

TOWN AND CINQUE PORT OF HYTHE

Annual Town Report, April 2016



The Right Worshipful Michael Lyons, town mayor of Hythe and Speaker of the Cinque Ports

A year of change

Nobody ever said it would be easy being town mayor. Since May last year, Hythe Town Council has seen many changes. Eight new councillors started their term of office, with nine re-elected councillors, a resignation and a by-election. We've also had to recruit a new town clerk and budget for a substantial reduction in the support grant that we receive from Shepway District Council.

Controversies

The debate over where Shepway District Council will put the new leisure centre was passionately argued on both sides, and I am personally pleased that Hythe Green is now off the agenda. However, until the details of the new site are agreed, the discussion will continue.

Chris Capon

More recently we mourned the death one of most well-known citizens, recognised throughout Hythe.

Outstanding successes

We should also remember the splendid achievements and highlights of the year. I was delighted to attend the internationally famous Hythe Venetian Fete in summer 2015 and see it feature in a recent BBC documentary. It reminded me of the unique and special features that Hythe has. I'm thrilled that there is so much happening in Hythe. While the mayor making and Armed Forces Day were two highlights for me, I would like to pick out two more events that I was particularly pleased to be part of because they also honoured and involved the people of Hythe.

Speakership of the Cinque Ports

The speakership of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports rests with the town mayor of Hythe every seven years.

In October, I had the great honour of accepting this office at the Speaker's Day ceremony and parade.

The day began with a Church Service in St Leonard's Church. Following the service, a procession including the bishop of Dover, the Lord Warden, the Admiralty Judge, the Deputy Constable of Dover Castle, the 14 Cinque Ports mayors with their mace-bearers, town clerks and Hythe town councillors walked down Hythe High Street lead by the Folkestone and Hythe Sea and Royal Marine Cadets. I'm pleased to say that we received reports of increased business for traders on the High Street, as visitors and townspeople came to watch.

Remembrance Sunday

It doesn't matter what your view of war is; we can all respect the brave men and women who died for their country. This year the weather was kind, and I was pleased to see so many Hythe residents assembling at the war memorial to pay their respects.

Twin towns

Through the vehicle of Hythe Twinning Association, we enjoy excellent relations with our friends at Berck-sur-Mer (a seaside town in northern France) and Poperinge (a traditional brewing town in west Flanders, Belgium). Both of our twins are only an hour from the exit to the channel tunnel so you can get there and back from Hythe in a day-trip.



I was delighted to welcome the St Cecilia town band of

Poperinge to the Venetian Fete last Summer, and we are very pleased that they will be playing for us again on 3rd July this year at Oaklands. All the concerts we've booked for our summer series are free to attend and of the very highest quality - none more so than our friends from Poperinge.



The mayor of Berck honoured the memory of lost family members by attending the

Remembrance Sunday commemoration last November, while a small contingent of Hythe town councillors paid their respects in Poperinge, where so many fell during the first world war.

On the same sombre note, on behalf of the people of Hythe, I wrote to the mayors of Berck and Poperinge to express sympathy and solidarity with the people of France and Belgium following the terrible atrocities in the last year.

Cinque Ports tribute to the Queen

As a Head Cinque Port, the Speakership is transferred to Hythe every seven years and is considered to be a great honour. The Confederation of the Cinque Ports is made up of seven 'Head Ports' – Hastings, New Romney, Hythe, Dover, Sandwich; the two 'Ancient Towns' of Rye and Winchelsea; and seven 'limbs' - Deal, Ramsgate, Faversham, Folkestone, Margate, Lydd and Tenterden. The Cinque Ports provided ship service to the country and it was from the Confederation that the Royal Navy was eventually created.



The Right Worshipful Michael Lyons, town mayor of Hythe; the Queen's private secretary, Sir Christopher Geidt; Admiral of the Fleet, the Lord Boyce, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports; Ian Russell, Registrar and Seneschal of the Cinque Ports.

On the occasion of HM the Queen becoming the longest serving monarch, I was invited to Buckingham Palace to present a scroll on behalf of the Cinque Ports. While it was a very proud moment for me, I couldn't help thinking that if it wasn't for the enterprising spirit of our maritime ancestors in Saxon times, there would be no Confederation, no Hythe and very likely no England as we know it today.

Promoting Hythe

The mayor's duties include ensuring that Hythe is well known through Kent and beyond. I have been industrious throughout my term of office in ensuring that everyone I meet knows just how hospitable the people of Hythe are, how beautiful our town is, and how many free events we host.

