built to connect the town with Ladies' Walk.

- (28) **Sir Francis Pettit-Smith** (1808 - 1874), who invented the **screw (or Archimedes) propeller** for steam ships, was born in 1808 in the building that corners the High Street and Three Posts Lane, now occupied by Paydens the Chemists.
- The propeller was a much more efficient form of propulsion than the old paddlewheels. The *S.S. Archimedes* was equipped with Pettit-Smith's invention in 1839 and it proved so successful that Brunel's famous ship the *S.S. Great Britain* was fitted with propellers in 1843.
- (29) In **1853 the Hythe Army Ranges** were opened and they are now said to be the most sophisticated in Europe. They are open for 320 days/nights a year.
- In the lead up to the 1914-18 war Lt. Col. N R McMahon, DSO, and the instructors at the School of Musketry, trained those attending courses to develop the technique of firing 15 or more aimed shots a minute with their Lee Enfield rifles. It later gave the advance guard of the German Army the impression that machine guns were being used against them.
- (30) In 1860 what became known as the 'Battle of the Bill posters' took place under the town Hall. Richard Black was putting up posters for Foresters' Fete at Brockhill and John Hyman posters for a travelling circus. As one put up a poster the other tore it down. Eventually Hyman tipped his pot of paste over Black and Black stuffed his brush into Hyman's mouth. In court Hyman was fined £1.7s.
- (31) Hythe's original **Congregational Church** was built in **1868** in the High Street on the corner with Sun Lane. In 1972 The United Reformed Church was set up combining the existing Congregational and Presbyterian Churches. A new United Reformed church was subsequently built adjacent to the, now former, Caffyns' site in East Street in 1987 and the High Street church demolished to make way for houses.
- (32) **The clock**, lit by gas, on the Town Hall was erected in **1871** after a long delay. Some wag got fed up waiting and put one up made from soap and cheese with the words: **"The clock is come the winding is easy, the weights is of soap and the pendulum cheesy."** It is reported that the real clock was quickly installed after that.
- (33) **Henry Mackeson** was **Mayor of Hythe for nine years** and a member of the Hythe Brewing family. In 1872 he presented to Hythe the **golden falcon** that is the central link on the **mayoral chain**.
- (34) On **new year's day in 1877** Hythe had a **Great Flood** that was caused by man and showed that the sea never forgives those who fail to treat it with respect. Workmen had been removing shingle from the beach banked up on the sea front to use for concrete - it was at a time when the sea wall was not continuous as it is today. Unfortunately they took too much away and with a spring high tide running one huge wave caused a breach and the sea rushed in flooding the low lying land that is below sea-level. Water was knee deep in Stade Street and flowed into cellars in the High Street which was itself awash. The breach was eventually blocked and the flood waters receded leaving loss and damage in its wake. One man, a road foreman, was drowned.

- (35) 1886 - **Drinking Fountain** presented to town by **Mayor Thomas Judge**. It was originally sited near the Town Hall adjacent to a water trough that was also there. It is now sited on a wall in Red Lion Square backing onto Mackeson Court.
- (36) In **1893 St Michael's Church** in Stade Street was erected and was more of a mission hall. It was mainly for the poorer people living in the rapidly developing area on the seaward side of the canal. It was to be a working man's church with free pews and also for the old and infirm of the locality.  
The church was one of the last 'mail order' type and came in kit form. They were made by Bolton and Paul in Norfolk and are scattered all over this country as well in Australia and New Zealand. They are affectionately known as Tin Tabernacles and there is a web site called **tintabernacles.com** where more information can be obtained about this type of church. A photograph of St Michael's is shown on the site.
- (37) In **1903 William Bushell** was taken to court for refusing to have his children vaccinated. The unfortunate outcome was that his bike had to be sold to recoup his fine of 1/- plus 9/- costs.
- (38) **Port Lympne** was built by **Sir Philip Sassoon** in **1921**. He named it after the Roman port, Portus Lemanus, that would have been below the site when Hythe Haven extended that far West. Above Portus Lemanus was Stutfall Castle, also built by the Romans, and the remains are there for us to see today. The Roman Road to Canterbury went from the port along what is now called Stone Street.
- (39) The much-beloved **Dr Randall Davis** was one of Hythe's benefactors and in **1932** his house, **Oaklands**, was made over to the Corporation, as his bequest for Hythe, providing part of it should be used as a museum for teaching the history of Hythe.
- (40) The original **Town Bridge**, at one time called Stade Street Bridge, was bombed during the last war and temporarily replaced by a Bailey Bridge that remained until a permanent replacement was built in **1956**.
- (41) The arrangement came about because there were Portex factories in each of the three towns.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

