



# HERITAGE HYTHE

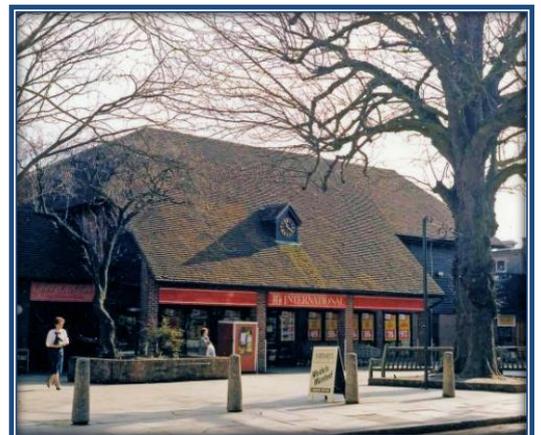
## On This Site...Town Square - The Swan Hotel's Livery Stables and Hythe Motor Cab Company

Following the demise of horse-drawn coach travel, the Swan Hotel's livery stables were closed and sold. From 1915 to the 1960s the site was home to the Hythe Motor Cab Co., a garage and Austin motor dealers from 1932. From 1964 to 1976, Caffyns motors operated from the site.

Below, we see the garage site in the early 1960s with some Austin A40s (introduced in 1960) on the forecourt.



Caffyns moved on in 1976 to East Street and was replaced with a new supermarket - the 'International' seen right - which had moved to here from its former nearby site in the High Street. Behind the garage are the twin gables of a former private residence - 'Chestnuts' - occupied in 1899-1900 by Mrs Mackeson (of the brewing family); part of the building remains.





# HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.22 High Street,

The Oak Inn (1 of 2)



*Left: The Oak Inn  
circa 1934-1937*

*(photograph with kind  
permission of Whitbread plc).*

At that time, the landlord was John Slade. Typically then, Mackeson pubs were not adorned with a colourful inn sign. These first appeared in the late 1940s/early 1950s.

The pub is mentioned in the 1871 Census; Henry Higgins (formerly a buyer and seller of wool) being the Innkeeper. The building housed the Hythe Post Office in the 1830/40's.

The cast iron Unicorn and Lion cited in the Grade 2 Listing dated 1973, are no longer in situ.

*Just visible to either side of The Oak Inn are: Left: Frank Britcher's Bon Marche' drapers and family outfitters. Right: Tom Wright's family butchers.*



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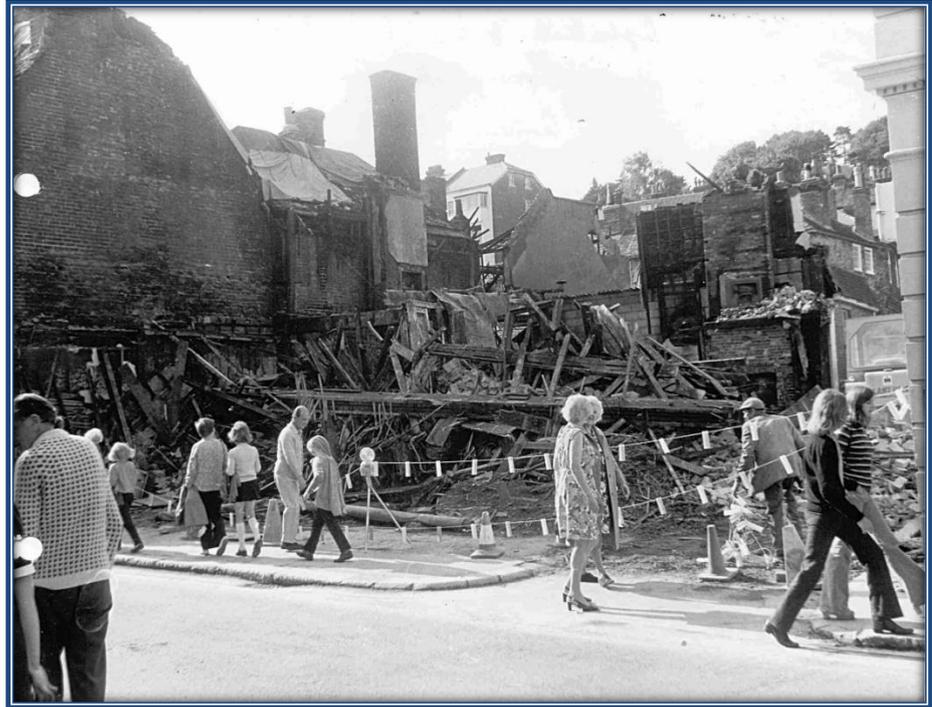
On This Site...No.61 High Street,

