



Hythe Town Council
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ANNUAL TOWN REPORT – 2021/22

This report will be placed in full on the Town Council's website – which can be found at <https://www.hythe-tc.gov.uk>

MAYOR'S INTRODUCTION

It's been such an honour to spend the past 2 years as the Mayor of Hythe. I feel privileged to have represented our beautiful community and town during this time, it gave me the opportunity to meet some of the most inspiring people at an array of different events locally and across the district and county.

I'm so grateful to all the people who have supported me, namely my fellow Town Councillors, especially my incredible Deputy Mayor Cllr Jim Martin and all the wonderful past and present staff at Hythe Town Council who have always been so willing to share their vast amounts of knowledge.

There have been so many amazing people in the community who I've been fortunate enough to work alongside. However, John Wren will always stick in my mind as my favourite, as he truly is a pillar of our community and has inspired and supported me in so many ways. So, my biggest thanks go to John for all his incredible hard work, passion and understanding in everything that he does.

MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENT

The Town Mayor has been pleased to listen to requests to attend events and deliver speeches in aid of worthy causes. The Town Sergeant often accompanies the Mayor on her trips. Official trips have included Remembrance Sunday, Schools, and Boot Fairs.



Hythe Civic Sunday was a great success. Held on Sunday 19 September 2021 as a funday. Many residents enjoyed the entertainment. Hythe Civic Society also received a certificate from the Mayor for their 75+1 years anniversary at the event.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

There have been nine Full Council meetings during this last year. Its principal Committees - Finance and General Purposes and Plans and Works have met nine and 15 times, respectively. These meetings are recorded and live-streamed for everyone to see. Thanks are due to the respective Chairman of both these committees – Councillor M Whybrow and Councillor J Martin.

Other Sub-Committees of the Council and its Committees include the following which have all met during the last year:

Personnel Sub-Committee

Standing Orders Sub-Committee

CHARITY TRUSTS

The Town Council is the Corporate Trustee for several Charities. There have been five meetings of the full Charity Trustees this year. These meetings are held separately after Council meetings.

The Town Council is responsible for the operation of four charities – Davis Oaklands Charitable Trust, Horn Street Recreation Ground, Palmarsh/Burmarsh Recreation Ground, and Eaton Lands. It also provides administrative support to The Wakefield Bequest.

Annual returns to the Charity Commission are undertaken by the Town Clerk who has been appointed Secretary to the Trusts for all the above Charities.

Davis Oaklands Charitable Trust owns the Oaklands Building in Stade Street and adjoining land.

OAKLANDS PARK



The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jim Martin, also funded a third memorial bench in Oaklands Park with his Folkestone and Hythe District Ward Grant.

OAKLANDS BANDSTAND EVENTS



Hythe Town Council continued to run its free bandstand programme, with full details on the Council website, and social media from May to September with a similar program for 2022. Details of this can be found on the council's website. https://www.hythe-tc.gov.uk/council_events/hythe-town-bandstand-concerts-summer-season-2022/. We have a variety of musical performances and select different bands each year so that new bands get a chance to submit applications.

The Queen's Green Canopy

Hythe Town Council was delighted to be part of this momentous occasion, and with the help of Councillor Anita Jones and Stephen Bailey, a semi-mature oak tree was planted in Oaklands Park in March, for all the Hythe community to watch it flourish and grow in the coming years.



The Queen's Green Canopy is a unique tree-planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, encouraging people from across the UK to participate in enhancing our environment.

OAKLANDS REFURBISHMENT



In June 2021, work on a new disabled bay in the Oaklands car park commenced. The car park now offers two accessible parking bays.

The Council Offices have started having their refurbishment this year, financed by the Davis Oaklands Charitable Trust. The interior is being refreshed and new LED lighting has been installed. We have also had the loft insulated and new carpets are being fitted in the months to come. The next phase plans to see the

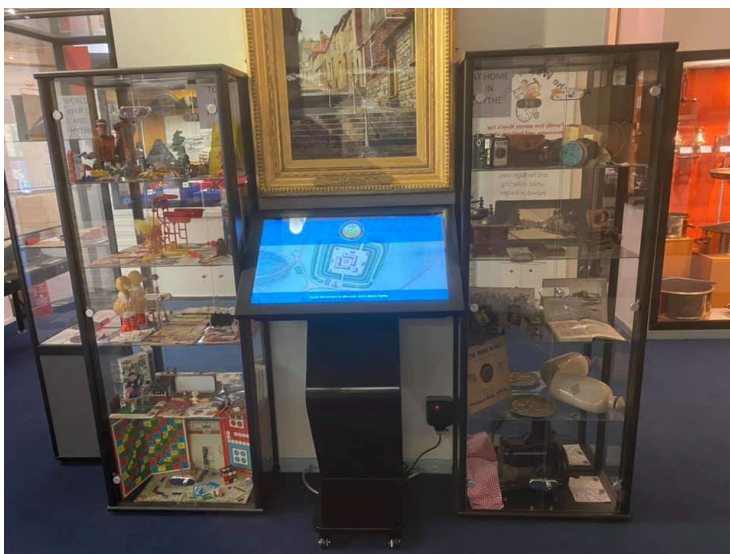
replacement of the windows and external repair work to the building.

HYTHE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

Hythe Library is run by Kent County Council and provides an array of services for the people of Hythe, with several parking spaces for up to 1 hour.