### **THE SWAN INN**

The Swan Inn was a recognised Posting Inn and a milestone can still be seen low down on the front wall indicating that it is 12 miles to Ashford and 71 miles to London. Higher up the wall is a Sun Insurance Company metal plaque that would survive a fire and provide proof of insurance even if the building was burnt down.

In the early 1800s The Swan ran a packet-boat service to Appledore. It departed at 10.30am and arrived back at 5pm. In the winter there was a fire in the boat's saloon to keep the passengers warm. It was discontinued when the railway line was opened from Ashford to Hastings via Appledore and Rye in 1851.

The inn once accommodated the office of the Inland Revenue.

### **THE BELL INN**

This inn is probably the oldest one in Hythe although it has not been possible to put a date on its origins. It was once the old harbour tavern and a smugglers' haven. There is said to be a ledge in the culvert over the stream that runs beneath the grounds on which contraband used to be stored.

### **BUILDING MATERIALS AND ARCHITECTURE**

The town retains much of its traditional built environment of locally quarried Kentish ragstone, Kent clay peg roof tiles and weatherboard cladding.

Many High Street properties still retain their late medieval King Post roofs.

Mathematical tiles, used in the Georgian period, can be seen on the side of Furniture World (formerly Newman's) and above the door of J A James the jewellers, adjacent to the King's Head. They are tiles shaped to give the appearance of bricks and can deceive even the most observant. At the time of writing there is a tile missing at the jeweller's that gives away the attempted deception.

The base of the rebuilt bandstand in Oaklands is a spare service tunnel ring donated by the Channel Tunnel contractors. (one hopes it was a spare ring!). The previous bandstand had been burnt down by vandals.

## **NOTES FROM THE “FRONTLINE HYPHE” LEAFLET PRODUCED BY SHEPWAY DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **RED LION SQUARE AND RAMPART ROAD**

There is a mention of a brewery in Hythe in 1669, and much later, the famous Mackeson's Brewery in Red Lion Square used the same fresh water springs until closure in 1968.

The building behind the exposed tramline, which runs across the pavement in Red Lion Square, was the former Hythe tram shed. In 1914 tram work-horses were requisitioned for the war effort and were temporarily replaced by mules.

The threat to England from the air during WWI was countered by setting up a Machine-gun School at the Hotel Imperial in 1915. Curious cut-out silhouettes of enemy aircraft were regularly mounted on trucks outside the hotel for 'moving target' practice.

### **CENTURIES**

The earliest part of this Historic Building of Kent was begun in 1107. It was the childhood home of Bishop Hamo of Rochester (born in 1275) who founded a Hospital/Almshouses in 1336.

Hythe was a main landing point from the Continent during the Middle Ages. Church Hill, past St. Leonard's Church, was the main road to Canterbury and the Shrine of St. Thomas Bucket. His callous assassins passed this spot on winter's night in 1170 to plot his murder at Saltwood Castle.

### **ST LEONARD'S CHURCH**

There has been a church on this site since Saxon times. The present Nave was built in the 11<sup>th</sup> Century and the Chancel around 1200.

The Crypt, which was created by digging out the Chancel foundations, houses a neatly stacked collection of 2,000 skulls and 8,000 thigh bones. It is likely that most of these were displaced when the foundations for the Chancel were originally excavated.

In 1940, a bomb seriously damaged the east end of the church, destroying the original stained glass window. The replacement window commemorates Hythe's 'front line' role with pictures of a Cinque Ports Ship, probing searchlights and anti-aircraft guns in action.

### **KING'S HEAD (FORMERLY THE SUN) /ST JOHN'S ALMSHOUSE**

There was a public house on this site in 1583 called The George, and in 1750 it became known as the King's Head. It was here, during the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Centuries, that the local Recruiting Sergeant would encourage young men to fight for King and Country.