It has been a genuine pleasure to have represented the people of Hythe during the last year.

Council services

Allotments

We love allotmenters. It plays to the very heart of community. Working your own allotment on one of our four sites gives you so much more enjoyment than a vegetable patch in the back garden. Allotments provide good quality, low cost vegetables. There is a sense of community and it enables you to escape for a few hours from all those emails and Facebook messages.

Our plots are at Eaton Lands (divided into North, South and Meadow), Longbridge, Twiss Road and Horn Street. If you don't have one, then we encourage you to apply. We currently have a few vacant plots at Eaton Lands north.

Planning

Hythe Town Council considers all planning applications, whatever their size. The council's plans and works committee will review plans for dormer windows, crowning trees, new housing, change of use and more. You are welcome to attend a meeting. They are held every few weeks at our offices in Oaklands.

Council venue hire

Hythe Town Hall

The town hall on the High Street is a beautiful 18th century building which is an elegant and prestigious location for meetings, weddings and conferences. We have installed a chair lift to provide disabled access, there are catering facilities and space for 140 people.

Oaklands

The council's offices off Stade Street includes a committee room with boardroom style table and catering facilities. With dedicated parking for those who hire the facility, it is ideal for committee meetings, board meetings and similar.

Sports Pavilion

Featuring a spectacular view across Hythe from the first floor community room, the site has plenty of parking, a lift, audio-visual facilities and a kitchen. It is popular with fitness, art and slimming groups

during the daytime, and for parties, conferences and presentations at weekends.

Book the mayor

The town mayor has been pleased to listen to requests to attend events and deliver speeches in aid of good causes. The town sergeant often accompanies the mayor on his trips. Official visits have included schools, clubs, 100th birthday parties, cub scouts and U3A.

Grants

The council provides grants to communities that help with the social and business fabric of the town. Recent examples of grants include the Christmas lights in the High Street and both the Hythe Festival and Venetian Fete.

Consultation

The council has been consulted on everything from internationally important projects such as the proposed lorry park near the M20 to minor changes to legislation. You are welcome to contact councillors to let them know your views on an issue that affects our community.

Cinque Ports

It's been a busy year with the Confederation of the Cinque Ports, as we initiated a publicity campaign to encourage more people to visit the Cinque Ports towns. It's not just to show off our beautiful town and history, but by working with the confederation we can also encourage tourism and continue a tradition of over 1,000 years.

Grounds maintenance

Our community is fortunate that the town has acquired many attractive facilities including Eaton Lands, Oaklands park and the Green. The council maintains these grounds including enhancements such as children's play equipment and an adult gym.

Your town councillors

Ward	Name	Address	Email	Phone	Notes
East	Reg Belcourt	37 Earlsfield Road, Hythe CT21 5PF	reg@belcourt.co	01303 264 815	
East	Shirley Moberly	29 Nursery Fields, Hythe CT21 4DL	shirleymoberly29@gmail.com	01303 237 or 903 07570792554	
East	David Owen	4 Lower Blackhouse Hill, Hythe CT21 5LS	davidlgowen@aol.com	01303 260 682	Also district councillor
East	Denise Maskell	2 Woodlands Drive Seabrook Hythe CT21 6AB	d.maskellhtc@virginmedia.com	01303 239 159	
North	Malcolm Dearden	Highways, Cliff Road, Hythe CT21 5XA	malcolmdearden@btinternet.com	01303 261 008	Also district councillor
North	Alan Ewart-James	Lewty Barn, Cliff Road, Hythe CT21 5XN	alancouncil@aol.com	01303 265 316	Also district councillor
North	Michael Lyons	Cragside, 67 Turnpike Hill, Hythe CT21 4SE	michael.lyons@shepway.gov.uk	07540 672 112	Also district councillor and town mayor
North	Wendy Peacock	Waymakers, 44a Bartholomew Street, Hythe CT21 5BY	waymaker@ntlworld.com	01303 266 172	
South	Anne Mayne	6 Penrose Court, Stade Street, Hythe CT21 6DZ	alec@mayne73.freemove.co.uk	01303 262 757 or 07891674261	
South	Dudley Shipton	11 Tower Gardens, Hythe CT21 6DG	dbshipton@tiscali.co.uk	01303 260 291	
South	Ashley Tanton	12, St Leonard's Road, Hythe, CT21 6EN	ashleyhythe@gmail.com	07771 133831	
South	Laura Sullivan	26, Fort Road, Hythe, Kent CT21 6JS	laurelt141@gmail.com	01303 621084	
West	John Gabris	6A Wakefield Way, Hythe CT21 6HT	john@hythe.eu	01303 237 or 334 0780 3709800	
West	Keith Miles	25 Meadow Way, Willow Tree Farm, Hythe CT21 6PA	majorkam7@gmail.com	01303 265 837	
West	Paul O'Connor	Cedars, Bartholomew Street, Hythe CT21 5BY	poc12@btinternet.com	01303 627 009	
West	Paul Peacock	Waymakers, 44a Bartholomew Street, Hythe CT21 5BY	paul.ap@ntlworld.com	01303 266 172	Also district councillor and deputy mayor