The local history museum is accessed via Hythe Library. It is situated next to the Council Offices (a former Doctor's home and surgery), which is adjacent to the Royal Military Canal.

The Museum's collection is set out in cases or left open to handle along with detailed information boards. These take visitors through the history of Hythe from Roman times and then as a Cinque Port, with maps, furniture, costumes, military equipment (linked to the Small Arms School of Musketry in Hythe for over one hundred years before it was moved to Warminster), commercial, civic, and social objects. Each one provides for different age groups enabling them to find inspiration, learning and enjoyment from the collection resulting in frequent re-visits and numerous related questions.



The Curator, Kevin Bailey, has been busy updating his displays and with the new installation of a touchscreen which provides information on the history of Hythe. The museum is also part of the "Wheels of Time" organisation of Kent Museums and this has generated publicity and more visitors.

Hythe Museum is open during Library hours.

Hythe Town Council Assets

Hythe Town Council leases land to Hythe Cricket and Squash Club and Hythe Lawn Tennis Club and the Sanford House buildings to the Community Hub (Age UK)

PALMARSH/BURMARSH RECREATION GROUND



Burmarsh Road Recreation Ground (also known as Palmarsh) caters for people living toward the western boundary of the town. It is an open space with play equipment for families to enjoy and is well used by the local children.

This park is immensely popular for dog walkers and is closely situated next to the Royal Military Canal, where you can often see the Swans and their nest building once a year. We have been planting trees with the help of

Councillor A Jones and the Rainbows and Scouts in aid of The Queen's Platinum Jubilee event this year in June.

EATON LANDS



Eaton Lands is the beautiful parkland to the North of Hythe. It hosts three sets of allotments and a wildflower meadow. Hythe is lucky to have an amazing group of volunteers – Hythe & District Countryside Volunteers - who work extremely hard all year round, weeding, raking, collecting fallen twigs and leaves, and cutting back ivy, branches and most recently repairing an area of the decked pathway.

A public footpath runs through the meadow (HB25). South grass is cut twelve times per year, Wildflower cut is twice a year.



The

HORN STREET



Horn Street Recreation Ground is an area of open space, a hidden gem. Following a recent public consultation in February 2022, new play equipment has been selected and should be installed before the beginning of the summer holidays.

Wild meadows have been allowed to grow (and in winter, children of all ages use it for tobogganing).

In honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee event this year, Hythe Town Council have been planting trees for the

Queen's Green Canopy event "Plant A Tree for The Jubilee" with the help of Councillor Anita Jones and the local school children.

TOWN HALL



The Town Hall on the High Street is a beautiful 18th century building which is a wonderful location for meetings and conferences and has a licence to hold weddings and civil partnerships. Due to Covid there were only three weddings held in 2021.

A Christmas craft fair was held in December 2021 which was a remarkable success, and Councillor Penny Graham will be holding more over the coming months in 2022.

The Undercroft was also used by charities and local organisations in 2021/22.

The first Hythe, Origins Untold exhibition 'who do you think we were?' was on show throughout October 2021 and had a fantastic public response. The Waka Waka show was extremely popular with the children.



In February 2021, Hythe Town Council installed a life-saving defibrillator on the side of the Town Hall in Hythe High Street.

ALLOTMENTS

We have four sites for allotments:

- Eaton Lands – 105 plots - across the three sites (Meadow, South and North)
- Longbridge – 13 plots
- Twiss Road – 37 plots
- Horn Street – 3 plots

The waiting list for the allotments is over 150 at present, which is made up of forty-seven for Eaton Lands, twenty-nine for Twiss Road, seven for Longbridge, two for Horn Street, and sixty-five for more than one of the above sites.

The Allotment Working Group meets twice a year to discuss any ongoing issues. The allotments provide a sense of community and provide so much enjoyment to the tenants.

HYTHE GREEN

This open space is owned by Hythe Town Council, maintained by the Council with the aid of Hythe Green Preservation Society Volunteers, and most recently deeds were signed by Hythe Town Council, alongside 'Fields in Trust' to protect the Green as an open space for years to come.

It is the host to many events including 14 Boot Fairs and a Mayor's Boot Fair for 2022.

Local charities and organisations benefit from these events, and it provides them with the opportunity to boost their funds and book the remainder of the 28 days which is the limit for events that are allowed to be held on The Green, each year.



There are also several circuses and funfairs which are staged every few years on the Green. The Green is also used by the large annual or biennial events – Hythe Festival Week, Hythe Food Festival, and the Hythe Venetian Fete.

A new wooded area of trees has been planted in 2021 by the Hythe Green Preservation Society, in honour of the Queen's Green Canopy for the Platinum Jubilee.

TRIANGLE OF LAND ADJACENT TO THE DUKE'S HEAD

This small site consists of a permissive pathway and has recently been sown with wild meadow seeds by Hythe Green Preservation Society.

HYTHE SPORTS PAVILION, SOUTH ROAD



The Town Council's sports facilities at South Road are popular throughout the district. The Council works with local football teams who play at South Road, senior and junior. The Sports Pavilion has been used by organisations, individuals and regular hirers including Pilates, Art Group, Bollywood Dancing, Tai Chi classes and Bright Shadows.



In April 2022, three new nets have been installed for this year's tennis and bowls season.

WAR MEMORIAL

The War Memorial by the Canal was used for Remembrance Sunday 2021.