Jacksons Drapers/

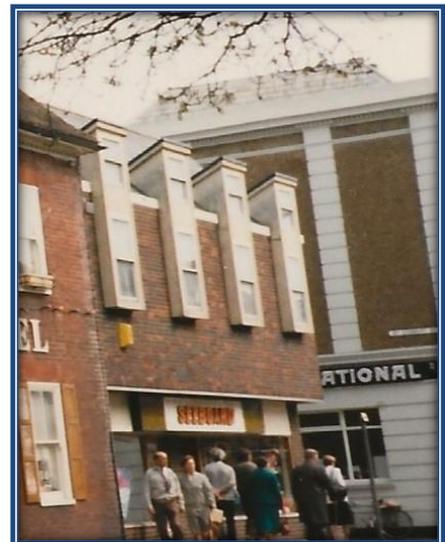
Stebbing's Ironmongers/SEEBOARD (2 of 2)

Fire destroys the former Stebbing's ironmongers and household store in 1975.

Subsequently, a new property was built and became the showroom and offices of SEEBOARD, seen below right in the 1980s. The building was further developed once SEEBOARD departed the town. A new shop frontage and residential flats above and to the rear of the premises were constructed.



The premises have seen a number of uses since, including a video/DVD rental and the former Hythe Auction Rooms.



*Above: the completed remodelling of the premises by C Jenner and Sons.*



# HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Nos 152-156 High Street,

## H G Wells' 'Kipps' bookshop (Sheet 2 of 2)

Grade 2 Listed in 1950, these premises were most likely a single house in C16th. The building is timber framed, of two storeys and with a



steeply pitched hipped tiled roof.

*Left: the building as 'Wells' Restaurant, Bar and Cafe.*

Before George Marrin established his bookshop at No 152 (on the right of the property) it had been occupied by several

proprietors associated with the clothing business. In the late 1880s, No 152 was a private residence, home to the Cloke family.

From 1960, when it was Terry's, No 156 (on the left of the property) was a newsagents and tobacconists under various proprietors. Between 1935-1960, it was J E Fagg and Sons, confectioners.



*Above: the superb 'cat-slide' roof at the rear of the building.*



# HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...The Red Lion Hotel, formerly

## The Three Mariners (2 of 4)

In 1801 when William and Henry Mackeson acquired the inn and hotel, the Red Lion was up to that point known as 'The Three Mariners'. It is said that for a period of time there were two inns of the same name in Hythe, though records do not confirm this. The other Three Mariners is still present today of



course, in Windmill Street across the canal. Records show the Red Lion name was adopted from 1801. Above, we see it in the late 1890s, with the then newly formed Hythe Cycle Club. Today's Hythe Cycle Club, formed in 2015, starts its social rides from The Red Lion.

Given the location, which changed from Market Square to Red Lion Square in about 1914, the Red Lion was often a backdrop to many photographs. Here we see it as background to the horse-drawn 'toast rack' tram, which travelled between Hythe and Sandgate from this point. Parts of the old tram track and tram-shed are still visible behind the hoardings almost opposite.





# HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...Market Street/Market Square  
(now the Dymchurch Road)

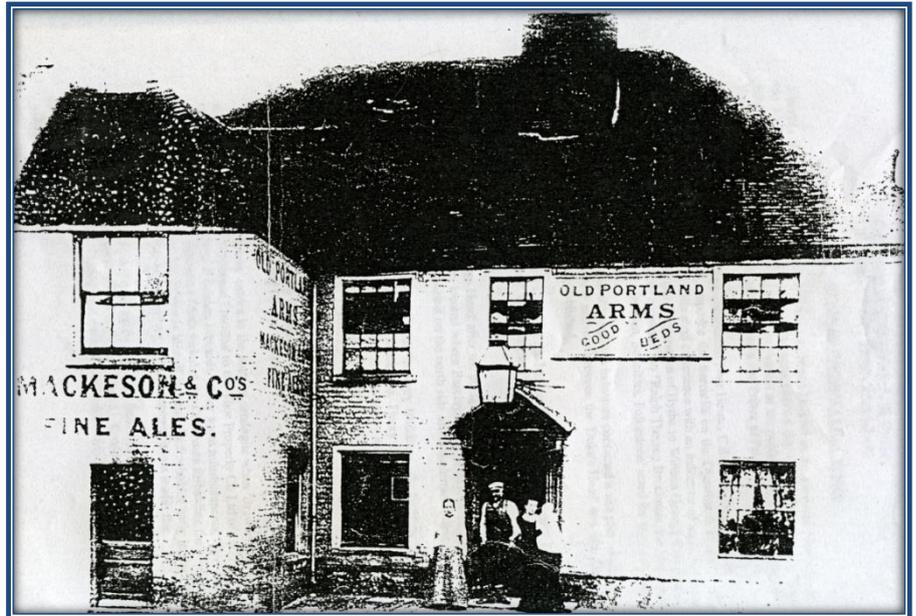
## The Old Portland Arms (2 of 2)

This image (circa 1900s) of the Old Portland Arms was provided to the Civic Society by CR Childs, estate agents of Hythe.

In 1905 the Folkestone Herald reported on a case at the East Kent Justices where the

local police objected to the renewal of the licence. The objection was on the grounds the pub was run as an unregistered common lodging house, and was associated with anti-social behaviour.

Mr G.L. Mackeson spoke in support of the licensee. He stated the pub did a good trade of some 131 barrels and 254 dozen bottles of beer in 1904 - that was a good trade. The local police argued that its use as a lodging house presented difficulties, and with two other public houses either side in close proximity, continuing the license was not justified. The Justices agreed. Compensation was awarded to Mackeson and the licensee and the pub ceased trading. The property then became Blackman and Son's fishmongers - seen right.



*Image courtesy of Molly Griggs*



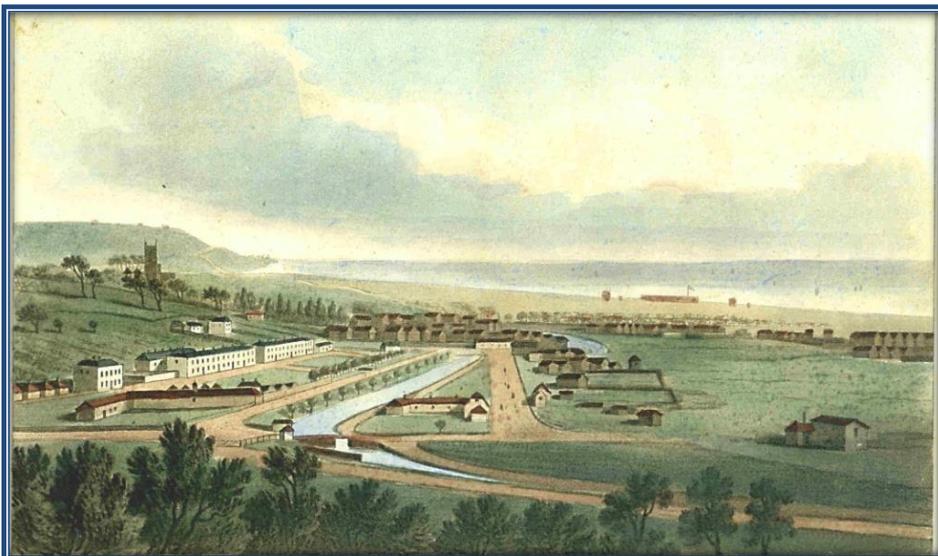
# HERITAGE HYTHE

**On This Site...Hythe Barracks/**

## **The School of Musketry/Small Arms School (1/6)**

Hythe Barracks was created on this site in 1804 as home to the military (the Royal Staff Corps) engaged in the construction of the Military Canal from 1804-1809. The canal, supported by Martello Towers and three beach forts were the country's principal physical defences against the threat of invasion by Napoleon's forces.