Committees and what they do

In the last year, we've held:

- Nine ordinary council meetings plus three extraordinary ones (to debate the leisure centre and to honour the late Chris Capon).
- Nine Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings, to ensure your precept is spent wisely.
- Seventeen Plans and Works committee meetings, giving a voice for Hythe in planning applications for both major projects and minor property alterations.

Annual meetings

- The annual town meeting acts as a review of the year. We specifically invite a few local organisations every year to present to councillors. Everyone is invited to listen to what's been happening.
- The annual statutory meeting is arranged a few weeks after the town meeting. This is the occasion to elect the mayor, appoint the deputy mayor and elect councillors to the various committees.

Sub-committees

There are currently 16 committees and sub-committees which meet from time to time: finance and general purposes, plans and works, aims and objectives, civic working group, cctv, standing orders, allotment appeals, personnel, sports pavilion user group, internal audit and assets review, allotments working group, personnel (appeals), s106 working group, boot fairs, publicity.

Remember, your town councillors receive no pay. While committee work might seem tedious, they are vital to ensure the democratic process runs correctly.

Representatives on other organisations and outside bodies

There are eight bodies for which the council elects representatives to represent the town. These bodies are: Anne Pierson Trust, Newington Unknown Donor's Charity, Hythe Sick Fund, Hospitals of St Bartholomew and St John, Hythe Institute Fund, Shepway Citizens' Advice Bureau management

committee, Kent Association of Local Councils Shepway area committee, Hythe Twinning Association, Hythe Business and Tourism Association, AgeUK, Planning User Group for Shepway and the Wakefield Bequest.

Corporate trustee

Hythe Town Council is the corporate trustee for Davis Oaklands Charitable Gift, Eaton Lands, Burmarsh Road Playing Field and Horn Street Recreation Ground. Every quarter, councillors sit on a trustee's meeting to administer the charities.

Town, district and county councillors

Town councils are the tier of local government that is closest to the electorate in the UK. Collectively, they are often referred to as 'local councils'. County and district authorities are often referred to as 'principal authorities'. Hythe Town Council works closely with these tiers of government:

District councillors represent you on Shepway District Council. Their functions include bin collection, management of the Royal Military Canal, democratic services and planning. Five Hythe town councillors are also district councillors. You can read more about Shepway at www.shepway.gov.uk

Kent County council is our top tier council and is responsible for big projects such as roads, education and social care. Contact your county councillor for Hythe at Martin.Whybrow@kent.gov.uk

The member of parliament for Folkestone and district is Damian Collins. While he is based in Westminster, he holds regular surgeries (one-on-one meetings) in Hythe to listen to the views and problems of constituents. There are contact details on our noticeboards, or call in to the council offices if you would like book an appointment with him.

Requests for information

You can get minutes and agendas of all council meetings from our website. You can also see copies of our policies and information on our activities. If you can't find what you're looking for, feel free to call in to our offices in Oaklands, email us or phone us.

Staff and organisation



Council officers are based at Oaklands, Stade Street Hythe.

Town clerk and responsible financial officer

Nick Hilditch is the senior manager responsible for the administration of the council and its staff. He started with Hythe Town Council in October 2015, having spent most of his career in management roles for commercial organisations. Although his degree and post-graduate diplomas are in management and marketing, he is also qualified to teach in adult education and has worked in an FE college. Nick's duties include resource and project management, team supervision, liaison between the council and outside bodies, and advising the council on policy, finances and the legal aspects of local council administration.

Deputy town clerk

Margaret Stewart has been with Hythe Town Council for nearly 20 years. As well as overseeing the day to day administration of the town mayor's engagements, her duties include arranging mayoral functions such as mayor making, Civic Sunday, Armed Forces Day and Remembrance Sunday. She administers the band concerts and boot fairs, prepares agendas and minutes for meetings and assists in the day to day running of the council. She is the approved licence holder for the Town Hall and is responsible for booking civil marriages and civil partnership ceremonies in conjunction with the Registrar at Kent County Council.

