**Lord Chief Justice Ward.**

**Artist: Attributed to – Hudson but not signed.**

A person wearing a costume

Description automatically generated

**But who?**

The painting is of **a judge** wearing a black full bottom wig, fashionable in the 17th and 18th centuries, judicial robes, neck bands and chain of office.

The **plaque** on the frame is inscribed **‘Lord Chief Justice Ward’** but without a first name.

**‘The Public Catalogue Foundation** – Oil Paintings in Public Ownership’[[1]](#endnote-1) attributes the painting to **– Hudson** and describes **Lord Justice Ward** as **Mayor**.

There is **no record** of a **mayor** by the name of **Ward** in **Deal** in the 18th century in the list held by the Town Hall or in Pritchard.[[2]](#endnote-2)

There is **no evidence** of a **signature** on the painting.

**Lord Justice Ward.**

Black full bottom wigs were worn by judges from c1668 until c1725.

**Sir Edward Ward** is the only judge named **Ward** during this period. He was born in **1638** and died[[3]](#endnote-3) in **1714**.

He was appointed **Attorney General** on 30 March **1693** and named **Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer**[[4]](#endnote-4) on 08 Jun **1695**.

The most **important event** in **Deal** during this period was the granting of the **Town Charter**[[5]](#endnote-5) by **William III** in **1699**.

**The Artist.**

The **only** listed **portrait painter** of the period with the name **Hudson** is **Thomas Hudson** (1701-1779).

He would have been **13 years old** when **Sir Edward Ward** **died**.[[6]](#endnote-6)

A picture containing person, indoor, wall, luggage

Description automatically generated

**Sir Edward Ward [Sir Godfrey Kneller]**

The **signed paintings** of **Sir Edward Ward** are by **Godfrey Kneller**, later Sir Godfrey Kneller.

There appears to be a **distinct difference** between the painting of Sir Edward Ward by **Godfrey Kneller** and that with an unknown attribution to **– Hudson** in the Town Hall.

**This raises the following questions:**

* Does the painting in the Town Hall depict Sir Edward Ward or another Judge?
* There is a discrepancy in the dates, so is the artist Thomas Hudson, or another artist with the same surname?
* Is the source of the attribution for the artist known?
* Could the portrait be a copy based on the engraving Sir Edward Ward after Kneller by Robert White [NPG D37482] c1702 in which the sitter has a slightly fatter face? [see comparisons]
* The reversed image of the Kneller portrait gives greater similarity.
* **Why is the painting in the Town Hall?** Could it be because Sir Edward Ward was Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer [1695-1714] when William III granted the Town Charter to Deal in 1699?

1. ‘The Public Catalogue Foundation – Oil Paintings in Public Ownership’ Public Catalogue Foundation 2004 https://artuk.org [↑](#endnote-ref-1)
2. Stephen Pritchard History of Deal 1864 [↑](#endnote-ref-2)
3. Dictionary of National Biography Vol 59 1885-1900 [↑](#endnote-ref-3)
4. The Judges of England with sketches of their Lives. Vol. VIII Edward Foss London 1864. [↑](#endnote-ref-4)
5. Stephen Pritchard History of Deal 1864 [↑](#endnote-ref-5)
6. A Biographical and Critical Dictionary of Painters and Engravers Vol. I Michael Bryan London 1816. [↑](#endnote-ref-6)