HYTHE SKATEPARK

After public consultation, a Skatepark Shelter has been ordered and any repairs to the park that have been reported are being actioned in the forthcoming months.

PORTLAND ROAD CAR PARK

QUEENSGROVE

SHEPWAY CROSS

Appointments to Outside Bodies

The Town Council has annual appointees to other organisations and is incredibly grateful to those Members who have served this year on the following bodies:

Hythe Twinning Association, Age UK Hythe & Lyminge, Wakefield Bequest, KALC, HBTA, Hythe Institute Fund, Anne Peirson Trust, Hospital of St. Bartholomew and St John.

Citizen of the Year Award

As always, we were delighted to receive some outstanding nominations.

Our inaugural awards for Citizen of the Year are usually announced each year at the Annual Town Meeting.

Winners of 2021's award were the Oaklands Surgery vaccination team, staff and volunteers.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT 2021-2022 EVENTS

Projects that Hythe Town Council engaged with the community during 2021-2022 included:

- National Story Telling Week February 2021
- World Bee Day – May 2021
- World Earth Day – April 2021
- LGBT+ month – June 2021
- World Oceans Day – June 2021
- Plastic Free July 2021
- Carbon Zero Week
- World Kindness Day – November 2021
- Mental Health Week – May 2021

Gen.Z's High Street Gallery Art Project February 2022

https://www.hythe-tc.gov.uk/council_events/gen-zs-high-street-gallery-art-project/

Details of 2022-2023 events can be found on the Council's Community Newsletter on the Council website.

<https://www.hythe-tc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/106/2022/04/HTC-Community-Newsletter-February-2022.pdf>

DIGITAL PROGRESS

The Council offices now have new software called Asana which allows staff to see what work and projects have been assigned to them.

In January 2022, we also went over to a new booking package, SCRIBE, with full accounting support, purpose-built for Town and Parish Councils, designed to make it

easy to produce compliant Council accounts. This allows payments to be made online, which is a feature that may be implemented soon.

The installation of Wi-Fi in the Town Hall and the Sports Pavilion also took place, to aid digital meetings and the Council's website was upgraded in 2020.

COUNCIL STAFFING DURING 2021

Thanks to all the challenging work in supporting Councillors and ongoing day to day running of the Council.

Ms Margaret Stewart retired in May 2021 after a marvellous 20 years for the Council as Town Clerk. Her replacement, the Responsible Financial Officer (RFO), Julie Abbott was then promoted to Town Clerk and RFO.

Ms Wendy Lee also retired after an amazing 7 years in April 2021.

Both Margaret and Wendy are sorely missed.

Following Wendy's retirement, Laura Cook, Administration Assistant, was promoted to Plans and Facilities Officer and is currently studying for her CILCA¹. In her place, a new Admin Assistant, Lisa Paull, was recruited and started employment in October 2021. Lisa is going on to study for her CILCA after passing her ILCA² qualification in February 2022.

A new Finance Assistant Roland Domingo was appointed in April 2021, currently studying for the Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT) qualifications and his final exams will be in June 2022.

Terry Reese is the Council's long standing Town Sergeant and Tim Cudby is the South Road Pavilion Caretaker.

In 2021, Paul Fox joined HTC as a Tennis and Bowls Assistant. During the year Paul has been covering as Caretaker for the Town Hall and is now our Senior Tennis & Bowls Assistant. He will be ensuring the Tennis and Bowls season runs smoothly this season.

Our Bandstand attendant, Miles Hood, worked hard providing seating for attendees at all the events held at Oaklands Park throughout the summer.

FINANCE

Financial Year Ending 31 March 2022 (unaudited)

The internal audit will be completed in May 2022 and the Accounting statements will be ratified at a meeting of full council before 30 June 2022.

The following figures may be subject to change once finalised.

Income 2021-2022	
Sports and Recreation facility Hire	£22,425
Hire of Land and Properties	£26,666
Allotment Rents	£11,422
Other Income	£12,634
Car Park Revenue	£6,181
Total of Income from assets	£79,330

A PRECEPT OF £359,002 WAS RECEIVED IN 2021.

¹ Certificate in Local Council Administration

² Introduction to Local Council Administration

Expenditure 2021-2022	
Grounds Maintenance	£61,004
Civic	£2,633
Events	£33,115
Miscellaneous	£1,890
Staff	£174,849
Utilities	£53,740
Personal Expenses	£489
Office costs	£10,283
Professional	£10,040
Premises	£26,615
Banks & Loans	£8,430
Training & Subscriptions	£14,317
Projects	£950
Total Expenditure	£398,361

Sources: Hythe Town Council Financial records. www.hythetc.gov.uk-finance

Sub-Committees of F&GP

Personnel Sub – Committee

Personnel (Appeals) Sub Committee

Councillors do not claim expenses or get paid an income

Minutes of meetings are published on the Hythe Town Council website along with copies of reports and supporting documents.

The Annual Governance and Accounts Return will be submitted to the external auditors by 30 June 2022. They will become available for Public Inspection in July. The Council hope to have the accounts certificated by September 2022 from the external auditor.

GRANTS

The Council provides grants to communities that help with the social and business fabric of the town. Recent examples of grants include Hythe in Bloom and the Christmas lights in the High Street.

Grant Criteria and Application forms can be found on our website under Grant Policy and Application Form.