Accounts clerks

Adrian Wilson and Hayley Crosby share the role of administration of the council's management and financial accounts. Duties include VAT returns, payroll, preparing estimates of annual budget and precept and ensuring that the council's annual return and the returns of the charities are submitted accurately and on time. Both Adrian and Hayley work part time.

Plans and works clerk

Wendy Lee works closely with the plans and works committee, and also has responsibility for managing the council's allotments, noticeboards, website and bookings system. Wendy works part-time. As with the accounts clerks, it will often be Wendy who you speak to first if you call in or phone the council.

Town sergeant

Terry Reese's duties are largely ceremonial. As town sergeant, he is responsible for civic regalia and ensuring that protocol is followed at meetings of the council. He also acts as driver for the town mayor, helps with inspections to the council's allotments and provides basic maintenance for council properties. Terry works as required by his duties.

Sports pavilion caretaker

Tim Cudby is responsible for maintaining the sports pavilion on South Road. His duties include opening and closing the facility, helping hirers with bookings, light maintenance to the premises and setting up the audio-visual system if required. Tim works as required by his duties.

Seasonal staff

During the summer months, the council employs casual staff to supervise the sports facilities.

Contractors

The town council is staffed by a small team, which means that contractors provide many of its services to help with the variety of events and activities that the council provides.

Finances and population

This year we have increased the town council precept by 8%. We realise that's an increase higher than most people's income has increased by.

However, three quarters of the increase is accounted for by a reduction in the grant we receive from Shepway District Council. The remainder just covers inflation.

Hythe town council	2016 / 2017	2015 / 2016
Gross expenditure	£415,287	£422,395
Income	-£104,960	-£135,055
Net expenditure	£310,327	£287,340
Addition to reserves	0	0
Council tax requirement	£310,327	£287,340

Source: www.shepway.gov.uk/council-tax/financial-information/year-2016-to-2017

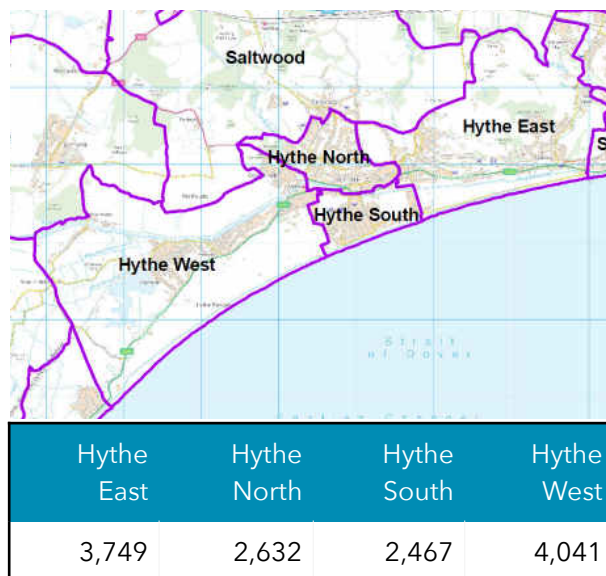
Of your council tax, on average Hythe Town Council needs only 7p per week per household, or about 3% of the total council tax bill. The majority is charged by Kent County Council, Shepway District Council and the police and fire services.

Authority	Precept
Kent County Council	£0.69
Shepway District Council	£0.15
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner	£0.09
Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue Authority	£0.04
Town and Parish Councils	£0.03

Source: www.shepway.gov.uk/council-tax/financial-information/year-2016-to-2017

Electorate

The ward map for Hythe Town Council and the electorate figures as reported in March 2013 were:



Source: www.shepway.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/g2602/Public%20reports%20pack%2028th-Mar-2013%2019.00%20Council.pdf?T=10

Hythe compared with other towns in Shepway district in 2011

Town	Population	Area (square hectares)
Hawkinge	8,002	1,123
Hythe	14,516	1,227
Lydd	6,567	4,824
New Romney	6,996	641
Folkestone	46,698	1,409

Source: www.kent.gov.uk/research using data from 2011 census

Hythe's population grew by 2.44% over the ten years to 2011, and it will have grown again over the last five years. The council will continue to plan to provide facilities for our growing population.

