

Hythe Local History Group

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

December 2015 to November 2017.

The following pages contain notes on the question and answer section of the Hythe Local History Group's monthly meetings. They are for the two years of my stewardship of the Q&A.

As far as answers are concerned, points made during the main discussion at the meeting, those submitted prior to it (usually by email) and those made subsequently (at later meetings or by other means) are all grouped together under the question. My own later editor's comments are in square brackets. As can be seen, our answers are often speculative, but some have been more thoroughly researched and, where we can, we cite sources for our views. Questions are listed in the order that they were submitted.

Some of the original answers had separate appendices. Where possible, I have included these in the main text. The primary reason for not including them is concern about copyright of pictures or maps. I believe that everything I have included is either free of copyright or is acceptable under fair dealing. If anyone feels this is not the case where a particular item is concerned, please contact us and we will remove it.

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If you have a question you would like to ask us, or can shed more light on some of the issues discussed here, please contact us through our parent body, the Hythe Civic Society at enquiries@hythecivicsociety.org . Mark your email fao Local History Group.

Please accept my apologies for any editorial errors, omissions or misrepresentations.

Mike de la Mare, February 2018

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St. Leonards Church tower clock (Colin)

Above the clock (which is not central to the circular stone surround-not the original?), there is a dark semi-circle on the stonework. Within this area above the stone decorative horizontal band course a course of 4 or 5 square stones have been inserted or rebbeded. Similarly just below the clock two adjoining stones.

I was chatting to a visitor who was convinced that at some time there was a semi-circular timber canopy over the clock with timber support, having seen a church in Essex with this feature. Wondered if there was any historical evidence of this?

No-one reports having seen a picture of such a structure on the church tower.

Mike U. No reference in Jack Baker's notes. Definitely nothing post 1901/2.

Bryn. From inside tower, clear that clock is inset into earlier window, matching window on East side.

Will investigate drawings etc pre-1900 in Cathedral |Archives.

St Leonards Church-Sounding Board (Colin)

There is a photo on Flickr of the sounding board at St Edmunds Church, Abbess Roding, Essex, to quote-"fine early 18th century sounding board with inlaid soffit". I think it is identical?

Bryn: See January 2014 Parish Magazine re sounding boards in St Leonards. He can be contacted for copy.

Royal Wagon Train barracks (Andy)

I would be interested in any information about the exact location of the Royal Wagon Train barracks (Hope Inn was the canteen/officers mess).

Mike U. 1816 illustration shows barracks quite clearly in known position on current open space front of light railway station. Not uncommon for canteen/officers' mess to be some distance from barracks.

David: When RWT returned after Peninsular War, possible they were housed in temporary tented accommodation elsewhere, perhaps closer to Hope Inn.

Mike U. Will investigate whether Pioneer Corps (successor to RWT) has records.

The prison and Rock Cottage (Andy)

Rock Cottage in Stade Street opposite Age UK, was the Guard House for the prison. Does anyone have more information about this?

Anne 'Prison' in Stade Street was really just a lock-up, for temporary holding of malefactors. Run by Town Gaoler, probably not as a full time job

Andy: Has seen reference to it being a guard house for prison in two books. Will seek these out.

Info submitted after meeting

Anne: The gaol became the town mortuary and then a private house known as Mortuary Cottage. When repairs were carried out in 1922, proclamations dating back some 90 years were found plastered to the walls.

The source is Hythe Reporter 11 March 1922. The book is Policing Kent 1800-2000 by Roy Ingleton.

Denmark House (Andy)

I wonder if anyone can shed light on Denmark House - a faded name plate on the east wall of Mount street.

David: Sign is by a bricked up door.

Peter: Has information from 1881 Edinburgh Gazette showing coal merchant William Marchant of Denmark House, Mount St, being declared bankrupt on March 29th County Court, Canterbury. Also from 1891 Census showing a nurse, Jane Tutt, 71 year-old widow lodging there. (More information of latter on Wikitree)

Newman's station bus and Gasworks (Fran)

I'd like to know the date that Newman's station bus stopped operating and when the gasworks at Range Road was decommissioned.

a) Gas

Consensus: Making coal gas until early 1970s, but exact date of decommissioning uncertain.

b) Station bus

Peter: Circulated picture of station bus.

Alan: Will check in Maurice Young papers and relevant book in HCS Archives

What are Hythe people like? (Peter)

Does anyone know of any historical views on the characteristics of the inhabitants of Hythe?

Anne: Population too transitory to get a clear picture, because of military

Andy M: Distinctive physical traits have been observed in skulls in crypt

David: Recognised as politically Radical town, although in C20th Mosely had some support

Alan: Hythe Haven book worth consulting

David: Perhaps consult court records to see if particular types of crime are more common than elsewhere, and newspaper reports

Sean: Again, would be distorted by presence of military, both in terms of committing crimes and in arrest/punishment

David: Ubiquity of smuggling may have influenced attitudes to crime

Sandtun and Stutfall excavation reports (Mike de la M)

Has anyone got the Gardiner et al 2001 article on excavations at Sandtun/West Hythe, or the Cunliffe 1980 one on the Roman fort at Lympne, that I could borrow/copy, or know of other relevant recentish material?

David/Andy M: See Jill Eddison: Survival on the Frontier for discussion of Sandtun

Andy M: See Fortified England website – useful extracts - look for Hutchinson report

Blackhouse Hill monastery (Ron)

Does anyone know of a monastery on Blackhouse Hill, that might have been on the original site of Bassett House?

Andy M. has emailed that he has come across the following:

‘Blackwose Priory

The Priory of St Nicholas, a Premonstratensian house was founded as a cell of Lavendon Abbey pre-1158. It was transferred to St Radegunds Abbey sometime after 102-1204 as a result of a scandal and the buildings were repaired and the debts paid. It was again impoverished through the invasion of 1216 but once more restored to St Radegunds, later on becoming a grange. It was dissolved circa 1377’

This comes from http://www.pastscape.org.uk/hob.aspx?hob_id=463876#aSt, on the Historic England website, which gives a small amount of further information, including connecting Blackwose with Blackhouse, and cites its sources as:

- William Page (1926). *The Victoria history of the county of Kent*, volume two. *The Victoria history of the counties of England*. Page 172
- David Knowles and R Neville Hadcock (1971). *Medieval religious houses in England and Wales*. Pages 184,186
- *Monasticon Anglicanum* (ed J Caley) 1846 7 942 (Dugdale).

Ron: Hasted vol. 8 refers to Canons’ Court adjoining Scene Farm.

Has also talked to Bridget White who believes Bassett House was built on the site of a monastery, and that her house is built using the remains of an older building.

David: NB – These would have been in the parish of Newington.

Anne: Re name of Bassett House: A number of Bassetts were mayors of Hythe in the 17th and 18th centuries.

Tunnel on canal bank (Sylvia)

Does anyone have information about a possible entrance next to the small tunnel along the canal bank, which was mentioned in the December discussion?

Andy C.: This is on the North bank of the canal, by Sainsburys. A rough path leads down to it.

Mike U.: Always believed it to be related to dragging work on canal.

David: Or drainage?

Alan: To do with Mackesons?

Mike U: will talk Laura the Canal Manager at SDC for information and ask about a key. [STOP PRESS Mike U writes: "I have spoken to Laura the SDC Canal Manager. Lots of people have asked about the 'doorway' in the North Bank opposite Sainsbury's. SHE DOES NOT KNOW! It is nothing to do with workmen on Canal. She thinks it is military, but only because it is opposite where the School was. I think a tunnel is unlikely. We will only find out by exploring, so there is a future project! (She does not want to know what we plan. but would like to know what we discover.)]

Anne Roper apparently said it was where munitions were unloaded from canal.

Calling for volunteers to descend into the underworld.

The Theatre in Theatre Street (Chris)

In the report that I have completed on 37 Prospect Road, I make the following statement:

"Interestingly, award number 191 next door to 37 to the East is a Theatre owned by William Beverley and occupied by Silvester Eastes . This could be the origin of the street name".

The property in question is the Theatre in Theatre Street (now Prospect Road) as shown on the 1842 Tithe Map under award 191. My question to the group is:

Has anyone any information regarding the origins of the Theatre, what was performed there, and when it finally disappeared?

Mike U.: Written up in Easdown and Sage *Hythe: A History*, pages 62-68

[This says that the theatre was built in 1804 by Thomas Trotter for £400, who closed it in 1813. It was sold to William Beverley in 1826 for £480. Beverley put on a performance of *Saltwood Castle 1649* in 1827, but the theatre was closed in 1831. Beverley never completed payment, and it was still in the hands of Trotter's trustees in 1851, [although the 1841 Tithe Schedule shows it as belonging to Beverley]. In 1847 it was described as being in a state of dereliction and by 1857 it had

been demolished. The book shows an 1809 playbill for *Wanderer* and *The Purse*, in both of which Trotter himself appears. More details in book.

Michael and Martin George's book *Coast of Conflict* shows another playbill from the theatre in 1809, for *Mountaineers or Love and Madness* and the farce *Raising the Wind*. It is not clear who the performers were, probably Trotter's company, but it is for the benefit of the 95th Rifle regiment.]

Mike U.: Fussell also comments briefly on the theatre. See attached appendix for text.

Appendix

From A Tour Round the Coast of Kent by L Fussell, 1818

'Hythe has long been the resort of invalids, for the purpose of bathing; and a considerable number of convenient lodging houses have been recently built for the accommodation of visitors. They are in general upon a small scale, but in season the company, if not so numerous here as at some watering places upon this coast, is as genteel and more select, and of late years has been much improved by the families of many military officers of rank, permanently or occasionally stationed in the vicinity; so that there are regular assemblies, card-clubs and musical parties, as well as the usual routine of amusements incident to such a situation. There is also a neat theatre ...'

Shakespeare in Hythe? (Mike Lyons)

In my role as Speaker of the Cinque Ports, a discussion took place at one of our many meetings, regarding "The Bard" ie William Shakespeare. It came to my attention, that the said playwright, scribe, poet and sonnet writer, came to Hythe and New Romney with his Strolling Players at, it is alleged, the grand fee of 10 guineas.

I have been trying to verify this claim and will carry on my research, but was wondering if any of the Members could be of help.

Anne: She goes into this in her blog, and will email Mike Lyons separately with information. Briefly, in 1609 Hythe Corporation paid 20 shillings to Shakespeare's company, The King's Men, but it was unlikely he would have been with them.

Mike U.: In the 1997 HCC Newsletter he discusses early theatre in Hythe more generally. See attached appendix for text.

Appendix

From Hythe Civic Society Newsletter, February/March 1997

THE WOODEN O

There is a link between the (probably) authentic reconstruction - now nearly complete - of the Globe Theatre on London's South Bank and Hythe. The tribute to Shakespeare (he was part owner of the original Globe) was inspired by filmmaker Sam Wanamaker's energy; it

seats 1000 people with 500 more standing, and it is the first building in Central London since the Great Fire to have a thatched roof. It uses timber from over 1000 English oak trees, and the local connection is that the Training Area HQ on Hythe Ranges was a contributor. We need not believe the old story that the Bard trod the boards here in Theatre Street, but despite our chagrin at his unaccountable failure to contribute to Hythe's tourist appeal as the Swan of the Royal Military Canal, a gift of seasoned oak timbers was made to the Globe Theatre Project from the MOD woods on the Acrise Weapon Training Area.

