



HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY

Charity Number: 283177

ITEM 5.2: HIGHLIGHTS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MAY 28 2024

During the period from April 2023 to March 2024 Hythe Civic Society:

- Was saddened to learn of the passing of its President, Mike Umbers - Retired Lt. Colonel and a longstanding Society member and prominent supporter of the Hythe community.
- Held a successful annual talks programme throughout the year except during the summer.
- Continued with its programme of Guided Walks every Thursday during the summer, though numbers significantly down on previous years.
- Major contribution towards developing a Hythe Walks website and six walk routes in support of the Town Mayor.
- Held its "Thank You" party for its many volunteers in November at the Town Hall.
- Helped to maintain the churchyard at St Leonards, Eaton Lands, and flower beds in the High Street, Prospect Road, and maintenance at Wakefield Walk, Oaklands Sensory Garden, and Mackeson Square.
- Continued with the annual Hythe in Bloom programme.
- Helped with the painting programme of street furniture in the High Street and beyond.
- Held its annual Christmas social evening for members in the South Road Sports Pavilion.
- Commented on many planning applications, including the former Aldi site, and held initial discussions with representatives of the Hotel Imperial regarding the Golf Course site.
- Re-printed "A Walk Around Historic Hythe" which continues to be a Society best seller.
- The Hythe Local History Group continued to be most active with its research and visits.
- Added to our new website with regular features.
- Implemented new requirements of our updated constitution, including a Members Survey.
- Continued to publish a quarterly newsletter, and increase our Facebook followers.
- Society membership held steady at over 630 members, across 400 households – circa 5% of Hythe's households.
- Held a successful photographic exhibition at the Library, and a well-attended Quiz.
- Neared completion of our first Blue Plaque project – Gerald Holtom, designer of the symbol adopted by CND - former resident of 5 Hillside Street, now Hillside Manor.

So looking forward, what about the remainder of 2024?

- Betty Black, longstanding committee member and Vice Chair, will be stepping down at the AGM on 28 May 2024, but continuing to lead the Talks programme and its team.
- Review and implement some changes resulting from the survey of our membership.
- Hold our second 'Through the Lens' photo exhibition during the whole of May at the Library.
- Hold our second Boot Fair on The Green, thanks to the Town Council and Rotary.
- Install the first Blue Plaque.
- Launch the Hythe Walks website and publicise widely, in partnership with the Town Council.
- Review the Town Walks and manage this year's programme of guided walks.
- Publish later in the year a book about the history of 80 Hythe locations, in advance of our 80th anniversary year, 2025. We have a number of events planned.
- Continue the planting, maintenance and re-painting work, and potentially give attention to some other areas in the town – Mill Road, our wooden planters, and potentially the Red Lion Square bus shelters as these are our non-structural maintenance responsibility.
- Have a presence at the Venetian Fete, and hold our 'thank you' gathering for volunteers.

Finally, the Executive Committee wishes to thank all Members, sponsors and partner organisations for their continued support, help and assistance in supporting the Society.

Paul Naylor (Chair) - email: chair.hcs@btinternet.com www.hythecivicsociety.org
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