Civic year

May 2016		June 2016		July 2017		August 2017		September 2017		October 2017	
1		1		1		1		1		1	
2		2		2		2		2		2	
3		3		3	Civic Sunday	3		3		3	
4		4		4		4		4		4	
5	Election of police and crime commissioner for Kent	5		5		5		5		5	
6		6		6		6		6		6	Hythe Town Council
7		7	Plans and Works committee	7	Hythe Town Council	7		7		7	
8		8		8		8		8		8	
9		9		9	Armed Forces day	9		9		9	
10		10		10		10		10		10	
11		11		11		11	Plans and Works committee	11		11	Plans and Works committee
12	Finance and General Purposes committee	12		12		12		12		12	
13		13		13		13		13		13	
14		14		14		14		14		14	
15		15		15		15		15	Finance and General Purposes committee.	15	
16		16		16		16		16		16	
17	Plans and Works committee	17		17		17		17		17	
18		18		18		18	Hythe Town Council	18		18	
19		19		19	Plans and Works committee	19		19		19	
20		20		20		20		20	Plans and Works committee	20	
21	Handover of Speakership of the Cinque Ports	21		21		21		21		21	
22		22		22		22		22		22	
23		23	EU Referendum. Finance and General Purposes committee.	23		23		23		23	
24		24		24		24		24		24	
25	Hythe Town Council and ASM	25		25		25		25		25	
26		26		26		26		26		26	
27		27		27		27		27		27	Finance and General Purposes committee
28		28	Plans and Works committee	28		28		28		28	
29		29		29		29		29		29	
30		30		30		30	Plans and Works committee	30		30	
31				31		31				31	

Civic year

November 2016		December 2016		January 2017		February 2017		March 2017		April 2017	
1		1		1		1		1		1	
2		2		2		2		2	Finance and General Purposes committee	2	
3		3		3		3		3		3	
4		4		4		4		4		4	Plans and Works committee
5		5		5		5		5		5	
6		6		6		6		6		6	
7		7		7		7		7		7	
8		8	Finance and General Purposes committee	8		8		8		8	
9		9		9		9		9	Hythe Town Council	9	
10		10		10	Plans and Works committee	10		10		10	
11		11		11		11		11		11	
12		12		12		12		12		12	
13	Remembrance Sunday	13	Plans and Works committee	13		13		13		13	Finance and General Purposes committee
14		14		14		14		14	Plans and Works committee	14	
15		15	Hythe Town Council	15		15		15		15	
16		16		16		16		16		16	
17	Hythe Town Council	17		17		17		17		17	
18		18		18		18		18		18	
19		19		19	Finance and General Purposes committee	19		19		19	
20		20		20		20		20		20	
21		21		21		21	Plans and Works committee	21		21	
22	Plans and Works committee	22		22		22		22		22	
23		23		23		23		23		23	
24		24		24		24		24		24	
25		25	Christmas day	25		25		25		25	Plans and Works committee
26		26	Boxing day	26	Hythe Town Council	26		26		26	
27		27	Christmas bank holiday	27		27		27		27	Hythe Town Council
28		28		28		28		28		28	
29		29		29		29		29		29	
30		30		30				30		30	
		31		31	Plans and Works committee			31			

Allotments

Four sites

The council is keen for all sites to be well-used.

The council supports and works with allotment societies, since they are in touch with their members regularly.

Eaton Lands

North American sycamores are invasive trees that compete with native species such as oak, beach and ash.

The shading of some of our allotments by sycamores is a significant problem on Eaton Lands South and North since they can cast heavy shadow across cultivated land.

Hythe Town Council is the corporate trustee for Eaton Lands, and intends to work with ELHAS (Eaton Lands Hythe Allotment Society) and Shepway District Council's arboricultural officer to devise a strategy to control - but not destroy - the sycamore problem.