The difference between a gun and a tree is one of tempo. The tree only explodes every Spring. (Ezra Pound)

Reparation was due, for it was a spark from a gun fired during a performance which caused the Globe's destruction in 1613. It was rebuilt, but demolished in 1644 by the Puritans.

In his 1931 book on St Leonard's and Hythe in Olden Days, Hubert Dale mentions the 'Shakespeare was here' tradition without much enthusiasm, but he is informative on the 14th Century Company of Hythe Players who performed religious interludes, on a high stage erected probably in the church-yard. These Biblical scenes (The Annunciation, The Passion and so on) were elsewhere enacted on movable stages surrounded by tiers of wooden steps for the audience. Our sloping ground would lend itself to this with little effort.

Around the area are canvas tents: the mouth of Hell on the North side, Heaven at the East, and a throne for God above. We have some of the texts: rough humour is extracted from Joseph's reaction to news of the approaching birth, and the antics of Noah and his sons. But the laughter enhanced the spirituality, for these were religious performances on hallowed ground, and at a time when there was no Vernacular Bible the 'Players of Hethe' broadcast the Church's message to illiterate congregations here and across Romney Marsh. The Lydd Archives show that in 1465 the fee for a performance was 6s 8p, plus expenses of 8s 10p (probably for bread and beer, for acting is thirsty, work).

So the present-day St Leonard's Players are part of a long (though they do not claim continuous) tradition. It is in their charter to produce an Easter Passion Play, and it is interesting that still today they travel with this to other local churches. They also plan to stage a secular production again, in the Autumn. This will be in the Little Theatre, Sandgate. For the record, it does not have a thatched roof!

Large scale footpaths map (Ron)

Is there is a specific map of footpaths and bridleways for the area?

I asked in the library and she thought there was one kept in the Civic Centre.

When I lived in Bexley they had one showing every one in the borough, with numbers and routes.

From KCC website “The legal position and status of every public right of way in Kent are shown on a map called the Definitive Map. The routes are also listed and described on the Definitive Statement.

The map and statement prove that a public right of way exists and tell you whether you can use a route and if there are any restrictions.”

Andy C.

1. A definitive map is available to view at Folkestone Library, or ...
2. Go to Explore Kent interactive map
3. Enter postcode on left side
4. On right side scroll down to Public Rights of Way [and tick box]
5. Click on any purple line on the map to get path number.

[It works! Mike]

**The Romney Trumpet (DR. SABINE K. KLAUS, Joe R. and Joella F. Utley
Curator of Brass Instruments, National Music Museum, via Anne.)**

Since Henry Bean Mackeson (1813-1894) was a prominent member of your community, I would like to approach you with the following quest:

While gathering information on the context of a medieval straight trumpet found in 1984 at the Billingsgate Lorry park in London (now at the Museum of London), I am also trying to find out whether a similar straight trumpet, that was once in H. B. Mackeson's possession and found in Romney in the mid-19th century might still exist.

I attach an article that describes and illustrates this trumpet.

I would be most grateful if you could inform me about any hints that could lead to the whereabouts of this trumpet today.

Chris O’C. Will consult son-in-law, an expert in the field.

Kathryne Has uncovered some mid-19th century articles – see following page:

From Kent Gazette, 17th January 1854

New Romney.
A short time since a very curious ancient brass trumpet was found on the shore off this place. It passed forthwith into the possession of Mr. H. B. Mackeson, F.G.S., of Hythe. The form of the trumpet is ancient, and in its general features a similarity may be traced to those represented in the arms of the Trumpingtons, in Trumpington church, Cambridge. The one found at Romney has, however, but one boss on the stem, towards the upper part. It is two feet ten inches and a-half in length, and 15½ inches in circumference at the mouth. In shape it is like the long horns formerly used by the mail-coach guards. Antiquaries suppose that it was formerly used aboard ship, as the seals of Dover, Hythe, Winchelsea, &c., represent trumpeters seated high in the stern castles of ships blowing lustily upon long trumpets to cheer the sailors at their departure, or to announce the entrance of ships into port, a custom of very old standing, and frequently alluded to by mediæval writers. It was no doubt in a vessel belonging to an English or French knight, that this trumpet was brought towards our shore, where it may have been wrecked or destroyed in warfare. Mr. Waller, the antiquary, after a careful inspection, is not disposed to assign a later date to it than the close of the 15th or commencement of the 16th century. He considers the workmanship to be Flemish, and the intimate connection between Flanders and Spain at the period, and the arms of Leon and Castile on it, support the opinion.

From Maidstone & Kent Journal, 15th July 1862

**KENT
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.**

The annual congress of this flourishing society was held at Hythe on Thursday and Friday last. Owing to causes referred to in the report several of its most distinguished members were absent, but there was nevertheless a goodly muster of archæologists, not a few being of the fairer sex. The proceedings commenced at noon on Thursday by the annual business meeting at the Town Hall, Hythe, under the presidency of the Marquis Camden, when the following report was read by the hon. secretary, J. G. Talbot, Esq. :—

The meeting then adjourned to a conversazione, held in the adjoining school-room. The room was tastefully hung round with rubbings of brass mortuary memorials from various churches in the county. In one of the glass cases was a fine trumpet found at low watermark off Romney. Mrs. Brockman, too, contributed some very curious brasses of probably (?) the period of Charles the Second. Other contributors forwarded some very remarkable objects of vertu and coins. Mr. Dunkin sent two of his folio volumes of illustrations of the county, especially of the district in which the meeting was held—Hythe and Lyminge. A vast collection, too, of deeds and charters were also exhibited.

From Canterbury Journal & Farmers' Gazette 19th July 1862

KENT ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The meetings for 1862 of the Kent Archæological Society were held on Thursday and Friday last, at Hythe, Saltwood Castle, &c., and considering the numerous meetings at the present time occupying the attention of the nobility and gentry of the country, there was a fair attendance of the members and friends of this society, though some of its leading supporters were unavoidably absent. The proceedings opened on Thursday with the yearly general meeting of the subscribers, in the Town-hall, Hythe, for the despatch of business, the President, the Marquis of Camden, K.G., in the chair.

previous occasions. After this a conversazione took place in the Boys' School-room, where a number of curious and antique relics had been carefully arranged to the best advantage. The following imperfect and brief list will suffice for an idea of their intrinsic and archæological value.

A ship's trumpet, six feet long (found at New Romney at low water mark.)

Tithes and lack of them (Chris)

A general question regarding the history of Tithes. Not all Parishes paid tithes and therefore were probably not subject to the Tithe Commutation Act. The objective of tithes was mainly by way of a mechanism whereby a levy or tax was raised in kind or money to pay for the services of the local church within an individual parish. Can anyone tell me what systems were employed in the absence of tithes to satisfy the basic needs of the church and its incumbents.

Mike de la M: From H. C. Prince:

The Tithe Surveys of the Mid-Nineteenth Century,
Agricultural History Review, Vol. 7, 1959, pp. 14-26 (this extract pp. 19, 20).

of silted pastures.

A further difficulty arose in apportioning the rent-charge where part of the lands of a parish were exempt from tithe. Apart from lands for which tithes had already been commuted or extinguished by parliamentary enclosure, there were nine categories of land which were exempt from tithe:

- (1) Lands naturally barren;
- (2) Barren heath or waste improved or converted into arable or meadow was exempt for a period of seven years after improvement;
- (3) Forest lands while in the occupation of the Crown or its lessee or tenant, but not if granted by the Crown in fee;
- (4) Glebe lands in the occupation of the parson;
- (5) Lands owned before 1215 by the Cistercians, Templars, or Hospitalers;
- (6) Lands which formerly belonged to one of the greater monasteries, and which had not paid tithes at the time of the dissolution;
- (7) Lands which had paid no tithes from time immemorial;
- (8) Lands in respect of which tithes were barred under the Tithe Act of 1832, which specified some lands which had not paid tithes for a very long time, the original cause of exemption being unknown;
- (9) Lands in respect of which a modus or composition was payable.

Even where an entire parish was exempt from tithes, much of the so-called tithe-free land carried a contingent rent-charge. When forest land passed out of the hands of the Crown, or glebe land out of the possession of the parson, it ceased to be exempt and became subject to a rent-charge. Even lands that were permanently exempt had to be precisely delimited by the surveyor, although it occasionally happened that land previously exempt was apportioned to an area subject to a rent-charge. Thus the rent-charge of the parish of Wye in Kent was apportioned among farms, and parcels of woodland, formerly exempt, came to be charged jointly with other lands in the farms of which they formed parts.

Chris McG. When tithe rights had been bought, for instance by an absent lay person, parishioners often had to meet the upkeep needs of the church themselves.

Mike de la M. 97% of parishes in Kent were covered by the survey, but the figure was much lower in those counties, for instance in the Midlands, where the issue of tithes had been addressed at the time of the enclosures. In the latter case, tithes were often extinguished altogether, with the tithe owner frequently receiving land in their place. Presumably the tithe owners still had responsibilities towards the parish, but Prince does not make this clear and it seems likely that any such responsibilities might lapse as land was sold on (perhaps surfacing again in a claim for chancel repairs?). See Prince pp. 16, 21.

The Lido (Chris)

A neighbour of mine has questioned the presence of a Lido more or less on the site of today's swimming pool. On a map that I have circa 1900 – 10, certainly during the lifetime of the tramway there is reference thereto of Baths. I am interested in more information. One can assume that it was fed by the sea, was it tidal? What were the mechanics of controlling the water etc. etc.?

Christopher: In 1854 Hythe Corporation built a Bathing Establishment/Pavilion in the sea front for seawater bathing. I think it was roughly where the Fish Café is. There is a photo and more information in Easdown & Sage's Hythe, A History, p69

Anne: All I have is this from the churchyard research:

Plot 421 Crump

Inscription: in loving memory of/Richard James Crump/died 29th Dec 1921 aged 77 years

Also of Mary Ann Crump who died 20th March 1934 aged 82

Richard James Crump was born in Hythe, the elder of the two children of Richard and Sarah Crump. His father was a shrimper, and Richard, too, became a fisherman. After his marriage, he set up as proprietor of the baths in Marine Parade, In 1892 he advertised hot and cold sea baths at 6d, along with bathing machines, a tea room, reading room and trips around the bay in his boat. He assisted in saving lives when the 'Benvenue' was wrecked off Hythe in 1891.

Mary Ann Jessup was born on 31 March 1851 in Knockholt, the daughter of James Jessup and Maria Matilda Jessup nee Burgess. Her father was a farmer but obviously an entrepreneur as well, as he left his daughter the bathing machines which enabled her husband to set up in business. She married Richard Crump in 1876 and they had five children.

Source: Hythe Reporter

Christopher: I can add a bit. In May 1858 Mrs J. (Sophia) Barling of 9 Marine Parade asked the Town Council to lease her the Baths at the same rent (£10pa) as Mr Chittenden. She rented them for 2 years. At this time the baths and the reading room were leased separately; A Mr Peake rented the reading room. In 1860 Henry Harley rented the baths for a year but in 1861 he asked to rent them as a residence but the Council refused and leased them to William Summers.

The entry for Henry Harley in the graveyard inscriptions is:

Inscription In memory of/ Henry Harley/ who died 15th March 1880/ in his ...6th year

Elizabeth Harley/ died 5th January 1900 in her 88th year

Burial Register 22.3.1880 Henry Harley 66 years.

