



HERITAGE HYTHE

HELD AUGUST 2021



The Book of the Posters

Vol 4. Ladies' Walk Trail

An E-book by

The Hythe Civic Society



Heritage Hythe

Held August 2021

The Book of the Posters

Volume Four – Ladies’ 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.

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Dedicated to Molly Griggs

1929 - 2022

Volume 4 – Ladies' Walk Trail

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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.

Ladies' Walk Trail

Covering the eastern half of the southern part of the town from the canal this is a pleasant walk through recreational areas to the beachfront. The trail returns to the town via Twiss Road where across the busy East Street/Seabrook Road stands the Bell Inn, another of Hythe's old public houses.

Once part of Hythe's harbour this area was largely unpopulated until Victorian times and the advent of the railway. With the advent of the railway, development occurred on the seafront including the construction of the Seabrook Hotel, later to become the Hythe Imperial. At a similar time a horse-drawn tramway was built through Hythe with a route along the seafront, which later became Princes Parade.

Earlier (early C19th) this area was dominated by Napoleonic defences, including the Fort Twiss and Martello towers. At a similar time the Military Canal was also constructed.

Ladies' Walk was originally a footpath and cart track known as Marine Walk, which connected the beachfront with the town. A short part of Marine Walk remains present, connecting Prospect Road with the High Street. Ladies' Walk was laid out as a fashionable place for a stroll, particularly attracting ladies and military officers based at the School of Musketry.

Recreation plays an important role in this relaxed part of the town. South Park, with its sports fields, allotments (although much reduced from the original allotment areas) and herbaceous borders, is a good vantage point to appreciate the view to the escarpment on which the core of the town rests.

The seafront is of course a popular place with residents and visitors.

Leaving this area via Twiss Road to cross East Street by the Bell Inn, you can take in the only remaining former mill in Hythe, an old watermill converted to private residences. Nearby, another of Hythe's windmills once stood. This was Albion Mill, also owned by Joseph Horton (see Volume 3) who closed it down in favour of building a steam mill at Windmill Street.

Re-enter the High Street at the East Street roundabout, where opposite stood the town's largest cinema, now the Blythe Court apartments named after the cinema's last manager.



HERITAGE HYTHE

'KEEPING LOCAL HISTORY ALIVE'

12th - 22nd
AUGUST
2021



Ladies' Walk

Key

1. Canal Interpretation Board
2. Bowling Green and Bowls
3. Boating on the Canal
4. Ladies' Walk
5. Napier Gardens
6. Lord Wakefield / Bassett House / Lucy's Walk
7. Moyle Tower
8. Pavilion
9. Chinese Shelters
10. Twiss Fort
11. Beaconsfield Terrace / Disraeli / WRAF / WPS
12. Imperial Hotel
13. Colonel Twiss / Twiss Rd
14. Bell Inn
15. Hythe Corn Mill
16. Views of Old East St
17. Ritz Cinema



The Sea

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'THE BOOK OF THE POSTERS'

Volume Four – Ladies Walk Trail

CORRIGENDUM

With over 200 display sheets produced covering a multitude of historical subjects, it was inevitable that some factual errors were discovered. This note provides corrections to those sheets where errors or mistakes are known.

Bowling Green and Bowling Club

The Hythe Bowls Club was first formed in 1903 more precisely and not in the period 1903/04 as stated on the display sheet.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...

Bowling Green and Bowling Club

Bowling has been played in Hythe for hundreds of years, originally on the site further along Ladies' Walk (still present today). Since 1903/4, bowls has also been played on this site, when the Hythe Bowling Club was established.

Originally part of the Hythe Cricket Club, the bowls players persuaded the committee to lay out a new forty-square-yard green. With subscriptions set at 'ten shillings' a year, they were able to build their own pavilion. Edward Munds, the Cricket Club groundsman tended the green.



Two years later there were over one hundred members. These for a long time, were men only.



*Top image:
April 1932*

*Below image:
May 1934*



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...

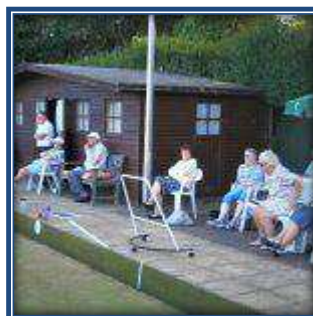
Bowling Green and Bowling Club

The Club's President for many years until his death in 1939, was Sir Philip Sassoon, who was also the MP for the town. He provided prizes for the *Hythe Challenge Cup* which was established in 1907.

The Pavilion was doubled in size in 1939. The same year, the club hosted its first inter-county match at what the local paper called 'the prettiest spot in Hythe'. In September 1939, all fixtures were cancelled, but despite the War resumed later in 1940. The Folkestone Herald reported:

'The pleasant sound of wood against wood has been heard once again on the Folkestone and Hythe bowls greens and elderly gentlemen are once more assuming those strange attitudes only to be seen when the wood is threatening to hit the Jack'

These days it's all very different, as you can see from the pictures below, which are from the Club's website:





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On This Site...The Boat House,

Boating on the Canal

The Royal Military Canal, when constructed between 1804 and 1809, was never intended for navigation, being primarily a defensive structure.

However, after the threat of Napoleonic invasion ended, in a bid to raise much needed money from the enterprise, the canal was opened for public use and tolls were charged. The canal was mainly used by barges carrying shingle and other cargoes, although there was a regular passenger service which ran from Hythe to Appledore and Rye. The canal remained steadily busy until the Ashford to Hastings railway was opened in 1851 - this took away most of the traffic. Barges continued to use the canal sporadically until the last toll-paying barge travelled through Iden Lock in December 1909.

Pleasure Boating



From very early on in the canal's history, Officers stationed at Hythe barracks and later the School of Musketry, used the canal for sculling and for taking their families for a row on Sundays.



Left: two early views, circa 1900s of the Canal and the boating station.