SPEAKERSHIP 2022

Every seven years the Speakership of the Confederation of the Cinque Ports rests with the Town Mayor of Hythe. There is usually a Church Service in October and a procession along the High Street. As a Head Cinque Port, it is made up of seven heads: Hastings, New Romney, Hythe, Dover, Sandwich, Rye, and Winchelsea and Seven limbs: Deal, Ramsgate, Faversham, Folkestone, Margate, Lydd and Tenterden.

VENETIAN FETE

In 2021, no Fete was held due to Covid, but Hythe Venetian Fete Society hired Abbalicious and other bands/entertainment on the Royal Military Canal bandstand as a smaller event.

The Venetian Fete is supported by a Hythe Town Council Grant of £7,500. It is one of the largest tourist attractions in Hythe and the Fete Committee is currently working towards this year's event to be held on 17 August 2022.

HYTHE TWINNING ASSOCIATION



We have excellent relations with Berck-Sur-Mer (a seaside town in Northern France) and Poperinge (a traditional brewing town in West Flanders, Belgium). St. Cecilia Town Band. Hythe Town Council provides support and links to the twin towns, and town councillors serve on the association's committee.

Our Twinning year was marred by sadness at the loss of our Chairman Fred Kirkby in early December. Fred did a wonderful job of leading a hard-working committee for over five years, through some difficult times, keeping us all on track to resume our activities that bind our members together in friendship. The Association's thoughts are with his wife Hilary and his family. The Memorial service was held at St. Leonard's Church on 13th April.

Inevitably this brought about changes to our committee. Shirley Moberly took the role of Chairperson with Kevin Howell as Vice-Chair.

Last year's events included Boot Sale, Chairman's coffee morning, Wine Tasting with Kevin Howell, and Christmas buffet with musical entertainment. Our AGM took place in October when the committee was increased to include new members. Remembrance was marked by our traditional visit to Berck-Sur-Mer, with Gavin Bull taking a last-minute lead due to Kevin contracting Covid. Dudley Shipton led the service at Etaples continuing to Berck's cemetery for a unique and moving service, where wreaths were laid on behalf of Hythe Town Council, Hythe Twinning Association, and the British Legion Hythe and Saltwood branch. Fred and Hilary Kirkby attended the Church service, procession, and wreath-laying in Poperinge.

With renewed vigour, we have been propelled into our 40th year. The original Twinning Charters (currently hanging in the Town hall) were signed in 1980 in Hythe, 1981 in Berck and 1982 in Poperinge.

We are planning a publicity day on July 9th under the Town Hall to mark this anniversary.

We would also like to put together an archive of memories of Twinning events and trips to go on our website. hythetwinningassociation.com

Already this year members have enjoyed a Winter Warmer lunch and Quiz with Fish and Chip supper.

You will notice a theme: our events usually involve eating, drinking, and making merry!

We are planning a day trip to Berck's Kite Fest on April 24th, Ostend at Anchor in May, Jubilee Picnic at Oaklands in June, Boot sale on 17th July and BBQ in July, Chairman's coffee morning in August. In addition, there is the Venetian Fete and we will be submitting a float this year, hoping to retain our winning status in various categories. September, we plan a celebratory short break in Northern France. October sees the 25th anniversary of October Beer Fest in Poperinge, when our local brewers will exhibit their brews along with Poperinge's other twin towns.

November brings us round to Remembrance events both in Hythe and across the water.

Our media presence has increased with our website and Facebook. Details of how to join and events can be found here. Kevin is producing a regular newsletter for us.

I am most grateful for the continued support of Hythe Town Council, our Council representatives, committee, and other helpers that get roped in.

Of course, new members are always welcome.

Shirley Moberly, Chairperson

HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY

Hythe Civic Society celebrated its 75th anniversary at the beginning of 2020. Then Covid-19 struck! The majority of planned events were carried forward into 2021. These events, under the banner of "Hythe Heritage," included the highly successful "On This Site" information boards of historical photos and information for over 180 historic buildings in Hythe accompanied by five different walk routes celebrating a lot of those buildings. So successful was this venture that a number of owners requested to keep their information boards! Hythe Bay CofE Primary School requested a complete set of the information boards to assist their pupils with a school project. An e-book is underway and will be published in summer 2022 with some new sites included.

Other events included a quiz in February 2020 and the publication of a colour booklet, "Our Time in Hythe - 75th Anniversary Edition", celebrating notable events in the last 75 years of Hythe's history and the contributions that the Society has made to those events. The Society's Vice President Mike Umbers gave an illustrated talk on Hythe's links with the military in St Leonard's church which was hugely enjoyable. The Society donated three semi-mature trees to the Hythe Green woodland project by the Hythe Green Preservation Society. Hythe Heritage week was closed by a wonderful concert in St Leonard's church by the Ashford Youth Jazz Orchestra attended by the Town Council's Deputy Mayor and his wife. The Society was delighted to receive a certificate from the Town Council's Mayor "in celebration and appreciation of 75 years dedication to preserving the history, buildings, environment and civic pride in the Town and Cinque Port of Hythe." Wonderful recognition by the Town Council in the Society's belated anniversary year!