11.1.1900 Elizabeth Harley, Prospect Place, Hythe, 87 yrs

Henry and Elizabeth Harley were schoolteachers Henry was born in 1814 in Brabourne, Kent, the son of Dennis & Mary Harley. He married Elizabeth Lucas in Dover in 1839 and by 1841 they were living in Hythe High Street and working as teachers. By 1851 they had a small boarding school in Theatre Street, Hythe, with six pupils living with them. By 1861 they had both retired in their 40s and were living in the Bath House, next to Moyle Tower. In 1871 they were living in Prospect Place and after Henry's death in 1880 Elizabeth continued to live there but as a lodger. Henry left personal estate of 'under £5,000' so she was financially independent till her death in early 1900.

Was where Admiralty Court is now.

Alan showed photo of baths, and will search for aerial photo which is in archives. Baths closed early 50s.

David: People required to change there, rather than on beach. Suggests because of profit motive rather than modesty.

Debate on whether individual baths or swimming pool or both. Confirmed there were individual baths there.

See Easdown and Sage: Hythe, A History, pp 69, 70 and Hythe Through Time p 68.

Christopher: Further info on Henry Harley and Marine Parade

In 1858 Henry Harley bought what are now 64 and 66 Marine Parade and in 1862 he bought No 68 for £310. In 1863 he sold all three houses to Josephus Chapman, a 76 year old Congregational Minister then living in No 64 in return for an annuity of £85pa for Henry and his wife Elizabeth. Henry lived till 1880 and Elizabeth till 1900.

The descendants of Josephus owned the houses till 1919. No.68 failed to sell at auction and was bought privately for £200.

House moved from Newington to Saltwood (Mike de la M)

Nicola Barker's strange Ashford-based novel Darkmans, shortlisted for the 2007 Booker Prize, talks about an ancient house (probably haunted) in Newington being dismantled bit by bit to be rebuilt elsewhere, to avoid demolition for the Channel Tunnel terminal.

I thought this was her imagination until I came across a 1997 article in the Folkestone Herald about the C14th Stone Farmhouse in Frogholt being moved to Saltwood for the same reason. It says it is now The Coach House, which I think is next to Slaybrook, and that residents were up in arms about amendments to the plans for it. It also refers to a 'viewing platform' to allow the public to see the house. Does anyone know more about this?

Andy C: Still called Stone Farm, and next to Coach House, which his son has just bought. No sign of viewing platform, and trees obscure view. Will try to get son to elicit further info from new neighbours.

Mike U: Curious if there are two Stone Farms in Saltwood.

[I've rechecked article and it actually says 'reconstruction at the Coach House' rather than 'reconstruction as the Coach House'. My mistake. Also, the sign on the gate says 'Old Stone Farm', which distinguishes it from Stone Farm on A20.]

Owl and lion (Sean)

Anyone know anything about:

- *stone owl on roof ridge of White Hart*
- *lion head on east side wall of Town Hall?*

No-one had noticed these, let alone knew their origin!

After meeting, members viewed them.

Consensus was that lion was old gargoyle, with open mouth for water, fixed in to this wall relatively recently. [But doesn't project out far enough to be effective in original position for directing rainwater away from wall. Either missing neck, or perhaps just a boss, in spite of open mouth. Comments welcome.]

Suggestion that owl maybe seagull scarer.

Canada Day 1st July Shorncliffe Military Cemetery (Andy C)

Who was the Hythe man who had the idea of commemorating Canada Day at Shorncliffe ?

Every year since 1916 (I think with the exception of 1year during WW2) local School children place flowers on the Canadian War Graves at Shorncliffe Cemetery.

One of the few places outside Canada to commemorate Canada Day.

David: By co-incidence, as I looked for something else, I came across a copy of HCS Newsletter No. 98 2001 which has an article, The Canadians in Hythe which reports that the idea for the Canadian Day Commemoration (a very moving ceremony which I would recommend to everyone) at Shornecliffe, was 'started with Edward Palmer in Hythe and at first Hythe schools attended as the relationship with Hythe was very strong'. Mike Umbers was Editor at the time and will, I'm sure, be able to expand as to who Palmer was.

Anne: There are two articles about the Palmer family in 'Bygone Kent':

Bygone Kent Vol. 21 pp58-65, 'The Enterprising Palmer Family of Hythe'.

These are available at the library

Edward Palmer senior is buried in St Leonard's churchyard.

David: Edward Palmer. Editor of the Hythe Reporter who had the first idea of a 'Canadian Flower Day' which led to the Shornecliffe Annual ceremony. Well covered in Michael George's book 'Dover and Folkestone during the Great War' published in 2008 by Casemate Publications Page 50/51 et al re Canadians/Folkestone. Google Edward Palmer Hythe Canadian for the book, but not able to print out I don't think.

Alan: Information can be found in Sean Jackson's Shorncliffe Military History. Copy in HCS archives. Will check 1919 copies of Hythe Reporter, also in archives.

Mike U.: Relevant material in Bygone Kent. Has passed copy to Andy.

Who put the Botolph in Botolph's Bridge? (David)

All will have seen a number of circulations advertising talks in Folkestone about St Eanswythe and her Nunnery in the Church/Bayle are of the Town - also a talk about St Botolph, described as Monk of Romney Marsh and Folly Field (East Cliff area of Folkestone). The Romney Marsh reference seems to be based on Botolph's Bridge with its adjacent pub although I am not sure there is any real evidence of a link between the Saint and West Hythe.

This raises the question of why/how the original bridge before the Canal Cut was dug to a sluice near the Redoubt (?about 1850 when Hythe purchased the the West Hythe to Seabrook section), which was named, from at least 1692, Boter's, Butler's or Butter's (which is the name of a house opposite the pub) Bridge as in the first Ordnance Survey map (1816), had by the 1867 edition become

Botolph's Bridge? This may have been because a new/present bridge was built over the Canal Cut, but why and on whose authority, did it become Botolph's? The pub has a 1908 photo showing it as Botolph's Bridge Inn, but the name may have been taken from the Bridge already there or vice versa?

Has anyone an explanation? Perhaps we could write to the Ordnance Survey as ask their archivist to check why it was changed on their maps (there would be notes made by the Surveyor).

Mary: Dennis Pepper may have written about it.

Discussion about legend. Did legend come about because of name, or vice versa?

Anne: There was a pub here as far back as 1692 as records show an innkeeper at Butter's Bridge [I didn't make a note of which records, can you elucidate? Mike]

Debate on whether Butter's, etc is oral corruption of Botolph's (Anne) or Botolph's a C19th fanciful etymology for Butter's (Mike de la M.) [I note that the 1685 St Bartholomew's Map shows a Sir Oliver Boteler as a landowner in Saltwood. Mike]

Perhaps there were two bridges – one named Butters and one named Botolph's?

David will contact/search National Archive re availability of OS surveyor's notes

Later Butter's/Botolph's Bridge thoughts from David:

A sort of an answer! Earlier this year, we discussed whether Butters Bridge or Boltophs Bridge at West Hythe and concluded that they were two different bridges (although fairly close) and that Botolphs Bridge didn't appear until the Canal Cut was made around 1880 from the RMC at West Hythe to the sea sluice just west of the Redoubt on the end of the Dymchurch wall. The pub started with that name around that time. Butters Bridge was over the east/west sewer which was cut through when the north/south Canal Cut was dug. A sort of confirmation of this can be noted from Symonson's Map of c 1596 which shows Butters Bridge - no sign of any Botolph - somebody must have come up with the name linked to the story of the Saint! There is still a house nearby named Butters.

[Botolph's Bridge and the inn are actually both shown on the 1839 Tithe Map. The Bridge to the south, which at that time is over a sewer rather than the cut, is shown as Stone Reach Bridge and is shown as similar on subsequent OS maps. There is a sort of further bridge to the north going over the Gill's Pipe Arm, but this is not named on the maps. The relevant part of the Symonson map can be found in the attached maps PDF.]

Pound Cottage on Seabrook Road (David)

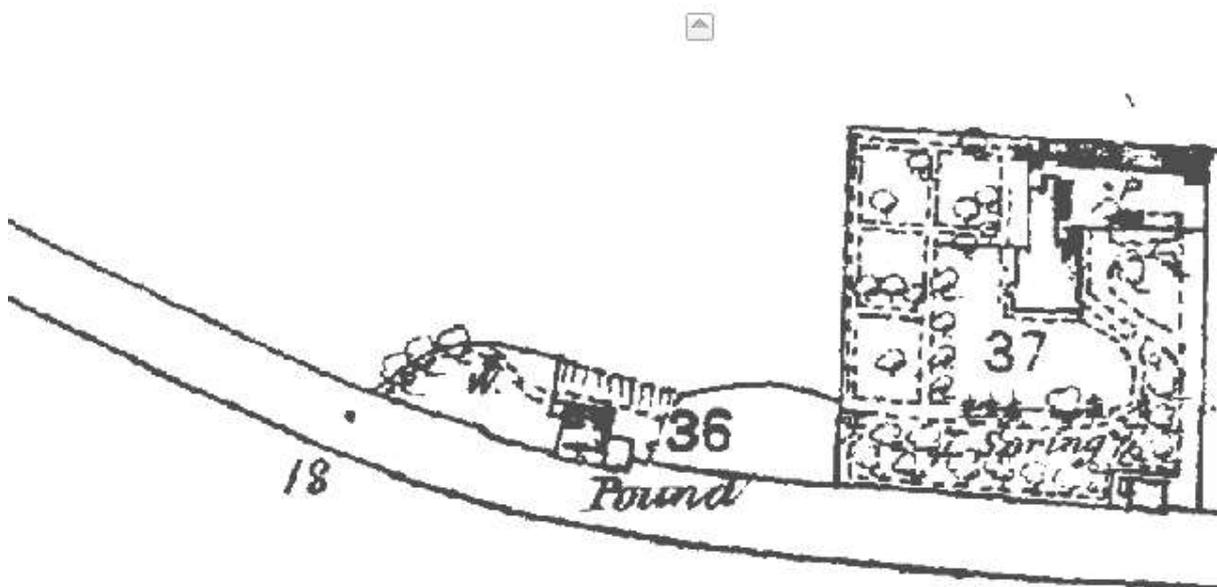
If we are to be involved with an archaeological inspection of the Animal Pound in St Leonard's Road, originally The Hardway, we should have a good idea of its history and whether there was another Pound as there is a small, stone built Pound Cottage on Seabrook Road opposite Earlsfield Avenue.

The KCC Historic Environment Monument website has a very detailed entry for the Animal Pound (presumably assembled when the Pound was listed TR13SE225), but only a passing reference to Pound Cottage, a Grade 2 listed building because of its construction rather usage (TR13SE109).

Has anyone any knowledge of the Cottage and whether there really was an animal pound in that area? Perhaps it was where the Freeman held their flock of sheep before exercising their right to herd them along the High Street! Over the years, pounds were a useful source of revenue for Hythe Council/Lord of the Manor who would collect the fines.

The cottage is named on an early OS map as 'pound No. 3', so clearly there were another two. Seventeenth century corporation records refer to a pound for detaining pigs which had been found loose (people used to let them out in the streets to forage). The current owner of Pound Cottage knows nothing of its history.

David (later): 1871 OS Map marks a pound by Pound Cottage on East St/Seabrook Rd (see below).