The top photograph also shows an earlier Ladies Walk bridge.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...The Boat House,

Boating on the Canal

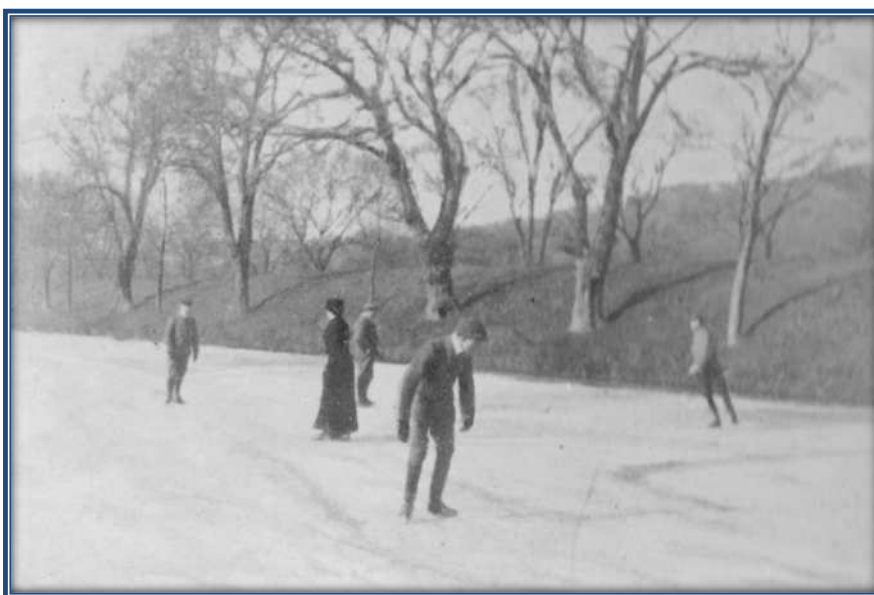
Once the threat of Napoleonic invasion had passed, local residents were permitted to row on the canal. The desire to take boats on the canal has never abated with a particular peak in the 1880s when the ornamental gardens along the canal in Hythe had matured.¹



Left: an image possibly 1937-1939 with the Grove Cinema in the background.

Boating on the canal remains a popular activity. An electric boat purposely built for use on the canal has been operation

for a number of years, though unfortunately is not available for 2021.



Extremely cold temperatures and heavy snowfall occurred in April 1908. It was no surprise that the canal froze over.

Left: an image dated 1908, showing people taking the unusual opportunity to skate on the canal.

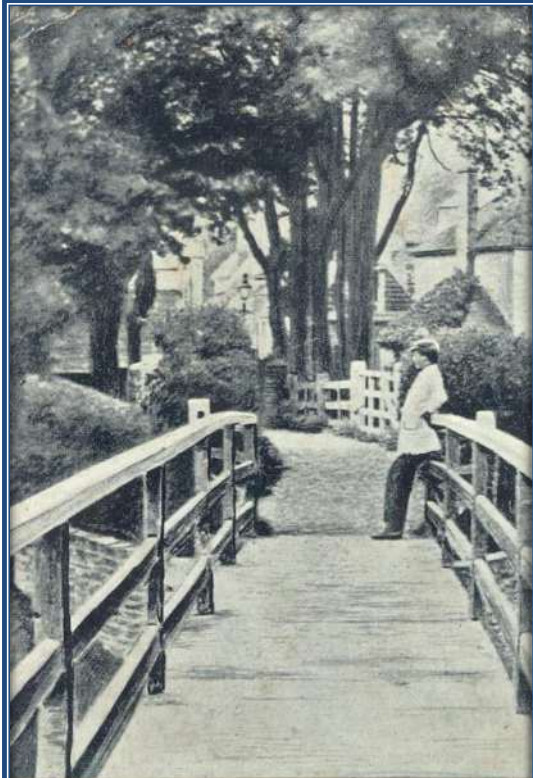
¹ Information for this display is partly from www.theromneymarsh.net
Images are from the Civic Society's archive



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Ladies' Walk

Ladies' Walk was originally named 'Marine Walk', a simple footpath to the sea from the centre of the Town. In 1810 it was laid out to commemorate the Jubilee of George III. As Hythe became a more fashionable Victorian resort, the Walk became more popularly known as Ladies' Walk. The Walk was flanked by elm trees as was the Canal,



The Ladies' Walk Bridge.
Swept away by the Sea, 1st January, 1877.

with the Bowls Club, Cricket Club grounds and later tennis courts located on the then open land on either side. A footbridge over the Canal linked the Walk to the Town beside an attractive area with pleasure boating, fishing and seating by the War Memorial.

Left: the footbridge before the big flood of 1877, which demolished the structure and flooded the pastures and properties then present from here to the beach.

Right: Ladies' Walk flooded in 1877.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Ladies' Walk

In Victorian times, the Walk became a favourite of the Town's ladies, friends, the many holiday visitors and a place for military officers to stroll. Ladies' Walk's tall trees provided a pleasant, shady setting with seats at intervals along its length. So it has remained to this day.

Below: two early views





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On This Site...Ladies' Walk

Over the years, the trees have changed. In 1976, 25 English Ash trees were planted by the Rotary Club and five Australian Ash trees were planted by the Hythe Civic Society to replace diseased elms. Unfortunately, the Ash trees were later decimated by dieback. Ten American Elms were planted as replacements, five survived.

Spring flowers blossom along the edges and the Walk remains the most popular and photographed local walk to the beach.

Later in the 1800s, the Cricket Club commenced its annual fete which developed into the famous Venetian Fete. Coloured lights were strung through the trees which gave Ladies' Walk a distinctly festive appearance.

Below: another two early views





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On This Site...Ladies' Walk

Early colour postcard images of Ladies' Walk. The precise dates are not known, but are most likely from the period 1895-1905.



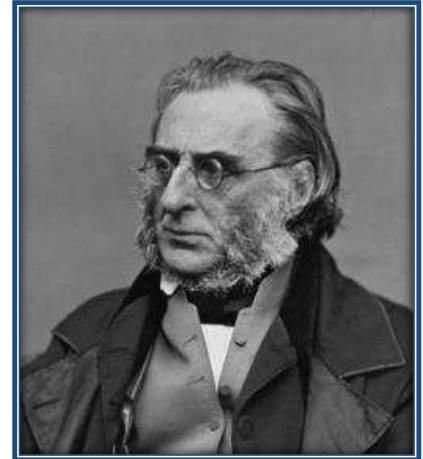


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On This Site...

Napier Gardens

Napier Gardens dates from 1904 (being the date of completion of the builder's own house – now No.28 – and his subsequent purchase of the land on which Napier Gardens was built) and is named after General Sir Charles James Napier. Napier (*right*) was an army Officer and veteran of the 1812 Iberian Peninsula war against Napoleon's forces, and later the British General who conquered Sind (now Pakistan). He is commemorated in Trafalgar Square.