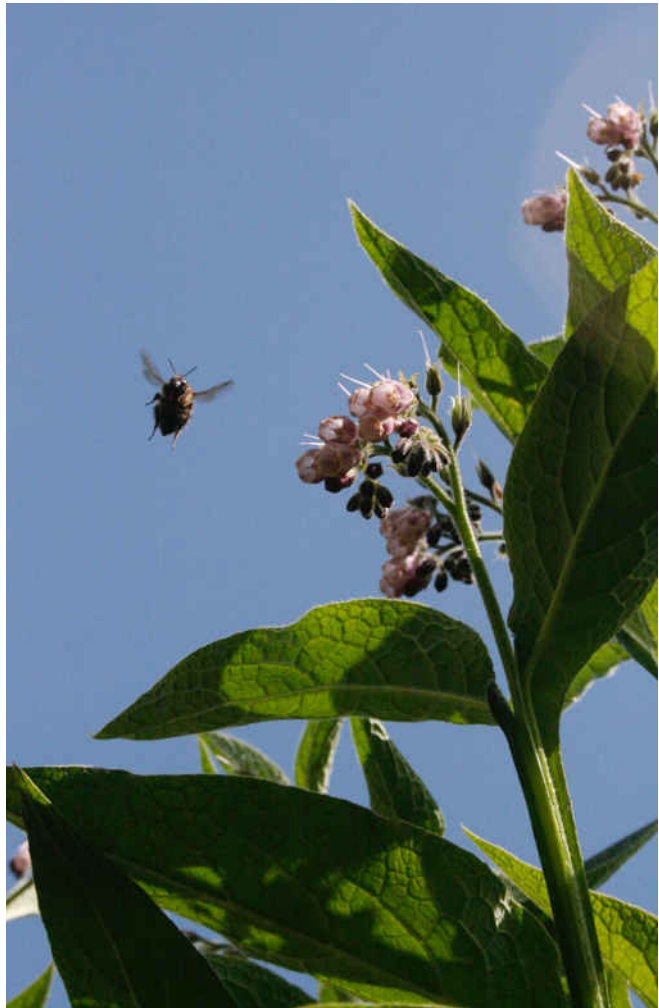
We have been advised that it might take three years or longer to get the issue under control.

Longbridge

For many years, allotmenters at our Longbridge have suffered from having limited supplies of water to irrigate their crops. To solve this, Kent County Councillor Martin Whybrow has been working with Hythe Town Council and allotment holders to come up with a solution. Councillor Whybrow has secured a grant to provide a new 10,000 litre reservoir which will be fed by a canopy, thereby harvesting rainwater for use as irrigation. The project will be executed this year.

Who to contact

If you would like an allotment, please contact our plans and works clerk, Wendy Lee who will be able to guide you through the process of applying.



Allotments are vital green lungs which help native insects including bees to survive.



Allotments provide healthy, outdoor exercise and fresh, low cost food. If you don't have an allotment, please ask us about an available plot.

Sport and recreation

Hythe is fortunate to have so many sporting facilities. The council actively supports organisations such as the tennis club, Stars and Stripes football club, the bowls club and the cricket club, and in recent years has invested in extra facilities.

Chief among these is the sports pavilion on South Road. It acts as a base for the football matches played across the several pitches. With four sets of changing rooms and showers, and additional facilities for referees it's no wonder that football is so popular in Hythe.

Hythe Tennis Club is one of the best equipped in Kent, and - as with Hythe Bowls Club - their facilities are supplemented by pay-to-play facilities provided by the council.

Hythe Cricket Club continues to flourish throughout the summer season, while the skatepark seems to have been a great success. Of course, you also have the sea for fishing, rowing and swimming - and (with permission only) the famous Royal Military Canal.

According to the UK government, active participation in sport gives five key outcomes for individuals and communities: physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development and economic development. (source: Sporting Future - A New Strategy for an Active Nation; 17 December 2015). Hythe's facilities help to deliver these outcomes.

If you would like to join in but don't know who to talk to, let us know and we'll be glad to introduce you.



Running and open spaces

Running

For the last 33 years, Hythe Green has been the start and finish for the annual 10 mile race to Folkestone and back. This year's race attracted an amazing 641 runners, many of a national standard.

We were also pleased to see the annual 'Round the Houses' races which are great fun and suitable for all ages and abilities. This May event is becoming a favourite in Hythe and we encourage you to enter.

The Folkestone half marathon makes good use of our seafront and Green and is a popular season closer in September each year.