*Below: two scenes of Hythe before and after construction of the barracks.*





# HERITAGE HYTHE

## On This Site...The Drinking Fountain



*The fountain in an earlier colour scheme circa 2005 – courtesy of Chris Melchers*

In 1886, Thomas Judge, Hythe's Town Mayor and a respected local businessman, donated the drinking fountain to the people of Hythe. Originally, it was installed in the wall of Dr Fagge's house, next to the Town Hall in the High Street but, when the house was pulled down to make way for a new bank, it was relocated in the wall of what was then the Mackeson Brewery in Red Lion Square.

During the 1970s, it was the job of Hythe's Environmental Health Officer to test the water annually and it was always found to be satisfactory. However, the metal cup which was once attached was removed for hygiene reasons in 1965. The brewery was demolished in 1975 but the drinking fountain has remained in the wall ever since.<sup>1</sup> It is hoped that one day it might, once again, provide liquid refreshment.....?

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<sup>1</sup> Information for this poster based on 'memorial drinking fountains blog: Denise Rayner'



# HERITAGE HYTHE

On This Site...No.82 Stade Street,

## The Hope Inn (1 of 3)

*'The Pub that Turned'*

Originally, the Hope Inn's frontage was on Albert Lane. Below, is a popular postcard showing the Hope as it was circa 1882. The windmill behind is Stade Mill, the subject of a separate 'Heritage Hythe' display.



Below: another image from a slightly later period, but this

time the garden that stood opposite is gone and the Albert Lane junction is more open at this point, though not yet built up.



Much later the porch at the pub entrance was removed and the door was replaced with a window (though the old doorstep is still visible today). The cottages on the right are where the Scout Hall now stands.

The entrance is now on Stade Street - only the welcome has not changed.



# HERITAGE HYTHE

**On This Site...Molyneux Terrace**

## **The National School/St Leonard's Primary (2 of 2)**

In 1850 the Hythe Corporation purchased this site (formerly an old ordnance yard) and proceeded to build a new National School. Being opposite 'The Green' it was ideally located for games and recreation.



The school opened in 1852 (above image is the school as originally built and before its remodelling in the early 1900s). It was built of Kentish ragstone, quarried from the Roughs - an area of the escarpment visible from this spot.

St Leonard's School became a mixed primary and in 2006 merged with the Hythe Bay Infant School in nearby Cinque Ports Avenue.



*A class in 1914*

Noel Redding, bass guitarist with the Jimi Hendrix Experience attended the school where he played the violin; his first gig being at the Hythe Youth Club .



# HERITAGE HYTHE

## On This Site...Fisherman's Beach

### Lifeboat Stations

The 'Hythe, Sandgate, Folkestone Lifeboat Station' was inaugurated in April 1876, at the Princes Parade and Seabrook Road junction. Its construction and maintenance were paid for by Hannah de Rothschild in tribute to her late father Meyer de Rothschild, who was elected Liberal MP for Hythe in 1859.

However, bad weather conditions made launching difficult, when

the lifeboat had to be transferred by cart to the beach at Hythe. In 1891,

the RNLI agreed to move the station to Hythe, also because the majority of the crew were from Hythe. The brick-built 'Northern Lifeboat station' was erected in 1893.



*Left: the Northern Lifeboat Station and lifeboat circa 1898 – courtesy of Molly Griggs.*

In 1936 a larger steel-framed lifeboat house, the 'Southern Lifeboat Station' (seen right) was built, clad in corrugated iron with a barrel shaped roof. It was equipped with a control room complete with radio and telephone, with a good view of the channel. The station was gifted by Lord Wakefield of Hythe.



Both North and South buildings remain and are Grade 2 Listed.



# HERITAGE HYTHE

**On This Site...Area of No.77 St Leonard's Road**

**Coast Guard House and Cottages/Lower Mill (1 of 2)**



Above, is a rare image presented with the kind permission of the 'Mills Archive Trust', a national charity dedicated to the protection and preservation of the records of milling history.