The first house to be built was that of a local builder, Mr Scott, who continued to build all other houses in the road. His house (No.28 – the south-side corner plot) was originally addressed as No. 1 Ladies' Walk, later to be renamed Napier Gardens.



Scott subsequently built the white house opposite (now No.27 – north-side corner plot) – *seen left*. This was known as the *Doctor's* house after Dr. Comyn who lived here with his family, and who dispensed medicines from a window at the side of the house.

In 1912, two very active suffragettes, Georgina Cheffins and Eva Lewis moved into No.24 Napier Gardens. They ran the local suffrage shop, at what is now No.164 High Street (*Lord Whisky Charity Shop*).

A bomb hit Napier Gardens in October 1940, killing a man delivering coal. It is thought it also destroyed the house at No.19, which had to be rebuilt at a later date.

Originally a private road, Napier Gardens was adopted by Hythe Town Council in 1934. *Information for this display was kindly provided by Penny Hutchinson.*



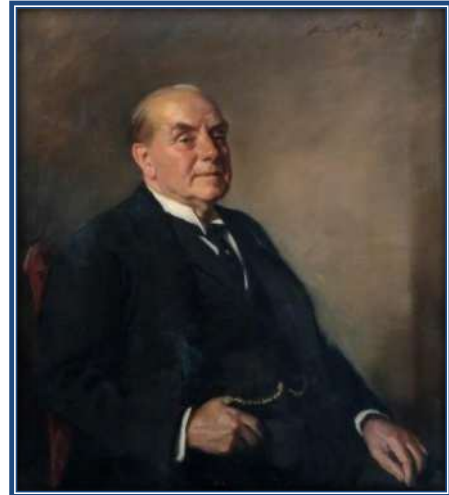
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On This Site...Wakefield Way

Named after:

Viscount Charles Cheers Wakefield of Hythe (1859-1941)

Lord Wakefield was born in Liverpool. After schooling he worked as an oil broker and specialised in lubricants. He founded the Castrol Oil Empire, a household name originally called The Wakefield Oil Co. He was a prominent figure during the pioneering days of aviation. He financed Henry Segrave's land speed record attempt in 1929 at Daytona Beach, presenting the Wakefield Trophy.



During 1915-16 he served as Lord Mayor of London. He moved to Hythe and became a prominent figure in the town and being a philanthropist one of the town's greatest benefactors. He was created a Freeman of the Borough in 1930 and in 1934 he was further honoured when he became Viscount Wakefield of Hythe in the County of Kent.



He had a large mansion built near the top of Blackhouse Hill, called 'The Links' (later named 'Bassett House'). The house was a grand affair with oak panelled interior walls and a minstrel's gallery that overlooked Hythe's original golf course, the town and the coastline. However, his wife disliked the house and so after a short time Lord and Lady Wakefield moved virtually next door; as a result Bassett House was re-christened "Wakefield's Folly."

Right: the Wakefield Trophy presented to Henry Segrave in 1929. Wakefield also supported aviation pioneers, including Amy Johnson.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Wakefield Way

Named after:

Viscount Charles Cheers Wakefield of Hythe (1859-1941)

After his death in 1941, Bassett House was sold to a Polish doctor and inventor, Dr

Solomon
Leider. At
Bassett
House, Leider
produced
artificial eyes
and skin
among other
things. Later
he sold the



property to Portex and it was again used for manufacturing. It was this use that caused a disastrous fire in 1960. Bassett House was destroyed.

*Right: the impressive gates to
Bassett House fronting
Blackhouse Hill.*



Wakefield Walk is laid out
with seasonal flower and
shrub beds, attractive
arches and palms,

providing an enjoyable walk between Ladies Walk and Twiss Road.

*'Hythe in Bloom'*¹ and other volunteers have helped with maintaining the borders. The walk crosses Lucy's Walk, named in memory of Sir Henry Lucy, a political journalist of the Victorian era. In 1883, he and his wife, Lady Emily Lucy, had built a house in Hythe on what is now Lucy's Hill.

¹ 'Hythe in Bloom' is a volunteer group funded by donations and grants and overseen by the Hythe Civic Society. It helps to lay-out and maintain flower beds and displays in the High Street and in parts of the town.



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On This Site...Moyle Court

Moyle Tower

If you were standing here in the 1880's, this is what you would have seen...



Construction of what became Moyle Tower started in 1877, during the development of Marine Parade and was intended as a hotel. However, the hotel was never finished and was left an empty shell. A London-based architect Frederick Porter purchased the site and completed the building as a private residence. He and his wife Sarah (nee Moyle) spent their retirement here. In 1886 Frederick became Mayor of Hythe, despite not being an alderman.

Moyle Tower was a lovely house with five reception rooms, twenty-one bedrooms and dressing rooms, stabling and a garage. The grounds extended as far back as Tower Gardens and were tended by three gardeners. The North side of the building (shown above) included a ballroom with stained-glass windows where at Christmas time young children of the town were invited to a Christmas party.¹

¹ Information for this display sheet is courtesy of Anne Petrie - Hythe History Blog. Photograph courtesy of the Kent Photo Archive



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Moyle Court

Moyle Tower

Frederick Porter died on 17 November 1901. His wife Sarah continued to live in the house until her death on 5 March 1912, and was laid to rest with her husband in St Leonard's churchyard in a grave lined with moss and decorated with primroses. The tower at the back of the house flew its flag at half mast.

Moyle Tower was requisitioned by the army during WW1. After the war it was offered for sale again but there were no takers.



Moyle Tower was finally purchased by the Holiday Fellowship in 1923. They provided affordable activity holidays in the UK and abroad. Moyle Tower existed in this capacity until 1979. It was demolished in 1981.²

Right: aerial view circa 1950 – photograph courtesy of Molly Griggs.



² Information and top photograph for this display sheet are courtesy of Anne Petrie – Hythe History Blog

Reflections on Hythe

MEMORIES OF HYTHE AND ST.LEONARD'S SCHOOL – a piece by John Mullin

I was brought up in Hythe from 1956 to 1967 and attended St Leonard's Primary School with Fred Skinner as Head; some of the happiest days of my life.

Winning the choir contest in Hastings, singing in the choir at weddings and getting paid!

I remember Miss Bartlett, when my pencil went through the tracing paper comforting me that it was not the end of the world. Miss Fellows, giving me stars for learning my times tables. Mr Vinson, questioning whether my poem about two little men in a flying saucer was original. Mr Macklin, with his stuffed pheasants and a propensity for dragging pupils out of class by their hair!! Not me, thank goodness. I notice his classroom windows have been preserved!