Our volunteers have again been hugely helpful in delivering the newsletter; being guides for the summer walks every Thursday; helping with "Hythe in Bloom" which is hugely appreciated by residents and visitors alike; and being "Tuesday Gardeners" along the Military Canal, Wakefield Walk and in other locations around the town. The "Tuesday Gardeners" were responsible for freshening up the Town Council's Princess Diana Sensory Garden outside Oaklands.

The Society initiated a Hythe Civic Society Facebook page in 2021. Take a look!

Looking forward.....

The Society is concerned about the reduction of parking and the inadequate number of affordable residential units in the proposed re-development of the ex-Aldi site. And the design leaves so, so much to be desired for such a prominent site in the middle of the Conservation Area.

The proposed development at Otterpool is a major concern to the Society – particularly the long-term effect on the traders in the High Street. This is because Otterpool when fully developed, will have some 10,000 houses, twice the size of Hythe, and its own "district centre" taking trade from Hythe in the longer term. The Society will work with the Town Council and the Hythe Business and Tourism Association to protect Hythe traders.

With the proposed development at Princes Parade, which the Society opposed, the Society is concerned that now there will be pressure to develop the golf course for residential development. The Society will oppose any such development otherwise the District Council's proud boast of "the district where the countryside meets the sea" will no longer be true.

Best Wishes

Crispin Davies

HYTHE IN BLOOM by Sally Chesters

Hythe in Bloom, which operates under the auspices of Hythe Civic Society, has enjoyed another successful and colourful year.

Last summer, the floral displays in Prospect Road and the High Street elicited much praise and the absence of extremely hot weather meant the plants lasted well into September which was an added bonus. The team of volunteers – most of them over seventy! - who water the troughs in the High Street did a superb job and the colours were enjoyed by all.

The closure of Longacre Nursery in March 2020 caused us some problems as we were unable to find another grower who could supply us on similar terms: the increase in cost has been substantial but we have been able to keep our heads above water- for the moment - with generous contributions from Hythe Town Council and our commercial sponsors – Lawrence and Co, Gopak and Charlier Construction.

Hythe in Bloom is also responsible for the maintenance of a number of locations around the town: the Town Square, the bed on the corner of Mill Road and Seabrook Road and the bed on the corner of Chapel Street and our able team does a great job of looking after these.

For the past three years, Hythe in Bloom has also organised a group of gardening volunteers who meet every Tuesday morning to help Folkestone and District Council who are short of staff. Over the past year, we have tackled Wakefield Walk, the wide borders between the canal and Prospect Road, Mackeson Square, the bed by Blue Shield Insurance and, most notably, the Princess Diana Sensory Garden at Oaklands. This had become very overgrown, so we were able to cut everything back and, with funding from Cllr Wade's Ward Budget, replant in the gaps to very pleasing effect. The garden now boasts lots of new plants, including Rosemary, Russian Sage and Sarcococca, all of which have added to the glorious fragrance in the garden this winter. The volunteers have also repaired the fence which provides the boundary, so altogether a great job.

We are always looking for volunteers so, if you are interested, please visit www.hythecivicsociety.org and leave a message. No ongoing commitment is required.





Hythe Town Council Dementia Awareness Forum



The forum has its website at www.dementiaawarehythe.co.uk, originally created by a small team of councillors, it now has many more members. They aim to provide support and acceptance for people living with Dementia and for those that care for them.

The Town Council fully supports the Dementia Forum's demanding work and dedication.

After the lone months caused by Covid from the Spring of 2021 it was pleasing that the Forum were able to meet together in July 2021 to plan ahead for the rest of the year. There was a Community Get-Together on Saturday 14th August 2021 at the Tin Tabernacle, thanks to Peter Jarvis, with sponsorship kindly provided by Waitrose Partners, Hythe, to bring the community together again. At last those who wished to do so were able to meet up with one another.

Anyone is welcome to attend the Forum which now meets on the fourth Thursday of every month at 10 o'clock in the Committee Room at The Hythe Town Council Offices. All present are very welcome to contribute to the activities of the Dementia Forum which was set up nearly seven years ago with the aim of encouraging the people of Hythe to become aware of those living with dementia in the community and the needs of their carers who look after them.

Despite the serious epidemic of Covid it has been possible to keep in touch with one another and it is good news that the weekly Tuesday Morning sessions 'Let's Talk Dementia' at Hythe Library, the monthly Wednesday afternoon concerts, in association with the Royal British Legion, at the Hythe Sports and Social Club, the weekly Thursday afternoon Zest Bright Shadow sessions at the Sports Pavilion and the fortnightly Community Coffee Mornings at St. Michael's Church are all up and running. Numbers of people attending have increased and people have much to contribute and share.

Additionally there have been trips to shopping Centres, the Tower Theatre, a Military Concert at St. Leonard's Church, walks organised by Sue Mott of Stepping Out and co-operation with the Hythe Green Preservation Society along with a Christmas Party. Dementia Aware Togetherness in Hythe has influenced the work of Age UK in Hythe although there is some disappointment that their activities tend to take place in Lyminge.

There is an important Open House meeting with Living Words, who have worked so well with those with dementia and their carers over several years, on Friday 29th April at St. Michael's from 10 o'clock, with a start time of 10.30 until 11.30 a.m. It is an information sharing meeting to encourage the people of Hythe to learn more about what can be provided.