See also discussion below of Turnpike Toll Houses

Town Hall Clock (Andy)

When did the Town Hall first get a clock and if the present one is not the original, when was it replaced?

This was installed in either 1864 or 1871 depending on which source you believe. The benefactor was a man named Scott, who put up the money for the clock, provided that the Corporation paid for it to be gas lit. This they did, but not reliably

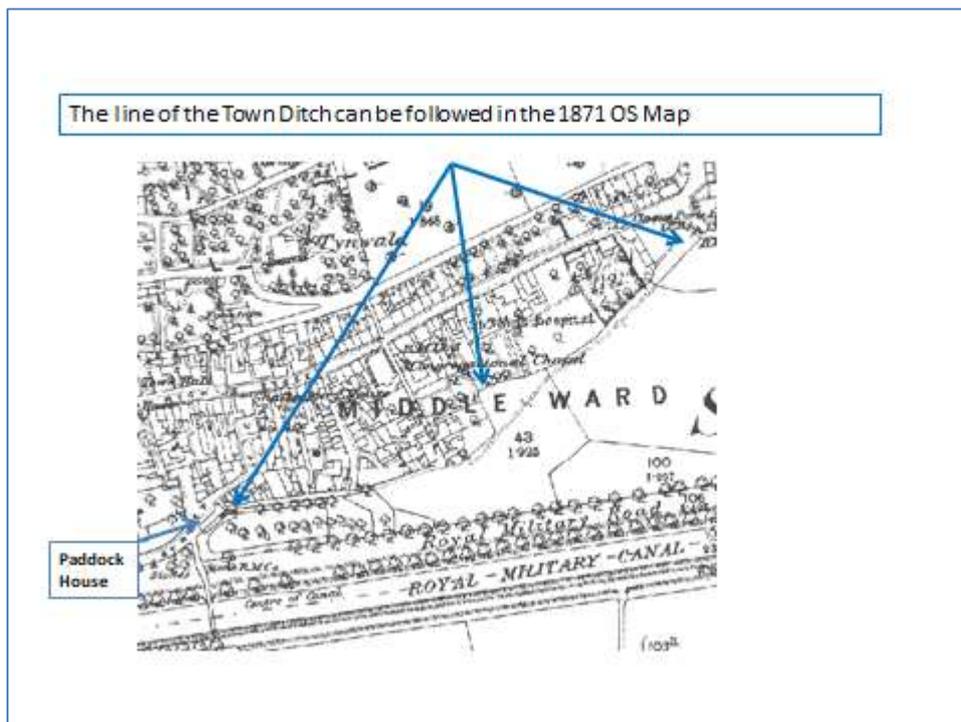
Common sewer (Christopher)

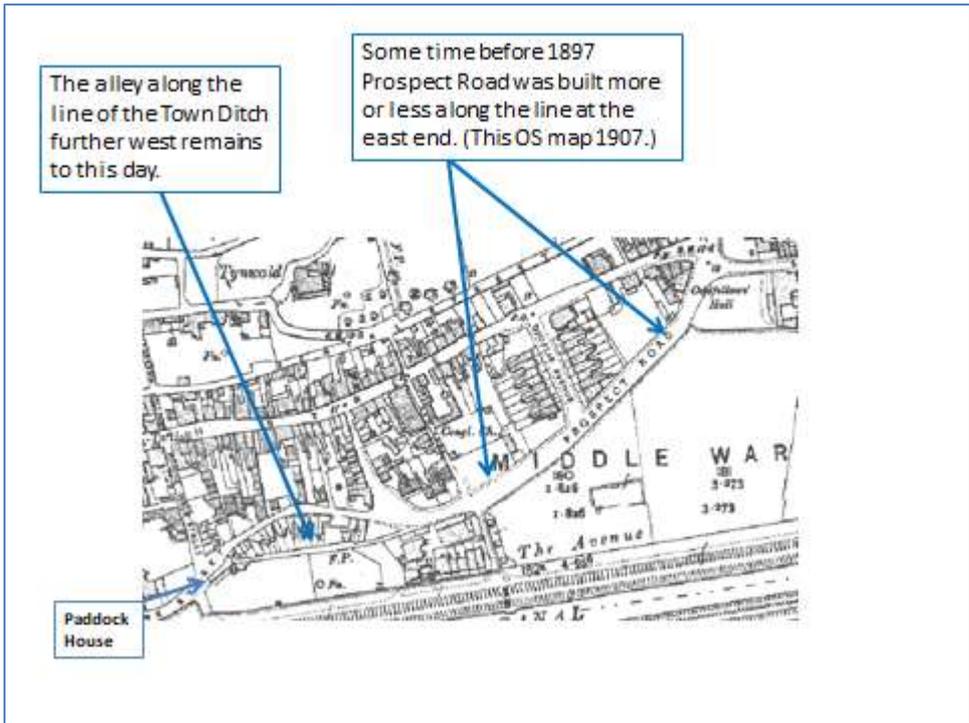
Several of the parcels of land near the seashore sold by Hythe Corporation in the 1840s & 1850s are described as bounding on a common sewer owned by the Corporation and it seems from the descriptions that it ran parallel with the shore. Does anyone know how far inland it was or where I might find out?

Mike de la M, subsequent to meeting:

Question of whether we talking about: a) 'sewer' in the Romney Marsh sense, i.e. drainage channel or b) 'sewer' in general usage, i.e. for disposing of sewage. If a), then likely to be the outflow from the 'Great Channel' shown on the 1841 Hythe St L Tithe Map as 695a and owned by Corporation of Hythe. This runs just behind the shore. If b), then perhaps the Town Ditch shown on the Hythe St L Tithe Map as 131 and, again, owned by Corporation of Hythe. This ran between the buildings in the town and the canal, and is referred to as a rippling stream in a 1930 Hythe Gazette article, headed 'Hythe High Street in 1837'. The more likely is probably a). The town ditch was discussed at the meeting. More information, including map illustrations, is in the attached appendix. *Contact me to view Tithe Map info.*

Appendix





The alley along the line of the Town Ditch further west remains to this day.

Some time before 1897 Prospect Road was built more or less along the line at the east end. (This OS map 1907.)

Paddock House

From Molly Griggs's scrapbook

Extract from Hythe Gazette 1930, headed 'Hythe High Street in 1837'

Householders were supplied with water by pipes (or Conduits as they were called) one at No. 1 High Street, another where the Lloyd's Bank is, another near Mr. Price's the Grocer, and others. The biggest one was at the corner of the old Wine Vaults, owned then by Mr. Buckworth. Called the Great Conduit, from this we get Great Conduit Street. The older inhabitants will recollect the stream which emerged from the East end of the School of Musketry, and piped onwards towards the new millhouse, crossing the road way in front of the Red Lion, and over which was then West Bridge. The stream then flowed onwards towards Mr. Hogben's forge in Chapel Street (now demolished) and emerged again and passed at the back of the Wesleyan Chapel and thence past Mr. Shipman's at Paddock House before the new wing was added and by the back of the present Avenue Terrace and along the side of the wall at the back of the present Douglas Avenue on its way under the road near Eastbridge House, so named because of the bridge which crossed the stream, and round the row of whitewashed houses long since pulled down to make room for Eastbridge House, until it joined the millstream. Years before this the stream ran over the road until a Heaber for Hythe built the Eastbridge as a bribe for returning him to Parliament. Many will remember the pleasant walk from Paddock House along the pathway across the fields at the side of this stream and the swing gates through which they had to pass.

The town ditch?

The rest of the article, not reproduced here, might be of general interest, as it seems to be listing shops in the High Street as they were in 1837 – an interesting adjunct to the Rufus Segar book. What its sources are isn't given, at least in Molly's transcript of it. Would be interesting to see the original newspaper article.

War department arrow? (Mike de la M)



Can you shed light on this symbol on our garden wall? The WD arrow seems usually to have a longer central haft and is accompanied by the letters WD. Wikipedia says: "With the demise of the Board [of Ordnance] in 1855, the War Department and today's Ministry of Defence continued to use the mark. Similarly to hallmarks, it is currently a criminal offence in the United Kingdom to reproduce the broad arrow without authority." It's also much the same as a trig point mark, but in an unlikely location. Perhaps just a child whiling away an idle moment?

The consensus was that this was not a War Department mark. Reference was made to genuine WD arrows at the bottom of Barrack Hill and near Sene Farm, which do not resemble this.

Turnpike Toll Houses (David)

From 1753, there was a Turnpike Hythe/Sandgate/Folkestone and from 1762, a Turnpike Hythe/Ashford - where were the Toll Houses?

Perhaps one was Pound Cottage on the Seabrook Road?

Chris O'Connor in advance of meeting:

My Aunt had a watercolour of what I think was a toll house at the bottom of Sandgate Hill. Nearby was the lift house that came down to the west to Sandgate from The Leas.

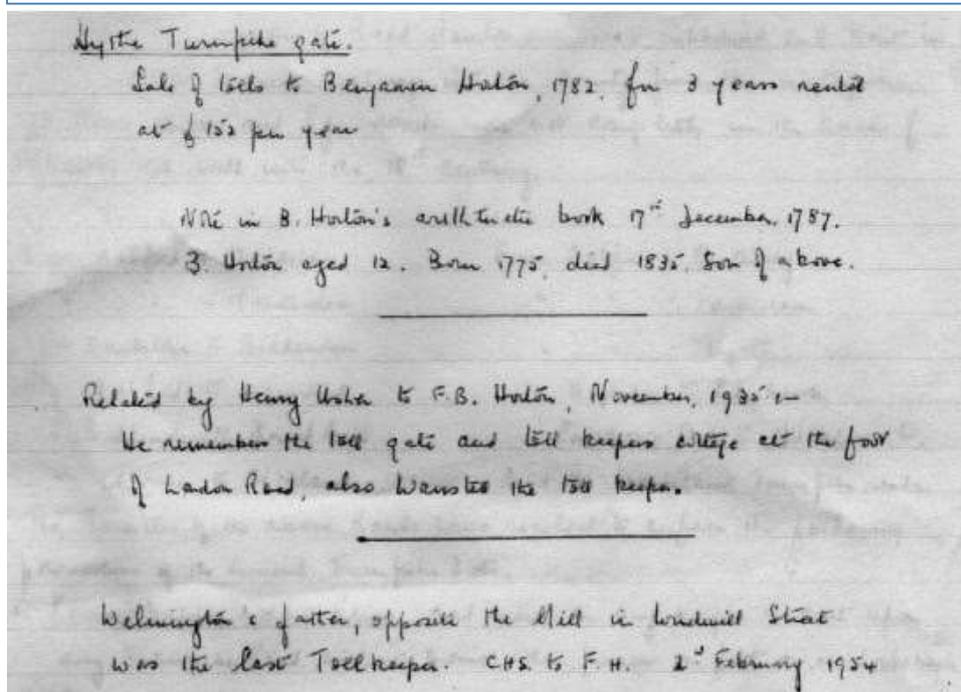
Alan J.: Has found handwritten notes in HCS archives about Kent toll roads, mostly, but not exclusively, apparently drawn from *The Turnpike Roads of Kent* by James Carley, printed by KCC no date given (also in HCS archives). See appendix re keepers of gate.

Mike de la M.: Circulated information from 1842 Hythe and Saltwood Tithe Maps identifying position of Hythe/Ashford Turnpike House. See appendix.