Dear old Mr Butler who had me for an extra year because I was two days too young to take the 11 Plus, but I did at least witness his retirement and the look of astonishment on his face when most of the girls started crying at the news!

I commented some years back on the school photo on the steps in Hastings on 'Friends Reunited' and was gratified to get a comment from David Fyfield remembering me as the fast guy in the sprint across the Green. Poor old Kevin O'Dell, try as he may he could never catch me! I did not realise at the time the pain caused by the loss of a wife but David I too have experienced it and we are joined again after all these years by grief.



I visited Hythe in February 2022 and had a magical walk down Stade Street and my old road Cobden Road. Matthews the Butcher, Nash's Sweet Shop and the Co-op all gone, only Sprinks the Builders still going.

Cinque Ports Avenue - a new school where our old canteen used to be. I remember those roast potatoes and chopped cabbage...delicious.

Above: A '1950s view of Stade Street from the promenade – image from HCS archive/jack Adams collections

The Green is the only thing untouched by progress apart from the swings and monkey bars removed no doubt for health & safety.

The canal now weed free looked a picture as did Ladies Walk and Wakefield Way. Tennis courts still there although the cricket pitch and nets have gone with two extra football pitches squeezed in. I can still remember Timmy, my Jack Russell, running on to the pitch and picking up the ball by the laces and running off with it pursued by irate footballers.

Allotments bordering Twiss Road gone but the Hotel Imperial is very impressive. The brick chalets where we used to play chase until the council put up a sign banning running on the roofs.

'Teddy Bears wood', then an area of small scrub on what is now the Sailing Club, and where is the 'mine' where we used to put our loose change and the telescope where I admit to extracting the odd sixpence!! (Statute of Limitations)



Above: a 1970s view of the former Moyle Tower and the Sailing Club, the latter on the site of 'Teddy Bears wood' – images from HCS archive/Jack Adams collection

Thank you Hythe for giving me such a happy childhood; you have moved on now to become gentrified, a full blown resort but still classy and dignified. I would like to return but I think you might be out of my league!



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On This Site...Admirals Walk

The Pavilion

To the west of the site of Moyle Tower and 23 years earlier in 1854, a bathing establishment, known as 'the Pavilion', had opened in South Road. This was a splendid, classically influenced building with a distinctive dome that was based on the grand spa buildings at Cheltenham and Bath.



Above: a 1929 Aerofilm photograph showing The Pavilion (beach centre) with Moyle Tower to the right and the old Fishermen's Cottages on the extreme left (now the OYO Hotel).¹

¹ Aerofilm photograph is from the Hythe Civic Society and History Group archive which holds the Aerofilm photographs of Hythe dating from 1920-1989.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Admirals Walk

The Pavilion

Bathing in and the drinking of seawater were considered at the time the cure for such illnesses as gout, consumption (wasting), scrofula (a form of tuberculosis), rickets (vitamin D deficiency), whooping cough and many more. Indoor sea-bathing was more comfortable and more modest than bathing in the sea itself; hot and cold baths could be had for 'sixpence'. Before drinking seawater went out of fashion in the 1860s, you could also have seawater delivered to your house for '1d' a can.

However, in the early 20th century, with people now bathing directly in the sea the baths fell out of use, and by the 1920s the Pavilion was being used as a tearoom and restaurant.



The Pavilion Tea Room and Restaurant – undated photograph, possibly late 1920s

In 1924 a beachfront shelter was erected to connect with the bathing establishment. It was built in the same classical style. It was demolished in the 1950s and Admirals Walk was built in its place.

Right: Aerofilm photograph 1948 showing the beach shelter extension.



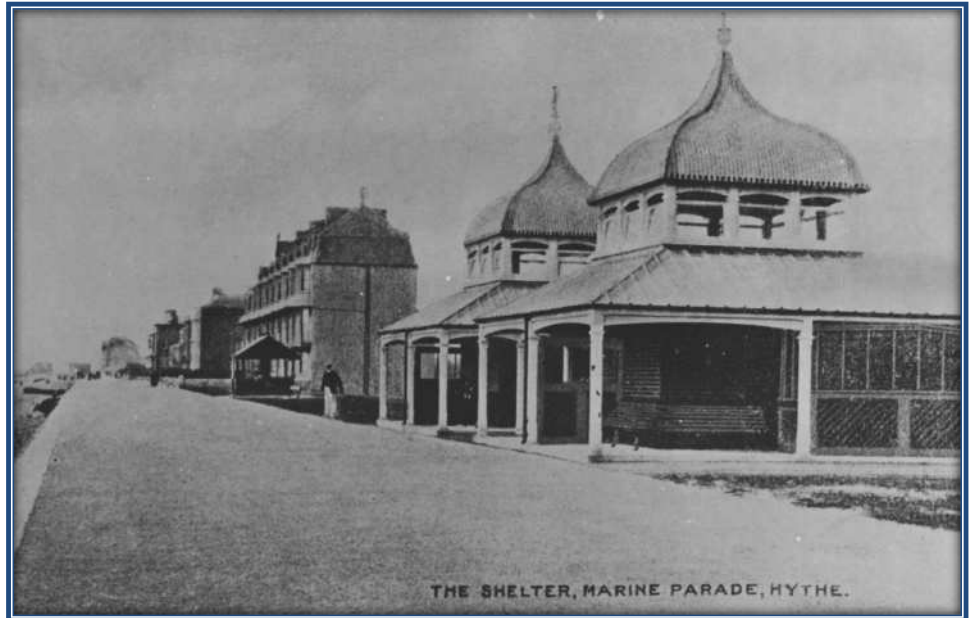


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On This Site... 'Cafe on the Beach'

The 'Oriental' Shelters

On this site stood two magnificent 'Oriental' shelters. They were built in 1896 and were linked to South Road by a small ornamental garden.



As building along the seafront continued, these were demolished in the 1950s and replaced with the current building and a run of brick beach shelters to either side. Behind, where the swimming pool stands was open space.