St. John's Hospital Almshouse opposite is known to have been on this site before 1336 as a hospital for lepers. It was purposely built away from the town in an isolated spot on an island close to the shore. In the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century, it "maintained 8 beds for the needy and poor people and such as were maimed in wars."

## **TOWN HALL**

The Town Hall was built in 1794 and the ground floor Undercroft was the old market place. In 1805, the wife of one of the men working on the Royal Military Canal's construction was sold for 6 pence to a drummer at Shorncliffe Barracks. The Council Chamber above contains an oak panel, carved with the names of the Town Bailiffs and Mayors dating from 1349.

During WWI the warnings of air raids were given by flying of a cone from the roof of the Town Hall. Next door stands the White Hart Inn, first recorded in 1625. Here, Prime Minister Pitt discussed the coastal defences to ward off Napoleonic invasion with Wellington and his staff.

## **ROYAL MILITARY CANAL**

The Royal Military Canal was built between 1804 and 1807. It was constructed as a defence against Napoleon when it was feared that an invasion was imminent. The canal was designed as a series of measured staggers at 800 feet apart (within cannon range) to defend each section.

Hitler too had to take account of this formidable obstacle in planning his invasion of Britain. The canal runs from Seabrook in Kent to Pett Level in East Sussex.

## **OAKLANDS AND LOCAL HISTORY ROOM**

In 1932, Dr. Randall Davis bequeathed Oaklands to the town to be used as a History Room. One of the rooms commemorates the School of Musketry, later known as the Small Arms Wing of the School of Infantry, which was based in Hythe from 1835 to 1968.

Oaklands is situated in Stade Street. Stade means landing place and this street once led down to the harbour built in the Middle Ages in a vain attempt to replace the earlier silted-up unusable harbour entrance.

The Local History Room contains many artefacts relating to the coastal defence of Hythe, including pictures and objects which illustrate the town's history from Roman times up to the present day.

## **MARINE PARADE**

This part of Hythe was once a windswept shingle beach enclosing a sheltered harbour with a narrow entrance. It was then a hive of activity with fishing boats, fighting ships and merchants trading with the continent.

Following several disasters – The Black Death, a huge storm at sea and an earthquake – the harbour silted up and the town's prosperity waned.

During WWII, Marine Parade was a prohibited area, covered with coils of barbed wire and pill boxes armed with machine guns.

### **WEST PARADE FISHERMAN'S BEACH**

From Fisherman's Beach you can see two of the 74 Martello Towers which originally stretched along this coast as a deterrent against the threatened Napoleonic invasion. They were built in 1805 and their walls vary in thickness from 8 feet on the landward side to 13 feet on the Channel side and are deliberately sloped to deflect shot. The two and a half ton cannon, mounted on the firing platform, could fire a 24lb shot a mile out to sea.

Later, the remaining towers were used to combat smuggling and, in the 20th century, as formidable coastal defences in both world wars.

### **SCANLON'S BRIDGE AND THE PLUTO LINE**

The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway was opened in 1927 and requisitioned during WW2 to carry supplies to Dungeness by armoured train.

Dungeness was one of the locations of PLUTO – Pipeline under the Ocean – part of a network of underground fuel pipelines built to supply allied invasion against Germany.

The walk from here to West Hythe passes the concrete 'sound mirror', an acoustic invention designed in the 1930s to hear approaching enemy aircraft. The system did not come up to expectations but fortunately it was superseded by radar just before the Battle of Britain.

## THE CANAL SCULPTURES

### THE CANAL BUILDERS

The Royal Military Canal was built under the direction of Lt. Colonel John Brown by soldiers of the Royal Staff Corps.

But the hard work was done by navvies or 'navigators' - the working men who travelled the country to labour on the building of the new canal network. The first soil of the Royal Military Canal was turned on October 30th 1804.

At its height, in 1805, the Canal construction site employed 700 navvies: a good one would shift 3 cubic metres of earth each day.

These figures commemorate the lives of the navvies who worked here. Their clothes and tools are typical of working men of about 1805.

There were serious problems during construction of the Canal, especially at the seaward ends of the work, where sea water overwhelmed the ditch during spring high tides.