Here you see a photograph taken before 1875 showing the Coast Guard House including flagstaff (larger building on the left and still present), the Coast Guard Cottages (also still present) and a pair of windmills. The mill immediately behind the cottages is Lower Mill, and the mill behind is the Stade Mill. The various people standing in the photograph are coast guards with, it is presumed, some of their families. What is now St Leonard's Road appears as a track (then Hardways End) in front of Coast Guard House extending to the beach.

Lower Mill was moved to Cheriton in 1875, becoming known as Ashley's Mill.

The original photograph held by Mrs Horton of Stade Street in 1943, a relative of Joseph Horton (d.1873) who owned Lower Mill and two other mills on the west side of what is now St Leonard's Road (see the 'Rockdean' display).



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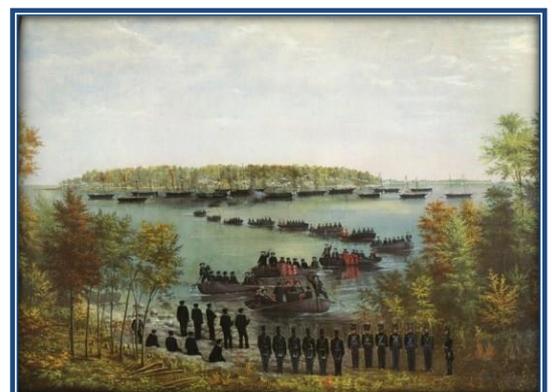
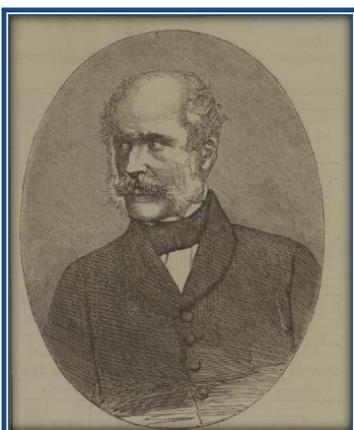
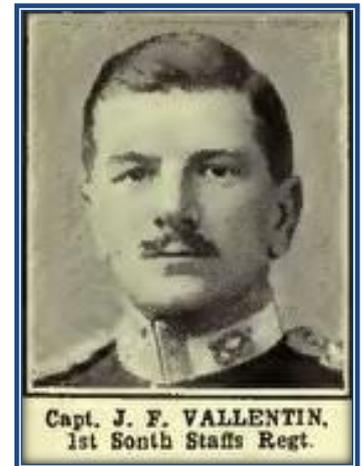
## On This Site...St Leonard's Church

### St Edmund's Chapel (1 of 2)

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



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





# HERITAGE HYTHE

## On This Site...Church Hill

### Upper Church Hill/Clyme Hill

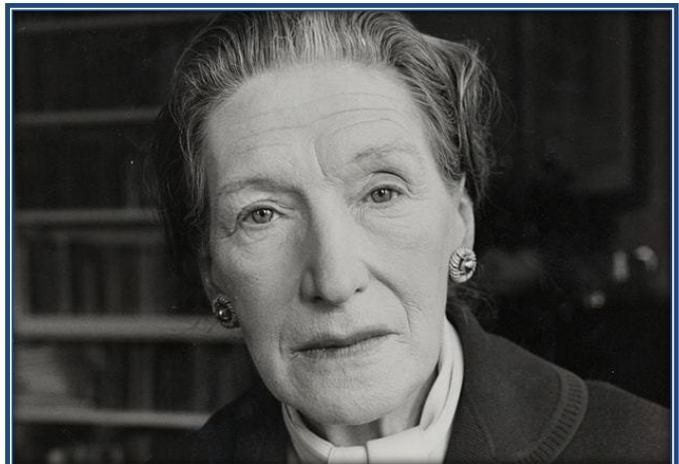
This stretch of Church Hill also contains several attractive 18<sup>th</sup> Century listed cottages, including: Boundary Cottage, Sundown, Masefield Cottage and Duck Cottage.