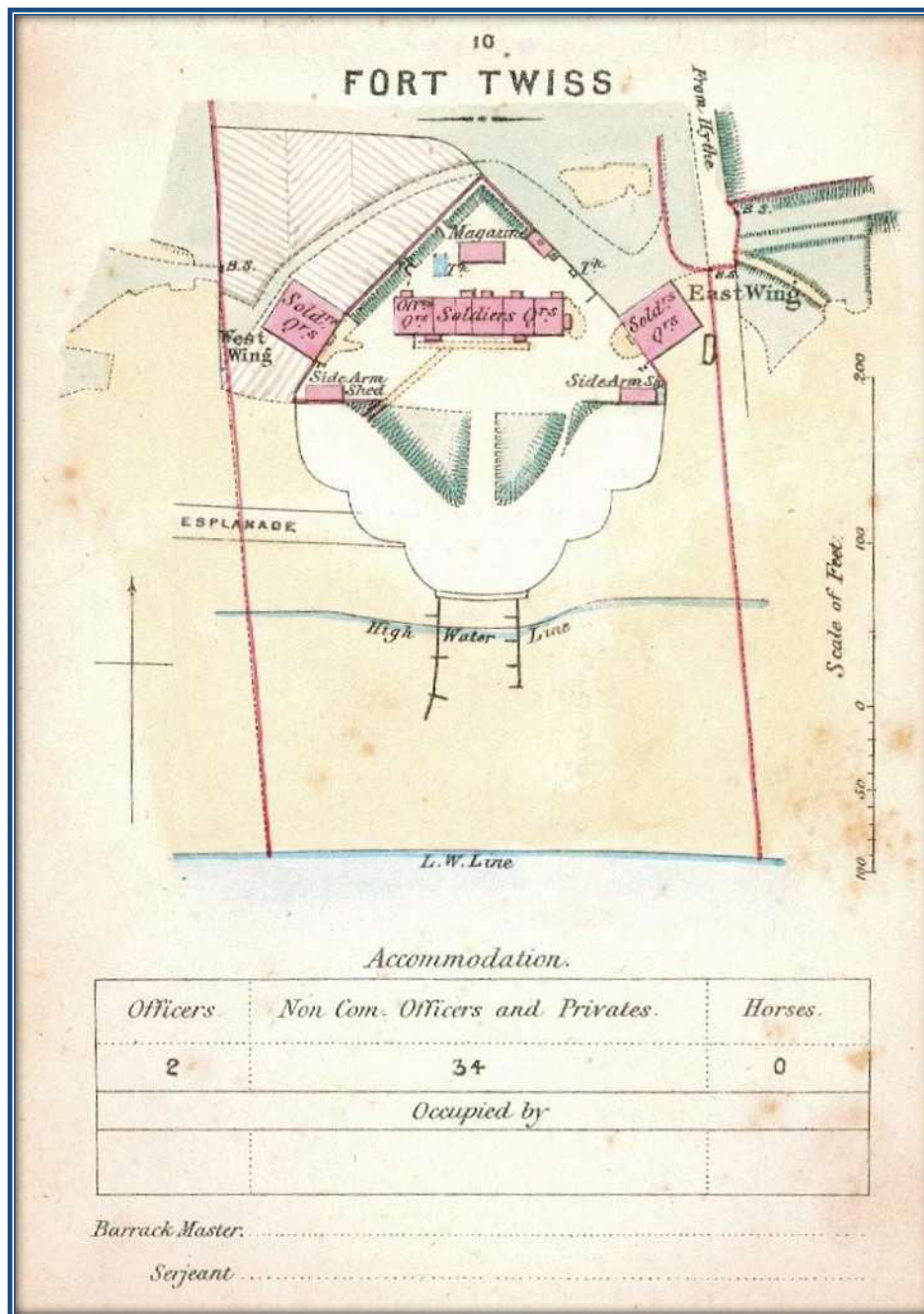


Left: a 1929 Aerofilm photograph showing the shelters.



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On This Site...Fort Twiss (1798-1869)



You are now standing on the footprint of Fort Twiss. Built in 1798 and named after William Twiss who oversaw defences against the threat of invasion from France.

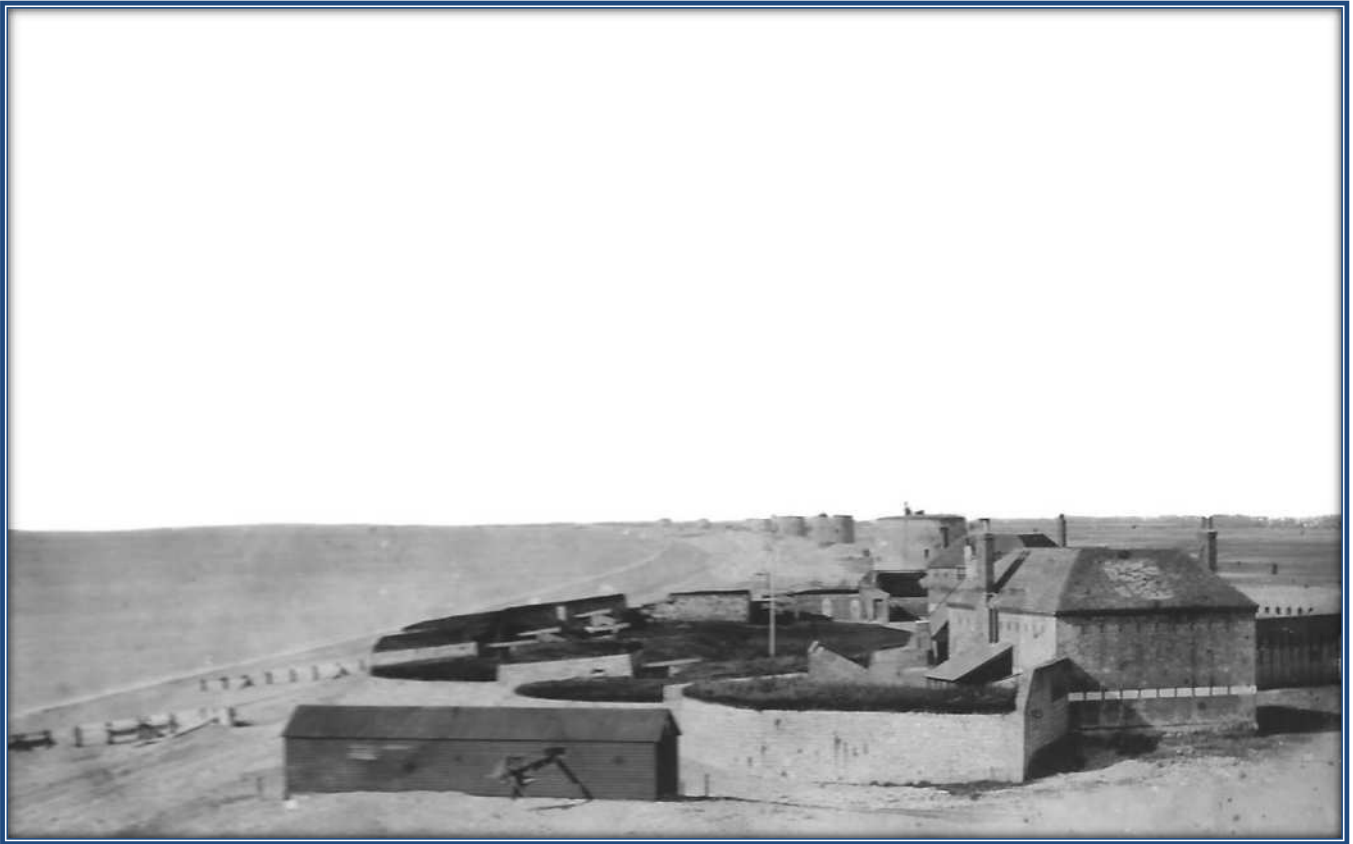
The gun platform was slightly raised to give a commanding sea view for 6 x 24 pound cannons. The side walls were about 3.5 metres high and of brick with loop-holes.