- David: Asked the question because someone with house in Nursery Fields had found foundations in garden, and wondered if a toll house. Meeting agreed wrong position. Probably relating to nursery that was on the site. [Later OS map shows exact position of nursery.]
- Mike U: has been told that a black painted house opposite Pound Cottage was originally a toll house for Hythe/Sandgate.
- Alan: Hythe/Sandgate toll house not mentioned in his summary. Are we sure there was one in Hythe, or just the one in Sandgate?
- Mike de la M: Pound Cottage was in parish of Newington.
- Anne: Turnpikes were introduced by businessmen who paid for upkeep or improvement of roads. They should only benefit from them through better roads enhancing trade. All money raised through tolls should be used for upkeep of roads.

Appendices

In the 1842 St Leonard's Tithe Map 'Turnpike House & Garden' was at junction of London Road and Old London Road (no 439). It was owned by 'Trustees of Turnpike Road' and occupied by Francis Sherwood. It seems very likely this was the Toll House. Although one might have expected it to be above the junction, no other building is shown on the Hythe map or the Saltwood map along this stretch of road. The Saltwood map marks the same building explicitly as 'Hythe Turnpike'. Plot 440 was similarly owned by the trustees and occupied by Sherwood, and described as a 'Garden'. *Mike de la M (contact me to view tithe map info)*



Westenhanger Castle (Andy C)

Does anyone have copies of old prints or plans of Westenhanger Castle? I am interested in its history.

Chris O'Connor in advance of meeting:

I attach a copy of *Archæologia Cantiana* volume CXXXC11 2012 which is an account of Sir William Brockman and his internment eventually in Ostenhanger, later Westenhanger Castle for his part in the raising of a Royalist force against Parliamentary forces during the Civil War. Extracts were included in a past HCS newsletter. [See appendix.]

Alethea: Graham Forge has given her a paper copy of his library research entitled *Westenhanger Castle and Barn: Historical Notes*, updated 2012. She will ask him whether we can have the digital version of it, possibly for placing on website.

He also gave her:

Westenhanger Castle - A Revised Interpretation, 2001, by David and Barbara Martin, published in *Archæologia Cantiana* [see <http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research/Pub/ArchCant/121-2001/121-11.pdf>];

An Inventory of Westenhanger Castle by Duncan Harrington published as Kent Record New Series III [see http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/kent_records/KRNS3-4.pdf].

And Howard, Laxton and Little's *Tree-Ring Analysis of Timbers from Westenhanger Castle, Stone Street, Westenhanger, Near Folkestone, Kent*, 2001, published by English Heritage [is catalogued on-line but appears not to download].

[A presentation by the group on Westenhanger Castle was later given in the Tin Tabernacle in November 2017. We have detailed information on all aspects of Westenhanger history. Please contact the secretary for more information.]

'Captain Deeds house' on St Bartholomew's map (Christopher)

When was it built? Duncan Forbes says it was built in 1658. Does anyone know the source of this date? In deeds executed in 1659 Julius Deedes is described as 'of Beechborough, Newington'. He was 'of Newington in August 1659 when he married Ann Bate. In 1657 Ann had inherited £1,200 from her father which might have provided the funds for building.

In the Deedes archive in Canterbury Cathedral Archives there is a conveyance to William, Julius's father, which might be the site of the house Julius built. It is described as follows:

2 Aug 1652 Indenture of sale by Thomas White of Wapping for £100 to William Deedes of Hythe of 2 messuages gardens and stables in Hythe [CCA U101/II/H/90- H/87 also relevant].

Note: The description of the premises in H/90 is difficult to read; it appears to be the same as in H/87- 20 Sept.1647 Indenture by which Edward Masters of Canterbury, gent, sold to Thomas White of Wapping for £13 "his two messuages or tenements, one stable, two gardens and one piece of land called the Woodyard and their appurtenances in the town or Port of Hythe Kent in the Market Ward and Middle Ward, bounding to the highe way towards the East and South, to the lands of Ferdinando Bassett Arnold Hall and one Richard Pay and bounded to the West by the highway or street ... towards the North and to the house of Widdow Hobday toward the East and North now in the several occupation of John Salmon and An.... Lombard".

Any points pro or con would be welcome.

It was observed that Duncan Forbes relied mainly on secondary sources for his book. Alan says DF's notes are in the archive, which might indicate a source for this information.

Christopher added that Corporation Minutes 1661-2 mention water from prison being diverted to Captain Deedes's house – but doesn't say 'new' house.

Anne was able to clarify positions of the town's wards.

Julius's connection with Beechborough was uncertain.

No further information was forthcoming from the group

Hythe Infantry School 1957 (Andy C)

Help required to ID the exact location Hythe Infantry School in 1957 please.

[Andy attached a photo to the query which was passed round]

The immediate response of the group was 'That's Turnpike Camp.' Then doubts set in, for instance about the layout of the camp and the positioning of the trees on the hill behind, and no conclusion was reached.

Mystery now solved, thanks to photo later unearthed by Ron. It is Turnpike Camp, but the image has been flipped – so it's a mirror image of how it should be. See pictures + 1959 OS map below. Further discussion if needed next month.



Andy's picture



Andy's picture flipped – note Tolsford Plantation now top left



Turnpike Camp 1960, aerial photo from Google Earth



Turnpike Camp OS map 1959 (surveyed 1958). Camp was where Turnpike Hill, Spanton Crescent, etc, are now.

Minting and the Cinque Ports (Chris)

On a recent visit to Rye my wife and I had occasion to visit the Heritage Centre in the Town. During a short lecture I questioned a matter arising namely "The Right to Mint Coinage". I was told that the highway in the town named "The Mint" was so named because of the fact that Rye did mint their own coinage there, and that this was a "Cinque Ports Right". I have looked at various references to this Right which become somewhat complicated and to go into detail on this now would not be I consider appropriate. Suffice to conclude that under Common Law, this Right extended only to designated Boroughs; Rye town being of that status, and maybe not necessarily to Cinque Ports as a privilege.

Can anyone enlarge on this and maybe answer the question as to whether Minting was a privilege which extended to Cinque Ports.

p.s. I am not suggesting that Hythe in any way should start printing its own banknotes!!

Alan: brought relevant information from Maurice Young and Duncan Forbes archives, about mint and about tokens.

Chris: will scan and we will append to these notes.

David: has been in contact with Richard Hardy of Chapel St who has written an article on Kent tokens for Bygone Kent. Two different types of tokens, one for specific establishment, one with wider currency. Fernando Bassett of Hythe and his son had tokens issued. David can arrange contact with RH. Theory that Hythe mint was below Lympne Castle.

John Osborne emailed following meeting: 'Re Chris' question about the mint. I cannot remember where but there is mention of a mint in Hythe toward the end of the Saxon rule (11th Century). Just before 1066 as I recall but it was closed once William had established rule. Merle and I were unable to find a location or any information other than brief mentions while we were researching Centuries. Good luck. I don't know how well we will survive the election results. Love to you all. John'

St Michael Ashe and St Nicholas the fisherman's church (David)

Hythe Haven (Forbes) states that there were 4 ancient churches in Hythe - St Leonard's, St Nicholas (behind Sainsburys - linked to Frenchman's Field where excavations have taken place and bones found), St Michael's Ashe in a sheepfold of that name, between West Hythe and Hythe, perhaps property of St John's, and (another) St Nicholas at the east end of Hythe known in deeds as Chapel Field near to the sea so known as the Fishermans' Church: 'on the waterfront between Hythe and Seabrook, on a long arm of the sea that used to run close to the present line of the RMC', with a suggestion that it was actually in Newington Parish (Lambarde).

All seem to have been Chapels-at-Ease to Saltwood Church. This does not include the ruined St Mary's Church at West Hythe.

Is anything known of the locations of these latter two 'lost' churches which were probably used by pilgrims en route to Canterbury (there seems to have been a line of such churches along the coast as ships sometimes had to make landfall wherever they could.

Mike de la M: Has identified site of St Michael's Ashe from St Bartholomew Map. It is midway between Hythe and West Hythe, on the opposite side of the canal from where the Burmarsh Road first runs alongside the canal, in the general vicinity of, but not close to, the sound mirror.

No-one knew anything further about St Nicholas between Hythe and Sandgate. Mike will try to access the southern portion of the Newington Tithe Map to see if there is a Chapel Field listed there, but Canterbury Cathedral Archives only hold Part 1, which shows the area around Newington village, not the separate area near the sea. The archive does contain some 'terriers' relating to Newington however.

In searching for St Michael's Ashe, Mike came across a Chapel Field listed on the St L's Tithe Map at the eastern end of the Roughs, near Green Lane, Millfields Road, etc. Aerial photo shows an interesting feature in the South West corner of the field, and inspection on the ground shows what seems to be the base of a long stone wall. There is no known reference in the literature to a chapel at this site. Although an early 20thC OS map shows a burial ground nearby where Mill Fields Road and Nursery Fields now are, this seems to relate to a mortuary chapel on the London Road and does not appear on earlier maps. Mike continued to ramble on about this.

Sean: commented that children used to play with discarded (fuel?) tanks found in this area.

David, later: KCC Monuments Record shows remains near Canongate Road, identifying it as possibly St Mary's or St Barnard's. Leland also mentions a St Mary's.

[I have a memory of this site being mentioned before either at our meetings or in a publication and considered an unlikely candidate for St N, but cannot pinpoint when or where! Ed.]

Mike de la M, later:

There is evidence on the ground of there having been a structure on a small platform on which there are now two large willow trees. These may be the remains of the farm buildings that are said to be on the site of St Michael's Ashe, and which appear on mid-20thC aerial photographs (see appendix).

Go through a gate from Military Road, half way towards West Hythe, leading to the permissive footpath that heads straight up the hill. From the gate look over to your right and up a bit. You will see two large willows beyond a smaller nearer tree.

Please note this is on private MoD land.

Appendix

OS Mid-20thC

"The church or chapel known as St Michael Ash stood midway between West Hythe and the present Small Arms school, on the knoll now occupied by a farm just on the N. side of the canal!"
H.D. Dale (1931). The Ancient Town of Hythe and St Leonard's Church, Kent

"... St Michael's, erected halfway between Hythe and West Hythe (the foundations of which can still be discerned in dry weather) ..."
M. Easdown and L. Sage (2004). Hythe: A History.

Only possible farm candidate?

Road to West Hythe truncated by canal, now Burmarsh Road?

Note field shapes

Detail of OS Mid-20thC

No farm shown on 1841 Tithing Map, or on 1st edition (1871) OS map. Area just shown as 'sheep fold' on both. 2nd edition shows farm buildings. No sign of farm on current maps.

Site of St Michael's Ashe probably here.

Aerial view 1946
 No sign of any buildings in later aerial views.

current Google Map

(Mike de la Mare. Please contact me for hospital map info on St Michael Ashe.)

Cottages at top of Church Hill (Mike de la M)

Does anyone know when the three cottages at the top of Church Hill were built (see photo below)? There were three in the same position on the 1842 Saltwood Tithe Map (one with an interesting occupant), but I'm assuming, perhaps wrongly, that the current ones were built later.

Has anyone any got any pictures or other historical evidence, or can anyone tell the approximate date from the style?



Prior to meeting, Colin Green: 'I would guess they were built around 1900, presumably on the original ragstone foundations which are visible.'