Local Hythe Societies, Clubs and businesses have continued to support Dementia Awareness in Hythe and for this the Forum are extremely grateful. A separate organisation, Friends of Hythe Dementia, raise funds to enable individuals to approach them for help with dementia matters. Teardrop flags around the Town, flags on display over shops and businesses in the High Street, notices in shop windows continue to remind locals and visitors alike to Hythe where care and support for those with dementia and their carers is an ongoing concern in which everyone is encouraged to take part.

All the people working with and supporting the Hythe Dementia Awareness Forum are

volunteers and as the Co-ordinator I am extremely grateful for their time and energy.
along with that of Susan Foster, the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer, which is given
freely by so many people.
Dudley Shipton



Hythe Town Council Dementia Awareness Forum
aims to encourage the people of Hythe to become aware of those living with dementia
in the community and the needs of the carers looking after them.



HYTHE SALVATION ARMY 2021/2022

Hythe Salvation Army has had a busy time throughout the last year. We have seen a change of leadership with me taking over from Captains Callum and Berenice McKenna last July.

Since then, the food bank has been open every week and has seen an increase in demand since the pre-pandemic era. We now provide an average of 40-50 parcels every week at our food bank on a Wednesday, which is run entirely by Salvation Army volunteers. The food bank is stocked by our food drop boxes in Aldi and Sainsburys along with regular personal and corporate financial donations. We anticipate that, in light of the current ongoing national situation, demand will continue to increase.

In November, the town Remembrance Service was led by our officer Lt Susan Shorland-Compton as the Civic Chaplain and our band supported the Remembrance service at Saltwood.

The Toy Appeal at Christmas was a hugely successful project. Supported by other local organisations we managed to collect and distribute toys and gifts to almost three hundred children in Hythe and Romney Marsh districts. Each family also received a bag of Christmas goodies.

Along with this the band was performing at carol concerts and doing street carolling throughout the district. These included the Christmas Celebration at the Tower Theatre, the open-air Carol Service at Oaklands Bandstand and Lympne Castle along with carols in the High Street on two Saturdays. This helped raise much-needed funds to support the work of The Salvation Army locally and nationally.

On Christmas Day Hythe Salvation Army put on a free Christmas day lunch for over forty people in the South Pavilion which the town council kindly agreed free use for this event. This enabled people who were on their own or struggling to be with others to enjoy a three course Christmas lunch, a present and a take-home packed tea. Transport was provided with the help of Age UK vehicles and all the catering, serving, and clearing up was done by our volunteers.

We are working with The Salvation Army nationwide on the Ukraine crisis. The Salvation Army already has people in Ukraine and neighbouring countries providing food, shelter, clothing, prayers, and hope. We have programmes and personnel in Ukraine, Russia, Poland, Romania, Moldova, and other European countries who were able to offer practical assistance as soon as the situation escalated. Some rushed to the border of Ukraine to hand out urgent provisions, while others made arrangements to offer support to people and families displaced by the violence.

Every Monday and Tuesday we hold a community Toddler group which is much in demand where parents, carers and children can meet up, play together, and enjoy crafts, singing and refreshments.

Every Wednesday we hold a community hub/drop-in centre for anyone looking for friendship, help and support. We also hold a Wednesday afternoon friendship club which is Christian based and provides an opportunity for people to come and meet each other.

We are also very much a part of Churches together in Hythe and will be teaming up with them in the upcoming Easter and Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

Since arriving in post as the Commanding Officer at Hythe Salvation Army it has become very apparent to me how highly thought of and well supported The Salvation Army is here in the community of Hythe and Romney Marshes and I would like to thank the town and community for that and long may that relationship continue.



Service Report

As we now move forward into a period where we have less restrictions on our ability to deliver our services, we are working hard provide a range of services & activities for people aged over 55 to enjoy and we are keen to challenge the stereotype that Age UK is just for old people. This is an exciting, but challenging time for us as a Charity. We are about to see the completion of significant improvements to our facilities and will be better able to provide a varied and exiting programme of events. The way we are funded to provide services has changed and this has necessitated a change to the type of services we deliver and the way we deliver them, but this change is making us more inclusive and outward leaning as an organisation.

As a sensible precaution we are maintaining some measure in our centres to reduce the risk of covid, and we encourage all visitors continue to use sanitiser stations and to wear face coverings if you are able.

Well Being Activities

In partnership with Social Enterprise Kent, we are delivering a range of activities aimed at encouraging Wellbeing and Social interaction in the Over 55 Cohort. We are keen to deliver a range of activities which are inclusive to all ages and abilities and are keen to hear what service you would like us to deliver. We are also keen to develop links with the wider community and other established groups to deliver services that people want, enjoy, and need. If you are running activities, it may be that we are able to support clients who are over 55 to be able to try them out. Our main driver is to encourage the participation in activities, and we are aware that Hythe has several successful and vibrant clubs & societies who we are keen to work in partnership with rather than in competition to in delivering activities and opportunities for social inclusion.

Dementia services

We now have a well-established and successful dementia unit running in our Lyminge Centre and we can arrange transport to the Centre from across our catchment area. The Centre delivers secure daybreak services and we also run MCST groups for those with early-stage diagnosis. We have recently taken on a Dementia coordinator who will be working across the Hythe, Lyminge & Folkestone areas to deliver Dementia Cafes and other activities & drop ins raising awareness & providing support for families living with Dementia. We are very keen to continue to develop the Centre as a Hub for the provision of Dementia services whilst also using the facilities to benefit the wider community in Lyminge. The Café, Charity shop and other activities we offer are open to all.