(Ed. Steam pumps were used to drain the workings)

### MR PITT'S DITCH (Soldier sculpture)

The Royal Military Canal was built between 1804 and 1809. Soldiers of the Royal Staff Corps, under Lt. Colonel John Brown, supervised the work. The figures you see here commemorate their contribution. No particular soldiers or exact clothes are represented. Only the officers had to wear full regimental uniform, and even they had considerable freedom over details.

William Pitt's plan was supported by King George III. This is the only English Canal to include 'Royal' in its name.

(Ed. Although relatively narrow the canal would have given an attacker a real problem in how to get heavy guns across)

### KING GEORGE'S JUBILEE

To celebrate 50 years of George's reign as King of England in 1810, the land beside the canal between here and Central Hythe began to be turned into ornamental walks, avenues and gardens.

In 1874 the town of Hythe was able to buy the section of Canal through the town, and the waterway was added to the pleasure grounds, for the delight of inhabitants and visitors. Later work included The Avenue, which replaced a field grazed by sheep in the 1890s.

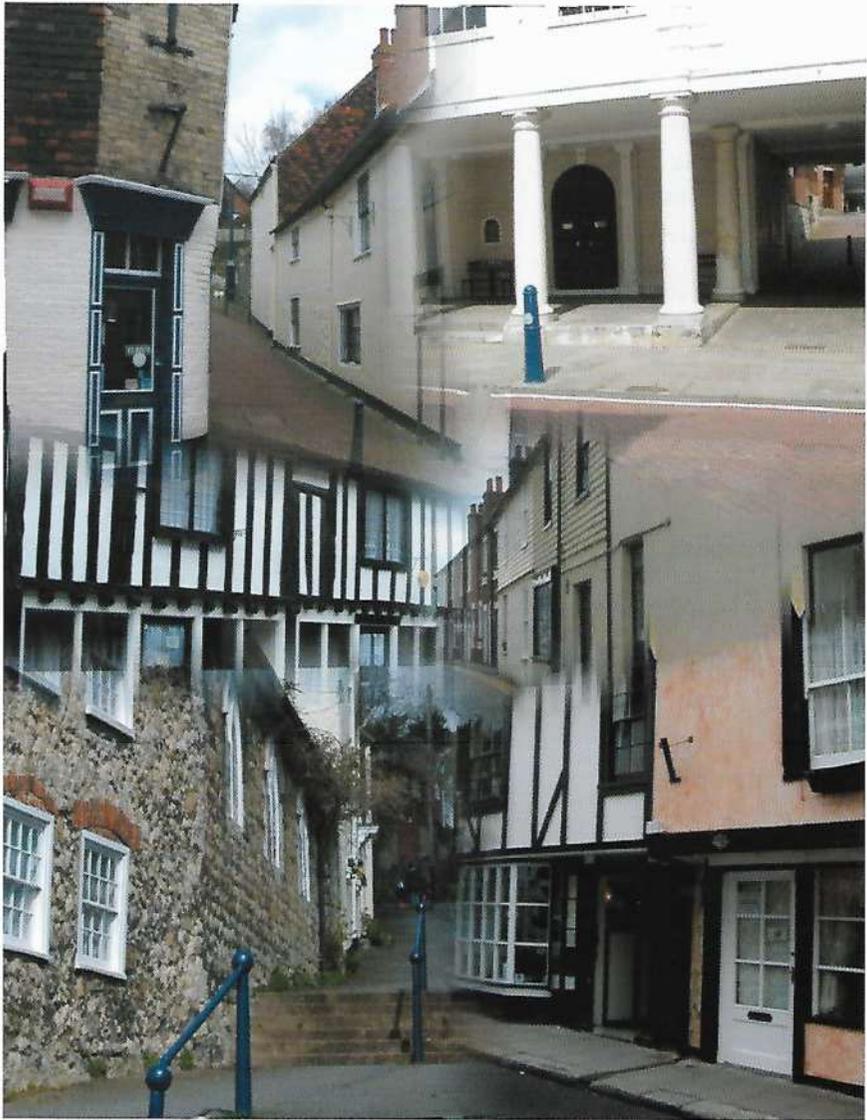
Although judged harshly by its first administrator, (1832) as "of as little advantage as a Canal as it was observed as a means of defence", the Royal Military canal is a monument to the ingenuity and hard work of many people over two centuries.



*Smugglers Retreat 1904*



**Red Lion Square? 1911**



**Photography and booklet design: Brian Doorne**