It was sold in 1869 and demolished some time after. The south wall may be part of the modern sea wall.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Fort Sutherland (1798-1869)



Here you see Fort Sutherland (located near Fisherman's Beach) and several Martello Towers stretching along the foreshore. The towers and Forts Sutherland and Twiss (see poster near the Twiss Road car park) were important defences. Another fort, Fort Moncrieff stood farther to the west. The photograph is from the Society's Archives.

Historic England describes Fort Sutherland as follows:

"The Georgian coastal battery, known as Fort Sutherland and built in 1798 was a self-contained triangular fort on a small scale, similar to the batteries at Dungeness. The terreplein, slightly raised to give command of the sea, accommodated eight 24-pounders, and a brick loop-holed wall 3.5 metres high extended from the corners of the terreplein to form a sharp point at the rear. The main entrance, guardroom and ancillary buildings were spaced along the exterior walls. It was damaged by the sea by 1869 but the foundations of the outer fort wall remain visible on aerial photographs taken in 1942, 1983 and 2001."



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On This Site...Marine Parade

Benjamin Disraeli, the WRAF and the WPS (1)

Beaconsfield Terrace (seen below early 1900s) is the original name for this row of Victorian houses that was built in the 1880s on the site of the former Fort Twiss. The Fort was one of three constructed along the coastline between here and the Dymchurch Redoubt as part of the defences against an invasion by Napoleon's forces. The Martello Towers and the Military Canal forming the other built strategic defences.



Fort Twiss was demolished in the 1870s. Marine Parade and Beaconsfield Terrace were constructed at a time when Hythe was growing in significance as a Victorian coastal resort.

The Terrace was named in tribute to Benjamin Disraeli, the 1st Earl of Beaconsfield, British statesman and twice prime minister. Disraeli first entered parliament as MP for Maidstone, Kent in 1837. He died in 1881.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Marine Parade

Benjamin Disraeli, the WRAF and the WPS (2)

On 1 April 1918 the Royal Air Force (RAF) was formed (formerly the Royal Flying Corps) and included the Women's Royal Air Force (WRAF). WRAF personnel were trained in the work of home-based mechanics to release airmen for combat duties. Number 6 Beaconsfield Terrace was a WRAF billet (right).



In October 1920, No.2 became the 'Margaret Damer Dawson Memorial Babies Home'. Dawson founded the pioneering Women's Police Service (WPS) in 1915. Recognised by Government, this self-styled uniformed voluntary service policed public morality, particularly involving 'working-class' women, and was involved with the policing of munitions factories during WW1. In 1920, the WPS was renamed the Women's Auxiliary Service. Post-war the Metropolitan Police Force began recruiting women. Damer Dawson, was awarded the OBE, but died of a heart attack in May 1920. The Memorial Home (above) was created as a tribute. It was a home to 20 babies and four mothers, drawn from those in most need.¹



¹ Image of Dawson Memorial Home: ©Chatto & Windus, 1925: *The Pioneer Policewoman* by Mary S. Allen.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Twiss Road

Named after Colonel William Twiss (1745 – 1827)

Twiss Road links the east end of Hythe with the sea, from the ancient Bell Inn to the start of Prince's Parade. Originally a track across the

beach fields,

it would

have been

mainly used

by

fishermen,

probably by

smugglers

and the

military. At

the beach

was the site

of Fort

Twiss, one of

three Hythe

forts built to

counter the threat of invasion by Napoleon. Fort Twiss and Twiss Road

were named after Colonel William Twiss (Royal Engineers) who

oversaw the construction of Martello Towers, the Shorncliffe Redoubt

and was involved with the Military Canal (built 1804-09). The canal is

marked in the photograph by the line of Elm Trees.