Day Services

Our day services are now fully up and running and provide a wide range of social activities & opportunities to our older client, we are working hard to develop a stimulating range of activities & outings to ensure that let our clients stay active, independent, and engaged. We will be running 3 full day centre sessions which include lunch and 2-day trips to local cafes, restaurants garden centres etc. These activities are important to us and are at the centre of Centre life.

Oaklands Café

We are very lucky to back on to Oaklands Park, and everyone, regardless of age is very welcome to use our community café. We provide a good range of Cakes, Sandwiches, Cakes, Drinks & Ice Creams and Snacks all at a very affordable price. All other services including chiropody, hairdressing, laundry service, information and advice service, meals on wheels, independent living service etc continue and new clients for these services are very welcome.

We are here to help and encourage you to get in touch with anything that you need support with.

Volunteers

We currently have nearly 300 active volunteers offering a variety of support in Hythe and Lyminge. These includes running of the Reception and Charity Shop, Café support including weekends, Meals on Wheels delivery, shoppers, admin tasks, Handyman, Kitchen support etc. We also have a number of Befrienders who are now starting to meet face to face with our clients. A handbook guide has been produced to reflect Age UK Hythe and Lyminge' s values.

We also have a gentleman who is selling various donated items on eBay to ensure good and fair prices are paid, plus a lady who will be creating our Posters.

All volunteers are incredibly valuable to everyone at Age UK Hythe and Lyminge regardless of the amount of time they can offer, and this we try to reflect by keeping in regular contact by monthly Drop-in Sessions, Meetings, Cream Tea Afternoons, and upcoming events during Volunteer week in June.

Age UK Hythe and Lyminge t:01303269602

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Charity No. 1125274 Company No.6589817





Hythe and Saltwood Branch 1974

Throughout the Covid pandemic the Hythe and Saltwood Branch of the Royal British Legion has continued to function, by meeting virtually via Zoom when required in line with national guidelines or in person at the Hythe Sports and Social Club.

We have continued to offer comradeship and support to local military veterans and our branch members at a time when such friendship has been even more valued and valuable, either by telephone calls, home visits, running errands and offering advice and bereavement support. In recent months we have tried to widen our work and purpose in the community by attending the fortnightly Community Coffee Mornings held in the Methodist Centre, where we have collaborated with welfare representatives from Folkestone and Hythe District Council, offering support and friendship to all, but chiefly to military veterans. We have also continued to support the excellent work of the Hythe Dementia Awareness Forum.

Our standard bearer, Mr Bill Milner, has attended numerous funerals of veterans from Hythe and also further afield in the county, as well as always being present at remembrance events and whenever requested to support the branch.

Remembrance is of utmost importance to everyone within the branch and we are always heartened to see the overwhelming support of the local community at all remembrance events, whether it be at the War Memorial on Remembrance Sunday and 11th November or at other significant dates in the year; in the last twelve months we have commemorated Armed Forces Day both at the Town Hall with the Mayor and also at the War Memorial with the general public, VJ Day, Canada Day, Holocaust Memorial Day, and most significantly, the centenary of the RBL. Indeed, 30th June 2021 was the centenary anniversary of the Hythe and Saltwood Branch and we celebrated with a party attended by members where we also celebrated the 100th birthday of Mrs Edna Bebbington, branch member, Hythe resident and long-time supporter of the Poppy Appeal.

We were very grateful for financial support from Hythe Town Council, the Friends of Hythe Dementia, the Hythe Dementia Awareness Forum, and the Three Mariners to enable us to host a public celebration of the centenary with the Band of the Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment and the Military Wives Choir Shorncliffe.

Hythe is always very generous in its support of the Poppy Appeal and this year we were lucky to be able to host a public launch of the appeal in the High Street. The Rotary Club of Hythe gave us additional support, which was exceedingly welcome, with their Million Steps initiative which added much needed funds of £4000. Our Poppy Appeal Organiser led a very successful campaign; over the two weeks of remembrance 58 Volunteers gave up 220 hours and raised £31,228.32. The oldest volunteer was 96 years old and the youngest was just 10. We are sincerely grateful for all donations.

We are aware of the importance of including young people in our activities and to this end have affiliated during the year with the 1st Hythe Scout Group and the Kent (Marine) Cadets. It is always a pleasure to visit the Cubs to speak to the youngsters about remembrance and this year we were invited to visit the Beavers too – a lovely evening for all involved and we hope that this will become a regular annual visit.

Our plans for the future include a trip to the National Memorial Arboretum in May, a Boot Fair in aid of the Poppy Appeal on 5th June and continued involvement in remembrance.

We encourage everyone to visit us on Facebook and 'like' our page which can be found by searching at RBLHytheSaltwood. Our website is <http://branches.britishlegion.org.uk/branches/hythe-saltwood>

We meet on the third Wednesday of every month at 7.00pm at the Hythe Sports and Social Club. We currently have 108 members but welcome all newcomers – for enquiries about membership (or anything else), please contact the Branch Secretary by email at hythesaltwood.secretary@rbl.community or by 'phone to 01303 862779

Rotary Club of Hythe Report for Town meeting 28th April 2022

Although we had hoped to have been clear of Covid 2021-22 was a very mixed year. We were finally able to go back to meeting up together.

10 of our members walked a Million steps for Royal British Legion and raised £4,500 for them in their Centenary Year.