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



Church Hill - looking down from North Street one wintry day

'Carbery' – home of British novelist Elizabeth Bowen (below) between 1966 and 1973 – is half way up the hill. The author purchased – for £4,700 – the 'modest brick house' then called 'Wayside', and first named it 'Carbury' before changing to 'Carbery', after her mother's family estate in Kildare, Ireland. One of the last photographs of Elizabeth Bowen, with Cyril Connolly the literary critic and writer, was taken outside the house<sup>1</sup>.



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



# HERITAGE HYTHE

**On This Site...1-2 Bartholomew Street**

## **Centuries and St Bartholomew's Hospital (1/2)**

Centuries, a 'Historic Building of Kent' and Hythe's oldest domestic building, has a long history. The Civic Society blue plaque on the wall refers to its age as '1107, extended 1334 and 1811' but there is little that remains now from before the C14<sup>th</sup> - although some say that there are indications of occupation of the site as early as Roman times.

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



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

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

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

Photograph from the John Osborne Collection



# HERITAGE HYTHE

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

**The Prince of Prussia/**

**The New Portland Arms/Brewery Buildings (1/3)**



*Brewery Buildings*

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

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



# HERITAGE HYTHE

## On This Site...Wakefield Way (1 of 2)

*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...Twiss Road (1 of 2)

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

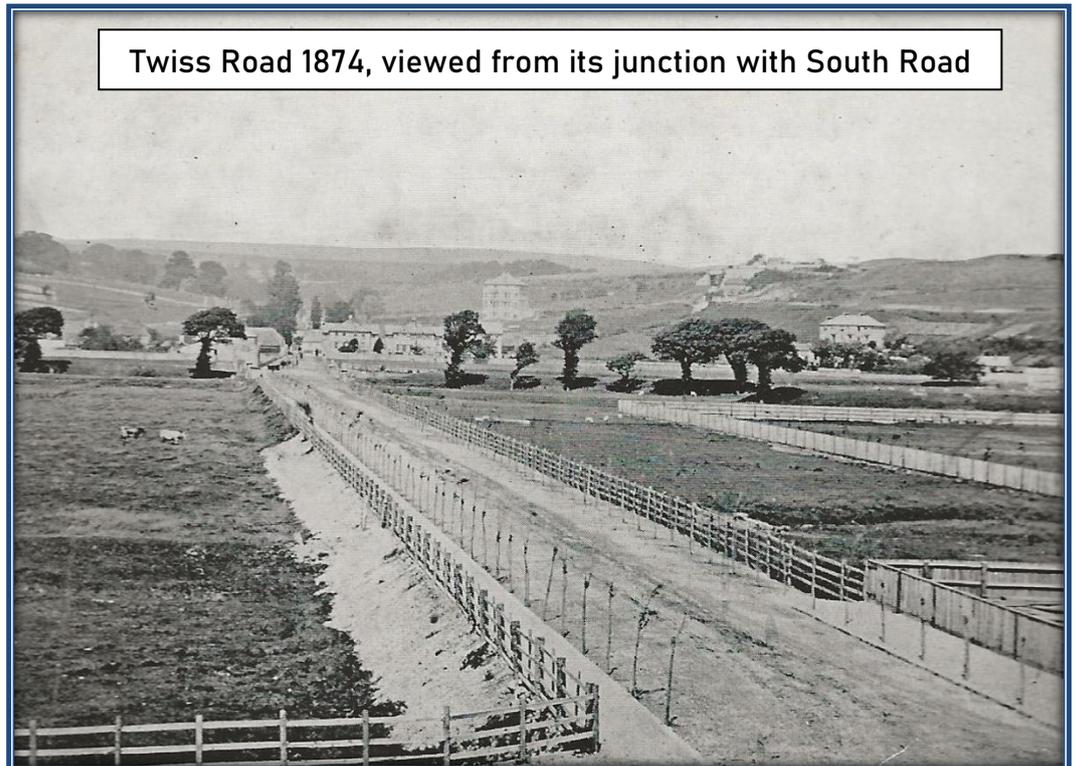
have run down to the sea alongside the track. It now runs underneath

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...Admirals Walk**

## **The Pavilion (1 of 2)**

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).<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 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...Ladies' Walk (3 of 4)

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*