General consensus that style is Victorian.

Alan: On conservation area plan, buildings are shown as being of merit but not formally listed (unlike the next three down hill), so no detailed information.

Brin: Drew attention to brick on nearby cottage incised JD 1789. Various ideas about what JD stands for (Sean: Local builder John Draper?).

Bassett House (Ron)

I shall be away during the next meeting, so I have a request to ask if anyone has photos, drawings or illustrations of Lord Wakefield's Bassett House before the fire. I am getting a piece ready for the website and only have one picture of the place. I can't believe that the only photo available is a distance shot in an aerial photo of Saltwood Castle!

Chris O'C: has sent Ron pictures of the house after the fire. Will circulate.

Alan: believes there are pictures in the HCS Archives and will search. Mary remembers seeing a lot of pictures in the archives.

Saltwood/Hythe boundary (Mike de la M)

Does anyone know the exact date when the civil boundary between Hythe and Saltwood stopped coinciding with the ecclesiastical boundary, so that a large chunk of what was Saltwood became Hythe? I suspect it was in the 1890s following the 1894 Local Government Act, which 'formed an official system of civil parishes, separated from the ecclesiastical parishes'. There was presumably some debate about it at the time: any thoughts about where these would be recorded?

Alan will look in the Maurice Young papers.

Anne suggests local newspaper archives.

North retaining walls to Sainsbury's car park (Colin)

Have often wondered the reason for the substantial "walls" that project North to South at regular intervals. Surely cannot be structural buttresses to the wall itself, as too massive. Assume they were there when the Small Arms School was in existence. Not originally secure munition storage areas I suppose?

No-one knew the answer, but:

Suggested that Mike Umbers (not currently attending meetings) will probably know.

Alan: suggests consulting the detailed report for the Sainsburys development.

Andy Mills : possibly part of firing ranges – there were some there.

The Print House (David)

Why is the house on the corner of Portland Road and Dymchurch Road named The Print House and what is its history?

Andy Mills: believes there is a report on the building.

Parkfields (Anne)

I have a 1911 census entry (attached) for a family living at Rosebery House, Parkfields, Hythe. Does anyone know where Parkfields was? I can't find it on modern maps.

Mike de la M: Park Field was the area that now comprises Victoria, Albert and Ormonde Roads. Park Road, running along the top of the area, is likely to reflect the name. Park Field was marked as such on the 1897 1:25,000 OS map, but not on the 1872 map, although Park Road was. In the 1842 Tithe Map the same area was called Beach Field. (See attached for maps.)

Anne: has now identified Rosebery House and Rosebery Terrace, in Albert Road.

No-one had suggestions for the name Park Field, beyond it making it sound a desirable location for the new houses being built there at the time.

Supplementary vaguely relating to previous item 'Park': the Saltwood deer park (Mike de la M)

Lambarde in 1576 lists a deer park in Saltwood. In 1596 he shows it having been 'disparked', though Hasted, p.223, writes that Thomas Broadnax of Hythe disparked Saltwood park in the reign of Mary. Other documentary sources mention the Saltwood deer park too, one showing it was already there in 1275. It was probably associated with the castle.

The boundary fence (pale) often sat on a bank, and quite often followed a parish boundary for a bit.

Anyone know any more about this or have any info/thoughts on the area of the park? Anyone noted any interesting banks?

Ref: 'Elizabethan and Jacobean Deer Parks in Kent', Susan Pittman, PhD Kent, 2011.

<http://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/17/01/2013/06/000.htm>

Alan: Henry VIII had a deer park at Westenghanger, though no evidence he visited it.

Sean: Good evidence (with ref) that he embarked on one occasion at Hythe.

Alan: Maybe row of oak trees on slight bank running along footpath from church north towards Sand Lane. [Ed: Actually this bank marks the edge of an old road shown on the 1707 Francis Hill map of Saltwood Parsonage Lands as 'The way from the Church to Stone' and also as 'Blind Lane. In the Terrier 'tis called the King's Street'.]

Mike de la M. Passed round a Thomas Hill 1687 map of part of the Tournay estate at Pedlinge, which in the bottom left hand corner close to top of the Roughts escarpment shows a fence marked 'Parke Palles'. Suggests a later deer park was associated with Brockhill.

Chris O'C will pass the Tournay Album from the HCS Archives to Mike to see if that deer park is mentioned there.

View of church without The Paddocks (Dorene)

Now that The Paddocks has gone there is an attractive view through from the main road to the church (see photo). What buildings would have been visible last time this view was available – i.e. before Paddock House was built in the 1770s? [Amended from questions originally circulated]



Consensus that buildings in Marine Walk Street are probably Victorian.

Anne: Date on arch of Spritualist Church show it to be late 1850s

Shoemakers Bridge Place (Andy C)

Can we identify the location of Shoemakers Bridge Place?

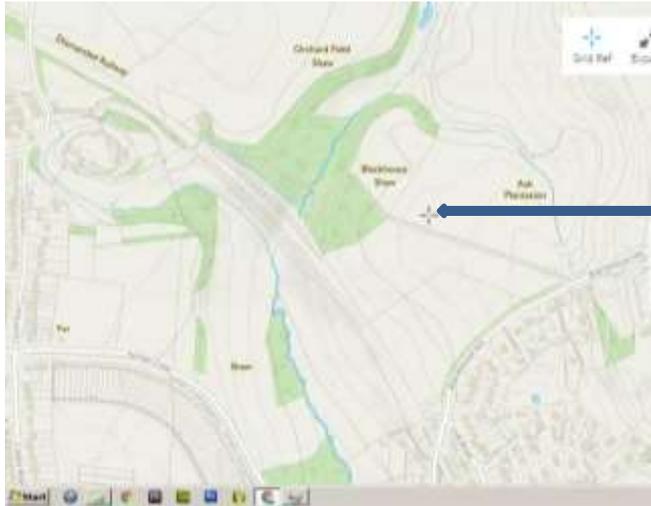
Mike U writes prior to meeting:

The Tanneries or Tanners Yard was near East Bridge. Connection with Leather-working? There was debate when 'Last Days of Hythe Harbour' was in preparation whether East Bridge was once Shoemakers Bridge - if so, Shoemakers Bridge Place could be nearby? Just speculating - I hope someone knows more.

Anne: Believes Shoemakers Bridge Place to have been where Southern Spice Indian restaurant now is (previously Sotirio's and Nelson's Head), but cannot locate source. Shoes wouldn't necessarily be made where leather is tanned. Suggests that the bridge in question would have been over the Town Ditch if prior to building of canal.

Hole between Blackhouse Hill and Saltwood Castle (Ron)

On the footpath from Blackhouse hill to Saltwood Castle, (going across Ash Plantation & Blackhouse Shore fields?), there appears on a 1940 aerial photo, a large depression. This also appear on a recent Lidar map. This could be a tree stump hole, although it must be pretty deep or more likely, a bomb strike. Does anyone know if there is a record of WW2 bomb locations for the area?



Ron: Probably too big for tree.

Alan: Records of where V1 and V2 rockets fell available in archives, although V1/2 would postdate Ron's aerial view.

Alethea/Sean: Rodney Foster's diaries (published as The Real Dad's Army) mention a lot of bombing in that area at that time.

David: Don't forget possibility of WW1 bombings.

Uxbridge Street, Hythe(Ron):

Has there ever been an Uxbridge Street in Hythe?

Ron: Many satnavs seem to include an Uxbridge St that does not exist near Blackhouse Hill.

No suggestions how this has come about. No-one knew of an earlier Uxbridge Street in Hythe.

Station Road kerb stones (Andy C)

Is anything known about the bits of memorial to at least two people which have been used as kerb stones at the top of Station Road in the overgrown bit between the two paths up to Cannongate Rd.?

Andy: Had inscriptions such as *Elisabeth, 1939, died at the age of 69.*

Brin: Possibility of material migrating from St Leonard's.

Mike de la M.: If 1939, then not connected with original construction of road. Road would have fallen out of serious use soon after that date when station closed in early 1950s.

Cold Harbour (Ron)

Does anyone know if 'Cold Harbour' on Blackhouse Hill, is a listed building?

The deeds go back to 1696 and it was built on older foundations.

Alan (email before session):

I have checked the Listings and there are no listed buildings on Blackhouse Hill.

Why is the Military Canal the Royal Military Canal? (Anne)

Andy C/Brin: because it was built by and the property of the Crown.

[Editor says: Is this answer enough? Are most military structures prefaced with Royal? If not, why this one in particular. Maybe revisit at next session.]

David emailed following meeting:

As no other military canal is named Royal, I have always assumed that it was because it was approved by the then Commander-in-Chief (1798-1809 and 1811-1827), HRH Frederick, Duke of York. His personal involvement with the Canal is shown in PAL Vine's book page 41 (see attachment) and the dates fit his time in Office which included his 'sailing' from Hythe to Iden in 1806, the RMC Act passed in 1807 and the completion of the RMC in 1809.

Fox portrait in Town Hall (Nick Hilditch, via Alan)

'I was approached yesterday by Nick Hilditch, Town Clerk about a very large painting in the Town Hall of Sir James Fox, who was an MP but not for this area. He wondered if we could find out more.'

Chris Melchers, by email:

There is a brief reference to the Fox portrait in Forbes book "Hythe Haven" p.147.

According to the National Portrait Gallery website he is associated with no less than 299 pictures! Possibly he used them as snapshots to give to his friends! How he found time to be Chancellor of the Exchequer as well I don't know!

[Charles James Fox, 1749 – 1806, was a leading Whig politician, briefly Britain's first Foreign Secretary, supporter of the French revolution, American independence and the anti-slavery movement. He was an opponent of the older and younger Pitts and of George III. Forbes says the picture of Charles James Fox was presented by Stewart Marjoribanks, Whig MP for Hythe and director of the East India company. He also presented, in 1831, the pictures of two of his ships in the Far East. Perhaps Marjoribanks just felt a few pictures would brighten up the Town Hall! Ed.]

Sean: Showed photo of portrait on phone, confirming it is Charles James Fox. Said had heard story that the portrait had been acquired or donated by Marjoribanks as the result of a bet.

Brockman's Barn (Anne)

I came across the following in the Kentish Gazette for 15 February 1848 under the heading 'Hythe'

'A man named Thomas Piety, going to his work on Saturday morning, at the Guard Tower at Brockman's Barn, stooped to knock his pipe against his shoe, when he fell forward and instantly expired.'

Does anyone know where Brockman's Barn was and why it had a guard tower?

Christopher, by email

Brockman's Barn was on the coast between Hythe and Dymchurch, (see below)

Edward Hasted in his Parishes: Dimchurch', in The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent: Volume 8 published in 1799, described the Dymchurch Wall as follows:

This wall is usually known by the name of Dimchurch wall, and is about three miles in length, extending from Brockman's barn, eastward of this place, as far westward as Wallend, about a mile and an half from New Romney.

As it is for the common safety, so it is supported by scots levied over the whole marsh, and the yearly expence of it is very great indeed, to the amount of 4000l. as the sea has lately increased with unusual force against it, insomuch as to call for every exertion for its preservation.

Hasted says the Manor of Dymchurch was acquired by Henry Brockman in the reign of James I.

State Papers Domestic March 1703

"The enclosed came last night by a boy that belongs to George Chapman and John Hobday's boat's crew, landed out of a French shalopp between Brockman's Barn and Hythe. As there was one among the rest directed to you ."