We worked with HBTA, Civic Society and HTC to produce a welcome pack for Estate Agents to give to people moving into the into Town and we continued our Careers and Work talks with Brockhill School.

For the first time we had a Christmas Grotto alongside our annual Christmas Collection and over 500 children were enthralled by meeting up with Santa and his elves.

We raised £5,000 and we were able to support the work done by Porchlight, The Shed Foundation, The Salvation Army, and Age Concern

We resumed Marshalling at Town Functions, vaccination centres and at boot fairs and various local races

Rotary is an International Organisation, and we held a Quiz evening at Hythe Bay School and a Radio Play performed at St Leonard's Church raised over £1000 for Mercy Ships. Rotary is supporting fundraising to help refugees from the War in Ukraine

HYTHE TOWN MEETING

Hythe Lawn Tennis Club

It goes without saying that like all organisations we have had difficult times since March 2020 when Covid hit us all however since then, during the times that clubs were permitted to open we have gone from strength to strength with our membership, which stood in 2020 at around 300 rising month on month throughout 2021 to the current figure of just under 500.

During the difficult times, in order to keep our members safe and to comply with all the Governments requirements we strictly limited the numbers of those playing, all social play was pre-organized and Risk Assessments completed daily. This resulted in only the very odd member becoming infected and the two members that we sadly lost were in hospital with other conditions when they contracted Covid.

Just before reopening in April 2020 extensive groundworks were completed giving us a turning area and fully enclosing our grounds making it safer for those arriving and leaving the club premises.

Incorrect advice had been given to us prior to work starting which meant that we had to apply for retrospective planning permission however this was subsequently granted.

The area now looks smart and clean with no rat burrows and 90 metres of new environmental hedgerow fully planted.

Having been a Community Amateur Sports Club for the last 40 years the decision was made 18 months ago, and following consultation with the membership, for the Club to become a Registered Charity.

This was finalised at the end of last year.

The Club not only supports a nominated Charity annually but provides bursaries for coaches, junior members and home schooled children and as from April 1st this year junior membership of the Club is free of any subscription.

We also have a new coaching provider at the Club. Chris Hollands runs a full programme of coaching together with his extensive team of qualified coaches and coaching assistants and although based at Hythe also teach at Folkestone Tennis Club at the Sports Centre in Folkestone, Hawkinge Community Centre and Hayne Barn in Saltwood.

The numbers of juniors now playing tennis in Hythe has increased five fold and increasing monthly.

The coaching programme also includes everything from cardio tennis, beginner, intermediate and advanced courses and, new for 2022 Walking Tennis that we are running and sponsoring in conjunction with Age UK in Hythe.

This started in March and will run through to the end of August and is proving extremely popular with those of the older generation who wish to play but are no longer as agile.

Also this year for the first time the Club has been asked to play host to several LTA Junior and Adult Ranking Tournaments bringing players and their families to Hythe from across the South of England for the first time.

Just last month we have also been asked to host the prestigious Road to Wimbledon Tournament on Monday May 2nd at which the top UK's junior players will fight it out for the privilege of potentially playing at The All England Club during The Championships.

In short the Club continues to go from strength to strength providing residents and visitors with the very best of facilities of which Hythe should rightly feel very proud.

Hythe Green Preservation Society

Following the successful partnership of Hythe Green Preservation Society and Hythe Town Council in securing the Greens protection by Fields in Trust, we can finally be reassured that there will now be no further threat of development.

This leaves us free to enhance the Green as a precious amenity for the people of Hythe and for visitors to the town.

Hythe Green Preservation Society's first project has been to oversee a crowd-funding campaign to establish a native woodland in the south-western corner of the Green. This includes horse chestnut, silver birch, oak, beech, hornbeam, field maple, flowering cherries and holm oaks. It will be underplanted with elder, holly, hawthorn, hazel, dogwood and butcher's broom among other species. The wood will act as a visual and acoustic buffer to HV Wooding's factory and will connect the recently opened woodland walk along the western boundary with the southern fringe bordering Hythe Bay School. This southern path will also be sheltered walkway and Hythe Green Preservation Society is continuing to work on its agreed five-year management plan with Hythe Town Council to ensure that the trees, mainly cherry plums and undergrowth along this area are properly cleared and maintained.

The initial campaign to purchase, plant and maintain a wood of 35 trees reached its target of £13,500 in July. Kent County Council supported Hythe Green Preservations Society's bid with £6,000 and in all, almost 100 individuals and organisations made pledges of support. We are very grateful to them all. We are also indebted to the charity The Kent Men of the Trees who offered us a variety of native species. The wood – eventually totalling 100 trees – has now been put in place and a watering system has been set up. We have been actively supported by HV Wooding in allowing us to use their roof in rainwater harvesting for the trees.

In addition to the 450 screening whips planted by Hythe Green Preservation Society along the southern school boundary, we have purchased 80,000 bluebell seeds and these will eventually flower to fill the western and southern walks at the edge of the Green. Repeat bluebell and also snowdrop planting at this rate will be carried out annually.

A further enhancement will be the additional planting of a line of cherry plum trees along the edge of the new wood, providing both a shaded path and a continuation of the southern boundary walkway. Enabling a sheltered walk along two sides of the Green. Hythe Green Preservation Society continues to provide updates via its Facebook Page and through events held on the Green.