The Saltwood stream, which fed the watermill behind the pub, would

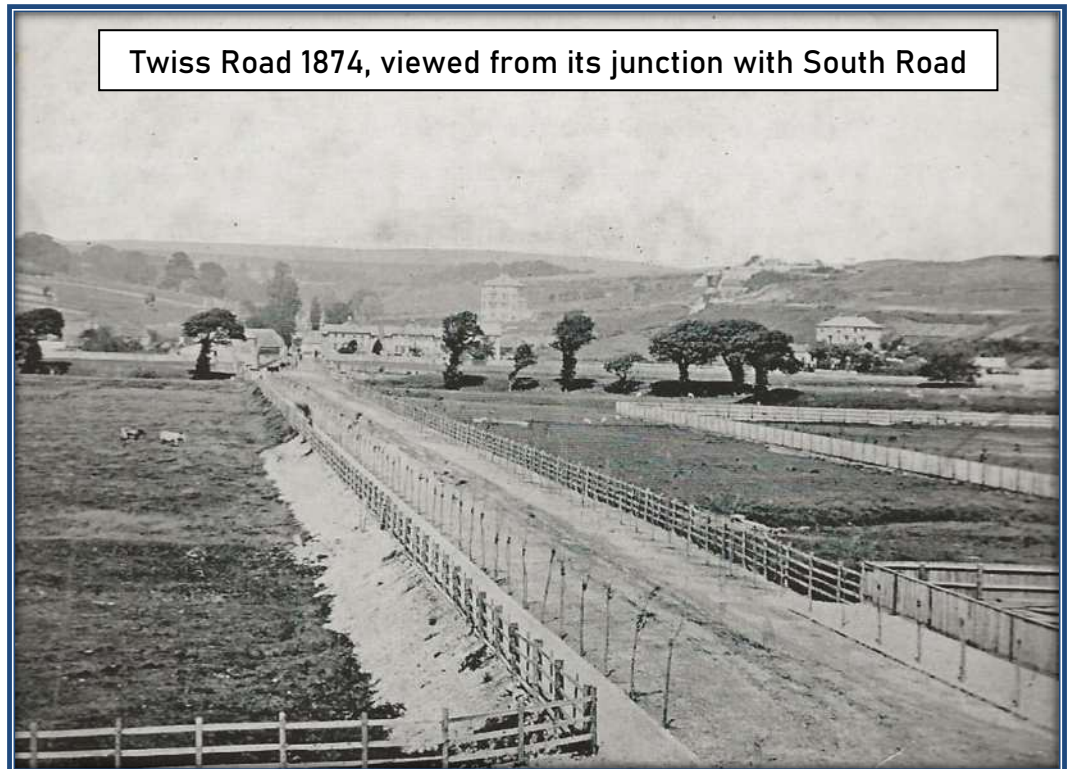
have run down to the sea alongside the track. It now runs underneath

the side of the pub and then under Twiss Road to Earlsfield Road where

it emerges and flows into the Royal Military Canal by the road bridge.

A 'Smithy' once stood near to the Bell Inn, remembered today by a

modern house named Anvil Cottage!



Twiss Road 1874, viewed from its junction with South Road

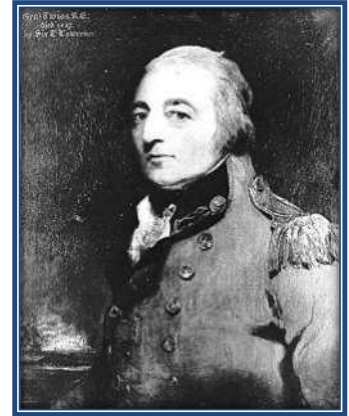


HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Twiss Road

Named after Colonel William Twiss (1744 – 1827)

During his career, Colonel Twiss (*right*) was responsible for a range of military defensive works both here, in Canada, (where he oversaw the building of the first Canal in North America) and Ireland, before retiring as a General.



After the building of Twiss Fort in the 1790s, it was strengthened in the early 1800s by the erection of a Martello Tower on either flank. Later, in 1880, the building of the Seabrook (later the Imperial) Hotel led to the road being upgraded when, as today it forms an important link between Folkestone and Hythe by way of Prince's Parade, which was opened in 1890 by The Prince of Wales, son of Queen Victoria.

During WWI, thousands of Canadian soldiers were based around Hythe. Before leaving Hythe, the soldiers planted a number of Canadian trees and four remain. One, in the front garden of the first house along South Road, two at the entrance of Fisher Close and one at the start of Cobay/Sturdy Closes. These houses were built in the 1970s, on former allotment land and were named after past Mayors of Hythe.

During WWII, a German V1 bomb fell close to Twiss Road near to the Canal, where now stands Setterfield House.

Right: the aftermath of the flying bomb that fell on Earlsfield Road in 1944.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.1 Seabrook Road

The Bell Inn



For some years the Bell Inn carried a splendid summer floral display¹

Built in the C16th, the Bell was an ancient harbour inn, and is one of Hythe's oldest pubs.

Its precise origins are unclear, though the property, possibly then an inn, was reported to have originally been named the 'Belhouse'. It is said this name derived from the 'de Belhous' family, who in the C13th held the lordship of the ancient Manor of Newington. During the C16th Newington village was for a time listed as Newington-Belhouse², part of this inn then being in the Newington parish.

Inevitably given the location, the Bell is a pub with smuggling connections. Beneath the ground floor is a tunnel close to the millstream, which made a convenient place for storing contraband. Contraband was floated up the mill-stream by way of "Ankers", a form of cask used by smugglers.

¹ Image is courtesy of Paul Skelton, www.dover-kent.com a specialist Kent pub history archive

² Article – Folkestone Herald May 6th 1939 – "Celebrated Ladies of the Manor of Newington", Miss C Millar



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.1 Seabrook Road

The Bell Inn

As well as its smuggling connections, legend has it the spirit of a former proprietor, 'The Grey Lady', who had died at the pub in childbirth, haunted the building. Is she still present...?

In 1829, Henry Mackeson, of the Hythe Brewery, purchased the Bell and it is said at a possibly inflated price to avoid it going to a competitor.

Above right: the Bell Inn circa 1934-1937 - courtesy of Whitbread plc



Internally, the pub retains many old features, including a large inglenook, together with its traditional ambience. The surrounding area has much changed over its lifetime, however. Here



you see the Bell and a view of East Street, looking towards the town in 1971, with one of the 'Newmans of Hythe' premises on the left (former furnishers, removals, and coach and taxi operators).

The Bell was Grade 2 listed in 1973.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...The Water Mill, Mill Road

Burch's Mill

Although in decline, when this fine corn mill closed in 1932 it brought to an end over four hundred years of a local milling industry in this town.

Described by Historic England in the Grade 2 Listing as 'The Water Mill', its title for circa 80 years was Burch's Mill, after George Burch its owner from the 1850s.

Before then, its history is unclear, though a brick bearing the date 1773 was discovered in an adjoining store shortly after the mill closed. Even this date was said to relate to its re-building rather than its first construction.

After closure it was put up for sale, but failed to reach the reserve. It was eventually sold in several lots.