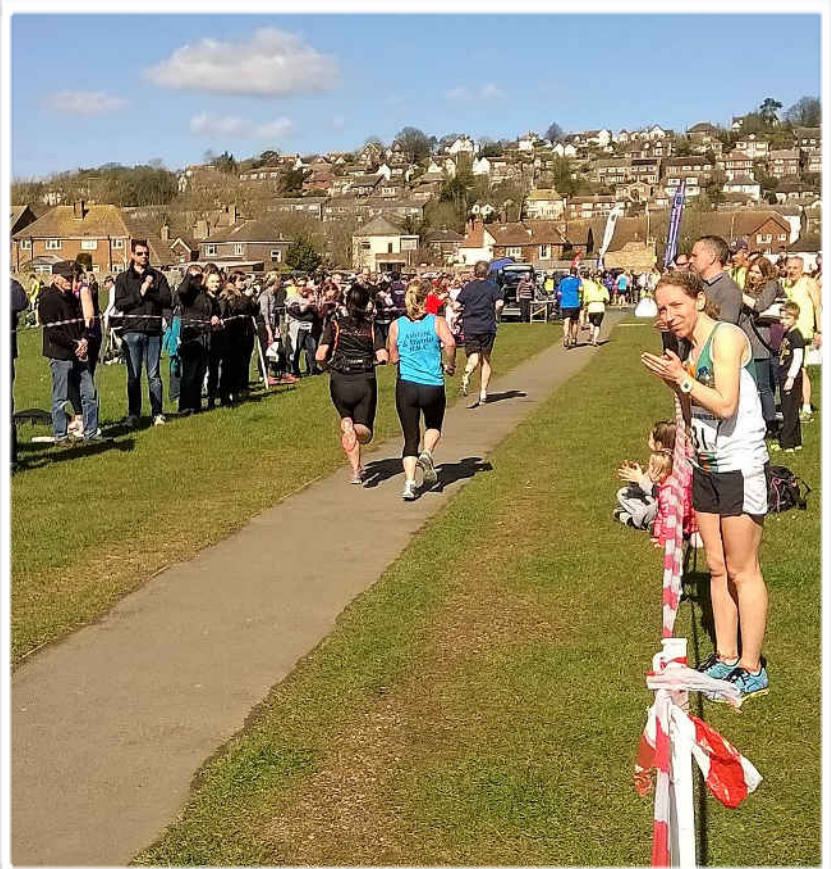
While runners pay a small fee to enter these competitions, spectators get to see some great entertainment for nothing.

Open spaces

Councillors are well aware how important open space is to Hythe residents.

For that reason, the council has organised another season of free concerts in Oaklands, and has upgraded the junior play area with a £25,000 facelift. There are also adult fitness and children's play equipment at sites in Horn Street, Oaklands and Eaton Lands. The concerts, the play areas, the fitness equipment and the parks themselves are maintained by Hythe Town Council and are - of course - free to use.

Shepway District Council is responsible for maintaining the Royal Military Canal and the seafront. However Hythe town council is in continuous contact with them to ensure that they continue to be kept in in good condition for us all to enjoy.



The annual 10 mile race starts and finishes on Hythe Green in March. This year's race took place in brilliant sunshine and attracted a large and talented pool of runners.



Palmarsh recreation ground is well used by children and walkers. Last autumn, biodegradable wood-chips were added to the path to provide a barrier against the mud.

Projects

Hythe town sign

Hythe Town Council has installed a new sign in Seabrook, on the triangle of land as you exit Sandgate. The sign welcomes visitors to our town. Designed and built for us by a local craftsman, the sign offers a welcome to visitors to coming from the Folkestone direction.



Allotment water

We're keen for allotment holders at all our sites to be as productive as possible while safeguarding resources. That's why the council worked with county councillor Martin Whybrow to secure funding from Kent County Council for a rainwater harvesting scheme that will provide free irrigation to allotment holders at our Longbridge site. At times of heavy rainfall, a 10,000 litre specially sourced reservoir will collect water from a canopy for use during dry periods. Everyone's a winner: the environment, the allotment holders and you as council tax payers, since you will not be paying for mains water.

Toward a dementia friendly town

The Alzheimer's Society's Dementia Friends programme aims to change people's perceptions of dementia. Hythe Town Council has teamed up with AgeUK to

attempt to transform the way that we think, act and talk about the condition.

We have established a team of councillors, volunteers and council staff to provide learning opportunities about dementia and the ways we can all help.

From telling family and colleagues about the Dementia Friends programme to visiting someone you know living with dementia, every action counts.

Eaton Lands community orchard

Eaton Lands is a precious resource for Hythe, and is used by residents for many different activities. Working with Hythe Civic Society, the council intends to install a community orchard of native fruit-bearing trees to replace some of the invasive sycamores that have taken over much of the land.

Adult outdoor gym

Fitness and obesity is a major issue right now, and Hythe Town Council is keen to promote fitness in the town. The new adult gym facilities are popular, free to use, and are available in Oaklands park.

The Queen's 90th birthday

Hythe residents enjoyed a free display of fireworks provided by the town council on the occasion of the Queen's birthday. The fine (though cold) evening in April 2016 brought out hundreds of residents to see the spectacular show over Hythe bay.