Chris, by email

I have heard that the original Barn was maybe situated at a point on the beach just East of the Dymchurch Redoubt which was at one time Drake-Brockman lands; could this have been the site of the quoted settlement examination mentioned in the attachment? Further I believe it was moved to Jesson, which I further believe was a name shortened from "Jefferstone" which is the area now called St Mary's Bay.

The notes to the extract from the record were supplied by someone with the initials D.R. Alan Joyce supplied me with the notes. Does Alan know the identity of D.R? [Alan: Denis Rayner]

Attachment reads:

Record of The Brockman and Drake-Brockman Family

D.H.Drake Brockman *Brig-General*

1936

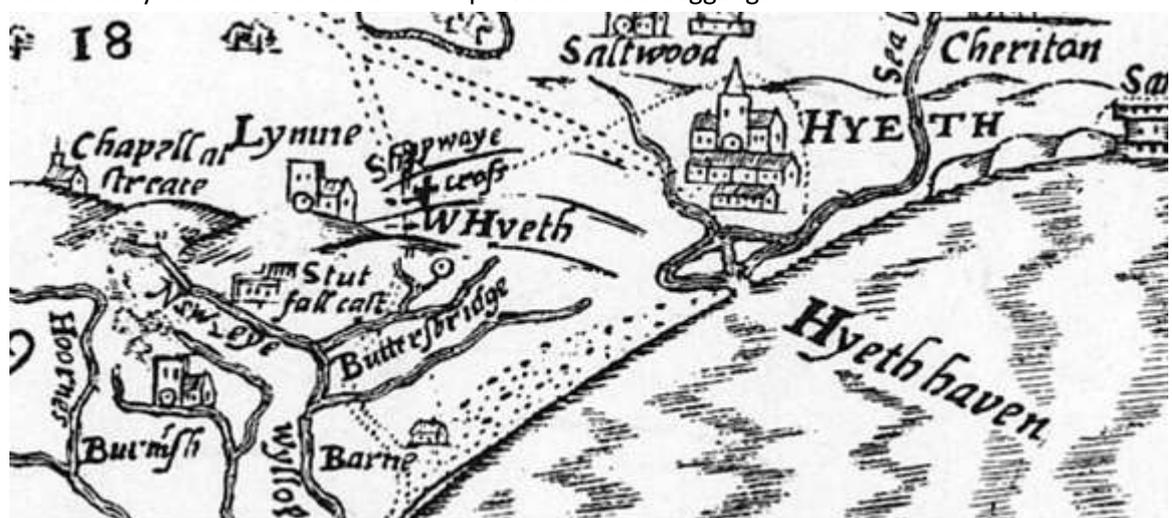
There was also a building called BROCKMAN'S BARN, which was a landmark in the 17th century, but has long ago disappeared. To prevent the sea from overflowing the marsh, a wall known as DYMCHURCH WALL was built, extending for about three miles in length from BROCKMAN'S BARN eastwards of this place as far westward as Wallend, about one-and-a-half miles from NEW ROMNEY. It was the boundary of the Liberty of New Romney on the east. It was situated on the sea coast, just west of the Sands Hotel, Jesson, a hamlet between New Romney and DYMCHURCH. But nothing exists now, and has not existed for the last hundred years and more, and its site is no longer known.

Further notes to the above: 1842 Tithing Map for Parish of West Hythe. Owner and occupier: Her Majesty's Board of Ordnance "Outlands; pasture and beach" (139) it is hoped that this is the correct reference.

According to some notes (author unknown) the extract was sent to him by someone with the initials D.R. following his enquiry after having found the name Brockmans Barn in a settlement examination. He wondered whether it related to a house or literally a 'barn' and where it was situated.

Mike de la M

The Symondson 1596 map of Kent (detail below) shows a likely barn south-west of Hythe. By 1848 it may have still been a place name. As it was adjacent to the sea, the watchtower seems likely to be connected with the prevention of smuggling.



Town Hall clock coat of arms (Ron)

I have a question about the coats of arms on the town hall clock. The top and left ones, I know but what is the right hand one?

Also the text at the bottom - Town and Port (DENETNA)? Latin?



Alan What looks like DENETNA is DE HETHE (i.e. 'of Hythe'). So VILLE ET PORTUS DE HETHE.

Ron There are also four words incorporated into the decoration around the bird. The two on the left seem to be 'ville' and 'hethe'. The others look like 'spira' and 'ioru'. And what is the bird?

There were no further thoughts on these two words. Suggestions for bird ranged from seagull to eagle to phoenix.

It was noticed that the same coat of arms (as well as the other two) appears behind the magistrates chair on the bailiffs and mayors board. This would be examined in detail.

West Hythe Dam and associated sewers and cuttings (Chris O'C)

We all know that the Royal Military Canal was constructed during the first decade of the 19th century.

The question now surrounds the dates of construction of the sewer or Canal Cutting that starts at the West Hythe Dam and goes South out to the sluice just west of the Dymchurch Redoubt. Also the construction of the West Hythe Dam and the Willop Sewer (Gills Pipes Arm) which starts at a point just north of Botolph's Bridge at Marshlands Farm (according to O.S.) and goes East to a point just West of the Haven and joins the R.M. Canal in a copse of trees.

David: The Canal Cut is in place by the 1897 OS map. On the 1872 map it appears to have been dug from the north as far as Botolph's Bridge. It may continue a little way to the south, but this not clear from the map and may just be part of the earlier sewer.

Mike de la M: [The following is different to what I said at the meeting, and is the result of a bit of further investigation. Apologies, in particular to David, who I think realised I was talking nonsense.]

On the 1839 West Hythe tithe map, the Gill's Pipe Arm is clearly shown. Whether the Selby Arm of the Willop Sewer (which comes from the west towards Gill's Pipe) is there at this date is unclear as it would be outside the parish boundary for West Hythe, but there is no reason to think it would not be. The main Willop Sewer which runs south of Botolph's Bridge and crosses the road under Stonereach Bridge to become the Oaks Pipe Arm (although the latter is not named) is shown. All these sewers appear to be connected by another sewer which, in the area of Botolph's Bridge at least, roughly follows the line of the later Canal Cut. See also the Symonson 1596 map which shows the rough arrangement of these sewers, and that they flowed out to sea, at Willop Gut, between Dymchurch and the barn discussed at an earlier meeting

Gordon Ward (1931. *San Tunes Boc. Archaeologia Cantiana*, Vol. 43, pp 39-48) talks of: "... evidence that the Willop Sewer is no modern drainage cut but a water channel of immemorial antiquity", and suggests it as one of the possible courses of the River Limen.

See attached maps PDF.

Who composed Bailiffs' and Mayors' List in Town Hall? (David)

Question posed recently to me as Town Guide by a group of visitors from Canterbury History and Archaeology Group:

Who did the research for the Bailiffs and Mayors list in the Town hall?

Part answer from Denise Rayner's Town Hall booklet (HCS):

'Designed by Sir Banister Fletcher. Idea of William Cobay (ex Mayor) in 1914 who paid for 'the research' (was there a list in the Council offices as per Vicars?). Presented and erected in 1921 by Robert Cobay, following his brother's death.'

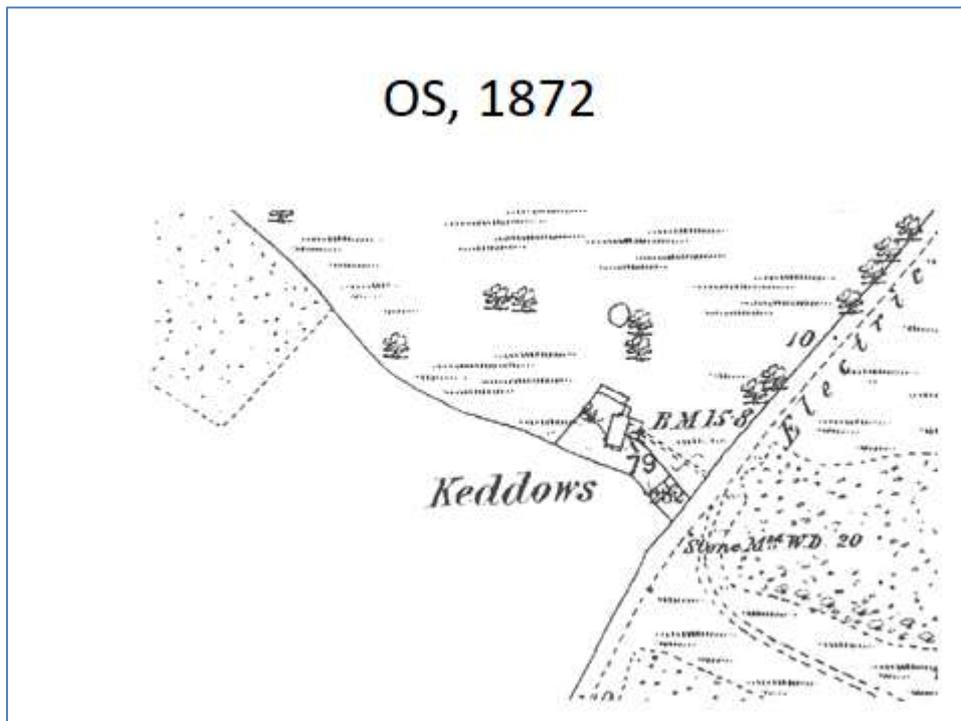
Christopher/Anne Likely to have been taken from assembly minutes.

Alan Will raise with Nick Hlditch.

Cade's Cottage (Alethea)

Does anyone know anything about Cade's Cottage along the Dymchurch Road (set back beside the Palmarsh Garage)? I visited the cottage once, and the owner said she thought part of it dated from 15c. I have looked into Jack Cade and his rebellion, but there was no mention of Hythe. It would be interesting to know who named the cottage and when.

Mikede la M: The 1872 OS map shows the house or the area as 'Keddows'. The 1838 Tithe Map as 'Kidd House'. The three names are clearly connected, but it suggests Jack Cade was not originally involved.



Manor House date 1654 (Christopher)

The Listing of the Manor House in Hillside Street says it is 'Dated 1654' which could mean that that date appears somewhere on the building. Does it? The Deedes got their coat of arms in 1654. Or does it simply mean it was built in 1654, which it wasn't.

David, by email

From KCC Heritage Record TR13SE18. The Manor House. Excavations inside in 1973 and 1975 exposed three masonry walls, a clay floor sealing a small pit, two gullies and 13 stake holes cut into the underlying deposits in the north-western corner of the house. A thick layer of burnt clay, wood and tile, representing the collapse of a timber and clay internal partition during a serious fire in the 15thC, sealed the earlier features. The fire debris contained iron fittings, a carbonised wooden shutter, pottery, a bronze cauldron, a crushed and burnt iron bucket, a large iron bill-hook and a broken bottle, most of which were distorted by the fire. The present house was built c1660 (Mynott 1974 and Philp 1996)

The iron finds perhaps gave rise to the story (given to me by the present owner of the adjoining Manor Cottage) that a Roman helmet had been found under the terrace on the south side - he also considered that the Cottage was older than the house - will make for an interesting visit there if Brin can arrange.

David The KCC record (c1660) therefore contradicts the listed buildings listing (1654), although it is accompanied by 'circa'.

Alan We could inform National Heritage of the concern.