Burch's Mill advertised for sale after its closure in 1932 – image courtesy of Maidstone Museum



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...The Water Mill, Mill Road

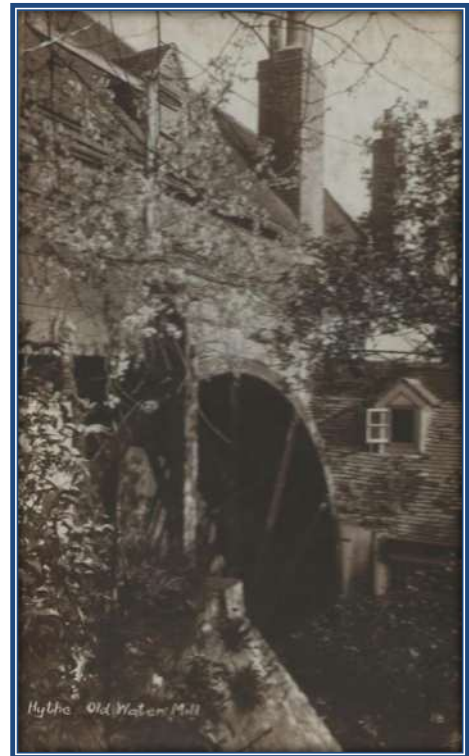
Burch's Mill

When advertised for a sale in 1832, the property was described as comprising a house of three storeys with a four-storey mill behind with three pairs of grinding stones driven by an 18 foot 'overshot' water wheel. This wheel was fed by the mill pond behind, which lies on the Saltwood stream.

In the years that followed, the size of the wheel was increased to 22 feet and a fourth pair of stones added.¹

Right: a postcard from the early 1900s showing the waterwheel.

Now a fine restored house and with a self-contained cottage, many features of the former mill were faithfully restored. Its mill-pond and gardens make for a tranquil setting, just a step away from the busy town.



Left: The rear of the mill showing part of the mill-pond and gardens.

¹ Information for this display is from 'Hythe Mills' – notes by Peter Davies made between 1934-1942



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...East Street

1900s – 1970s

East Street extends from the East Street roundabout to the Bell Inn and the junction with Twiss Road. Over the years this short stretch of road has significantly changed.

Right: an early 1900s image looking towards what is now the roundabout, also showing the 'Oddfellows Hall'. Behind the horse and cart is the present 'Hythe Dental Care' building.



Below: another early 1900s image showing the Worthington Coach Builders factory that stood opposite on the site of what is now 'Worthington Lodge' retirement apartments.



Image: from an original photograph by Robert Worthington and courtesy of Anne Petrie.



HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...East Street

1900s-1970s

Here you see the East Street roundabout in the 1960s with the Ritz Cinema, together on the right showing *'Prospect Chambers'* now *'Aspendos'*. The cinema with its 900 seats opened in 1937 and closed its doors in 1984 after a spell as a bingo hall and a smaller independent cinema. Its last manager was Don Blythe, after whom the current apartments are named. Its last movie: *'Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom'*.



Left: the roundabout and East Street in the winter of 1970, before later demolitions to widen the road.

Below: Bilbow's Timber Merchants in 1979 after road widening, now the site of the United Reformed Church.





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Blythe Court

The Ritz Cinema



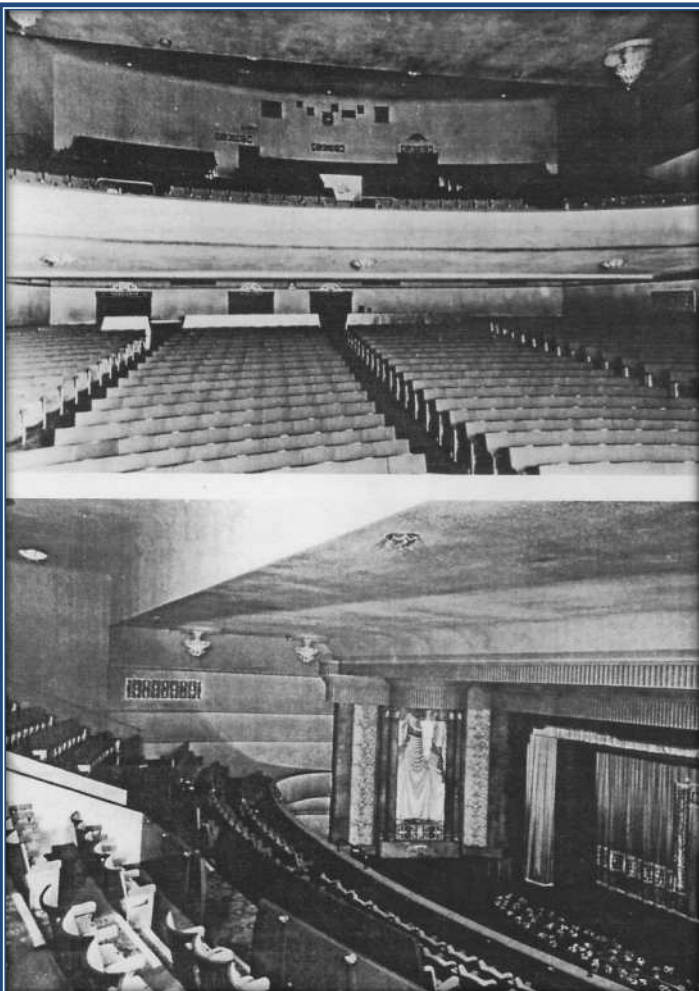
The *Ritz Cinema* was built for the Union Cinemas chain and opened on 12th June 1937, with George Formby starring in "*Keep Your Seats Please*". The exterior was in red brick and had a plain facade. In the auditorium seating

was provided in stalls and a small circle.

It was taken over by Associated British Cinemas (ABC) in October 1937 and was operated by them until it was taken over by an independent operator from 17th March 1953.

It closed in 1965 and went over to use as a bingo hall and Classic Cinemas took control. They divided the circle off and made it into a small 275 seat cinema, renamed the *Vogue Cinema* which re-opened on 27th April 1971.

Above and left: Images of the Ritz cinema courtesy of Molly Griggs





HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Blythe Court

The Ritz Cinema

Mecca Ltd. took over the operation of the bingo section from 15th November 1973 and they continued to operate the cinema section as the Mecca Cinema.

Classic Cinemas had taken control again by 1980 and they re-named it *Classic Cinema*.



It closed on 7th August 1984, screening "*Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom*" and was demolished and Blythe Court was built on the site.¹

Left: demolition in progress.



Blythe Court (*left*) is a block of retirement apartments and was named after the cinema's last manager, Don Blythe.²

¹ Text for this display and the demolition image are from www.cinematreasures.org with Ken Roe being the contributor.

² Image of Blythe Court from EAC Housing Care – Blythe Court

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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. 4

THE END

Other Volumes in the series

Vol 1 - The High Street

Vol 2 - Church Hill Trail

Vol 3 - Fisherman's Beach Trail

Vol 5 - Red Lion Trail