Honouring the past

Honorary freemen of the town of Hythe appointed according to the Local Democracy, Economic Development and Construction Act 2009

Lord Michael Howard of Lympne, CH, QC, PC. MP for Hythe & Folkestone 1983 – 2010. Admitted 26th March 2010.

The Lord Boyce KG GCB OBE DL Admiral and Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Admitted 13th August 2012.

KCC Alderman Christopher John Capon MBE, for 46 years' service as a councillor for Hythe from 1967 to 9th August 2013.

John Antony Schoner JP. Councillor for Hythe from 1995 to 2015. Admitted 31st January 2015.

Hereditary freemen admitted in the 20th century. After 1835 a man could claim his Freedom only as the son or the son-in-law of a Freeman.

Benjamin Bassett Horton admitted 10th July 1901

William Brown Horton admitted 10th July, 1901

Edward Dixon Clarke admitted 14th April 1932

William Ernest Clarke admitted 30th May 1935

James Alfred Clarke admitted 10th Dec 1936

Anthony William Clarke admitted 24th June 1963

Frank Edward Dixon Clarke admitted 22nd June 1964

Geoffrey Arthur Gorham admitted 22nd June 1964

(Husband of Daphne Clarke) Dominic Dixon Clarke admitted 28th April 1992

Honorary freemen of the former borough of Hythe, under the 1885 Honorary Freedom of the Boroughs Act

Sir Edward Watkin, Bt, MP for Hythe 1874-1895 12th May, 1886 Attempted to build a Channel Tunnel in 1881

Major-General Sir Ian Hamilton, KCB, DSO 1st May 1901, Commandant of Hythe School of Musketry

Private John George Chapman, Active Service Company 11th Sept 1901, 1st Volunteer Battalion, East Kent Regiment (The Buffs)

Thomas Brassey, 1st Earl Brassey 17th Oct, 1911, Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports 1908-1913

Thomas Allnutt Brassey, DCL, Viscount Hythe of Hythe 22nd July, 1914

The Right Hon. Thomas Allnutt Brassey, Viscount Hythe of Hythe DCL, MA, JP 22 July 1914

William Richard Cobay, Mayor of Hythe 1914-1918 (WW1) 15 Nov 1919

Charles "Cheers" Wakefield, Baron Wakefield of Hythe 30th May 1930 subsequently Viscount Wakefield of Hythe, Hythe's greatest benefactor

Sir Philip Sassoon, Bt. MP for Hythe 1912-1939 15 Sept 1933

Major Frederick William Butler, MC. Cinque Ports Baron at two coronations; five times Mayor; 34 years' service to Hythe, 30 Mar 1938

Captain George Few, Mayor of Hythe 1939-1944 (WW2) 18 Jan 1947 (also 1931, 1932)

The Small Arms Wing, School of Infantry 3 Aug 1953 Commemorating centenary of Hythe School of Musketry

James Nowell, for 20 years' service as Town Clerk of Hythe 25 Mar 1974



Picture courtesy of Folkestone Herald

Where to find us

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Chris Capon

Former Hythe town mayor, honorary freeman and long-standing councillor Chris Capon sadly passed away this year.

A well-known - and sometimes refreshingly controversial - character around Hythe, among other things he was known for his quick wit, his bicycle and his genuine care for Hythe and its residents.

Chris served as a Kent county councillor for Hythe for 46 years following his election in 1977 until his retirement at the last county council elections in 2013.

He was granted an MBE for his services to local government in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2012.

He first joined Hythe Town Council in 1967 and left the council 40 years later during which time he became the town's youngest mayor aged 34 in 1972.

Throughout his career he served as speaker of the Cinque Ports and was granted the title of honorary freeman of Hythe for his service to the town in 2013.

He also was a Shepway district councillor from its formation in 1974 until 2002.

Town councillors and others gathered at the town hall to pay their respects to him as the funeral procession passed by on 11th March 2016.

Keren Belcourt

It's only two years since former mayor Keren Belcourt sadly died at home in a tragic accident. Vivacious and outgoing, she was someone who spoke her mind and wasn't afraid of controversy if she thought something needed to be done or said.

Keren's widower, Reg Belcourt was pleased to open the Belcourt Suite in her honour at the Hythe Imperial Hotel in April 2016. In a ceremony that was more filled with happy memories over Keren's life and achievements than mourning for her death, Reg cut a cake in her memory and shared it with a few friends. We certainly miss Keren's sense of joy, and we're pleased that she's still remembered so fondly.

TOWN AND CINQUE PORT OF HYTHE