Viewpoint of Rev Pipit's painting (David)

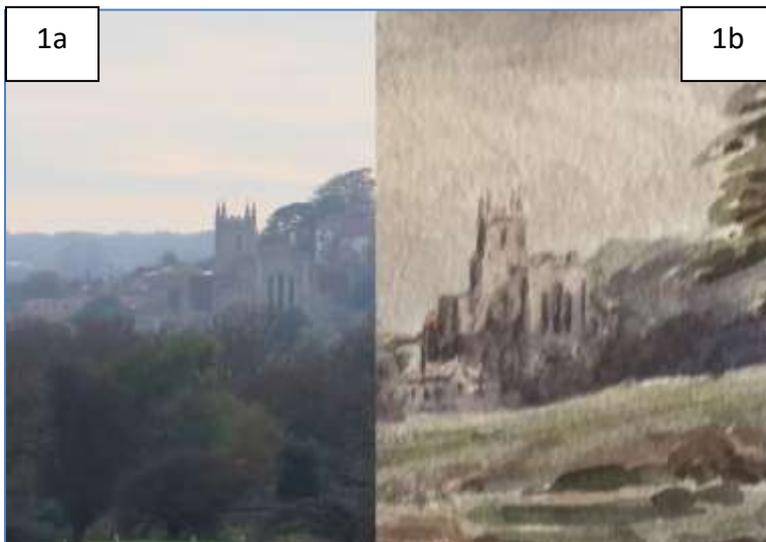
Can anyone identify the position of the Rev Pipit when he painted the view of St Leonards from the east by the Canal - I don't recall another with a view from that end of Town - could HTC not purchase it!? Has anyone managed to identify the spot yet?

There was a discussion about artistic licenses, etc, and a suggestion the painting could be purchased.

David: Possibly about 50 yards towards Seabrook from Twiss Road.

Alan: The planting date of the elm trees along the canal is known, and so, if we could find typical growth rates, we could estimate the age of the elms in the picture and so date it.

Great piece of work from Ron after meeting (see photos below taken on the Imperial's golf course to the east of Canongate Bridge). He says: 'I think I am very close. I believe the good Reverend would have been standing about where the person is in picture 2.'



Doreen brought a print of another picture from 'that end of town'. The viewpoint of that to be discussed at next meeting.

Did the port of Hythe really move from West Hythe to its current position? (Mike de la M)

It is always confidently stated that, ignoring Roman times, Hythe harbour started where West Hythe now is and then moved to its current position at some point in the early middle-ages.

We know that there was some sort of settlement at Sandtun, although it was probably minor and/or seasonal, not far from West Hythe in the Anglo-Saxon period. Does anyone know the original source evidence for a) a more substantial Anglo-Saxon port at West Hythe and b) the lack of an early one at the current Hythe site? What made me wonder was the A-S tree ring date John got for a timber in the cellar of Centuries and the fact that Hythe seems pretty well established by the Domesday Book.

I'm sure there is such evidence, but I would be interested to know what it is.

Chris: If we had information about the movement of watercourses, shingle banks, etc , that might guide us as to what is a likely sequence. (Chris is considering a history of West Hythe, and these discussions could feed into that.)

I (Mike dIM)

I did some further digging before the meeting. The following is an expanded version of the summary I gave. Apologies for length – it's my final Q&A and I felt entitled!

Leland (about 1540) seems to be the earliest person to write:

And yt may be well supposed that after the Haven of Lymme, and the great old Toun ther fayled, that Hithe strayte therby encresed and was yn Price. Finally to cownt fro Westhyve to the Place wher the Substans of the Towne ys now ys ys ii. good Myles in lenght al along on the Shore to the which the Se cam ful sumtyme, but now by Bankinge of Woose and great casting up of Shyngel the Se ys sumtyme a Quarter, sumtyme dim. a Myle fro the old Shore.

Note the 'it may well be supposed'. He does not seem exactly to be saying Lymne → Westhythe → Hythe, but rather Lymne → Hythe, and that Hythe is very long if you include West Hythe as part of it.

Lambarde (about 1570) says that a contemporary scholar Robert Talbot, when discussing 'Shipway', has the following view:

This Hauen (sai the he) stode at the firste, vnder a highe Rocke in the Parishe of Lymne, vnder the whiche there was situate a strong Castle for the defence of the Porte, the ruines of whiche buyl ding be yet apparent to the eye. There is extant also, a faire paued cawsey, some myles of length, leading from Canterbury toward the same Porte: and they of the Towne enioye the Priuileges of the Fiue Portes, and doe reserue a brazen Horne, and a Mace, as ensignes of Castle Garde, and administration of lustice, in olde time exercised there. Finally they affirme, that (the water forsaking them by litle and litle) decay and solitude came at the length vpon the place. For, whereas at the first, ships were accustomed to discharge at Lymne, the Sea afterwarde (either hindered by the sandes, or not helped by the fresh water)

shor tned his fludde, and caused the Merchaunts to vnlade at Westhithe: Neither did it yet ascend so highe any long season, but by continuall decreasinges, withdrew it self, and at the length compelled them to lay their wares on land at this Hithe, whiche nowe standeth in deede.

This corresponds closely to the view that is always expressed in our own time. He seems to be saying though that Lympne (or Shipway) originally had the 'Priuilleges of the Fiue Portes'. The source of this information is not given.

Camden, writing in 1610, says:

Hith is situated, one of the Cinque ports, whereof it assumed that name, which in the English Saxons tongue signifieth an haven or harbour: although hardly it maintaineth that name now, by reason of sands, and the Sea withdrawing it selfe from it. And yet it is not long since it first made any shew, and that by the decay and fall of Westhyth, a neighbour-towne Westward, and which was sometime a Port, untill the Sea in our great grandfathers daies [my underlining]retired from it. So are Sea-townes subiect to the vncertaine vicissitude of the Sea. This Hith, like as West-Hith also, had their beginning from y ruine of Lime standing hard by, which in times past was a most famous Port towne, untill the sands that the Sea casteth up, had choked and stopped the haven.

This suggests that a tidal waterway to West Hythe was navigable at least to small boats up to the 16th century, and he is hinting that the shift happened recently as a result of that no longer being possible (which seems very late). But does 'great grandfathers day' really just mean 'a long time ago'? And are his sources accounts given to him by very old inhabitants or is he repeating the views of earlier writers?

Hasted (about 1797), when discussing Lympne, follows Lambarde quite closely:

This place [West Hythe] seems to have been but of small consequence, whilst the neighbouring harbour of Limne remained in a flourishing state; but when that was deserted by the sea, and the ships by that means hindered from coming to it, this haven of West Hythe succeeded in turn, and became the usual resort for shipping in its stead, and the town here increased in proportion as that of Limne decayed. But this was of no long duration, for the sea continuing to decrease from this coast, after no great length of time, left this haven likewise so choaked up with beach and sand, that it became entirely useless, and the shipping were necessitated to stop eastward at Hythe.

He then goes on to suggest that it was West Hythe that was created a Cinque Port by Edward the Confessor (but does not give a source for this - my understanding is that any charters of Edward the Confessor regarding Cinque Ports do not survive), and that the move to the present day Hythe was not long before the Norman conquest:

The particular times of the destruction of these havens, by the sea deserting them, has never been ascertained. That of Limne was after the Romans had left this island, and it must have been during the time of the Saxons, perhaps in their earliest time here; for in the reign of king Edward the Confessor, this of West Hythe was become of such resort and consequence, that it was esteemed as one of the cinque ports [my underlining]. From which time the town is said to have greatly increased, insomuch that Leland seems to infer that it in some measure reached all along the

shore, to where the substance of Hythe now is, as one of the same town, in which there were three churches besides this of Our Lady of West Hythe, the ruins of which, as well as the church-yards, remained in his time; and although there is great probability of the truth of these circumstances, yet there is no mention of them by any one else, any more than there is, that this town of West Hythe, where the ruins of the church then remained, was more particularly that which was burnt along the shore in the reign of Richard II. As has been already fully related before. When this haven of West Hythe was rendered useless, and that of Hythe, eastward of it, resorted to in its stead, has only been conjectured; but most probably it was not long before the Norman conquest, at which time lord Coke says, Hythe was added to the other ports, which I should apprehend means the present port, in the room of the old one of West Hythe, which thenceforward became only a member to the new one.

He repeats this when discussing Hythe:

The liberty of the town and port of Hythe extends over the whole of this parish, and part of that of West Hythe, which indeed before the harbour of it failed, was the antient cinque port itself ... Thus after the sea had retired from the town of West Hythe and its haven, the former fell to decay, and became but a small village of no resort, and the present town of Hythe, at two miles distance, to which it was continued by a number of straggling houses all along the shore between them, rose to prosperity, and its harbour became equally noted and frequented in the room of it.

Hasted cites the Domesday Book, to show that before and after the conquest Hythe was a substantial town:

To this manor (viz. Saltwood) belong two hundred and twenty-five burgesses in the borough of Hede. Between the borough and the manor, in the time of king Edward the Confessor, it was worth sixteen pounds, when he received it eight pounds, and now in the whole twenty-nine pounds and six shillings and four-pence

If West Hythe was a substantial port shortly before the conquest, where was it? The only excavations I am aware of have been at Stutfall (Roman, and at Lympe rather than West Hythe) and at 'Sandtun' near Botolph's Bridge near West Hythe. The latter excavations (some unpublished) are summed up by Jill Edison in *Romney Marsh: Survival on a Frontier*, pp 59, 60. She says that finds included 'a considerable amount of north French and other foreign wares', as well as coins dating from the 690s to the turn of the 800s. She goes on to say:

The attraction of the site was the raised [sand]bank on which ships could be pulled up out of reach of the Channel tides, in a sheltered inlet near the shortest channel crossing. It may have been visited once a summer by itinerant traders [my underlining] from the continent. ... Otherwise, because no permanent occupation site has been found, it was probably used as a base for fishing on a daily basis. It was however short lived. Occupation had come to an end by the mid-ninth century.

This is clearly not the substantial port which morphs into Hythe that Hasted et al suggest.

- **In summary, there does not appear to be firm evidence, either historical (in the form of contemporary documents such as charters) or archaeological, of a significant port at West**

Hythe or the lack of an Anglo-Saxon one at Hythe. The speculation of Elizabethan and Georgian scholars may well be correct, but we should not treat it as indisputable fact.

- **However, I'm still assuming that someone will come up with a major piece of evidence for the shift that I've overlooked.**

Black stones and the devil [see below for photos] (David)

When I was Town Guiding in September, a resident in Theatre Street listened to my spiel about Hythe building materials and then pointed out one black piece of ragstone in his south facing wall (end house on left next to Cinque Ports clubhouse).

He claimed this was not uncommon and it was behind the black stone that good luck/anti-Devil items were placed. I had not heard of that, but it does seem that occasionally there is a black piece in ragstone building walls or walls besides alleyways (eg on the left half way up Market Street).

Is there any truth in this idea of behind a black stone? (I have heard of it inside walls or chimneys, but not with a 'marker'.)

David: There's another stone in a garden wall on Market Hill. Definitely ragstone [I'm not sure it's ragstone – what do other members think? Ed].

Anne: Will place a query on twitter.

Mike dLM: Internet search hasn't revealed anything.



[Black stone in wall on Market Hill](#)



Black stone in wall in Theatre Street