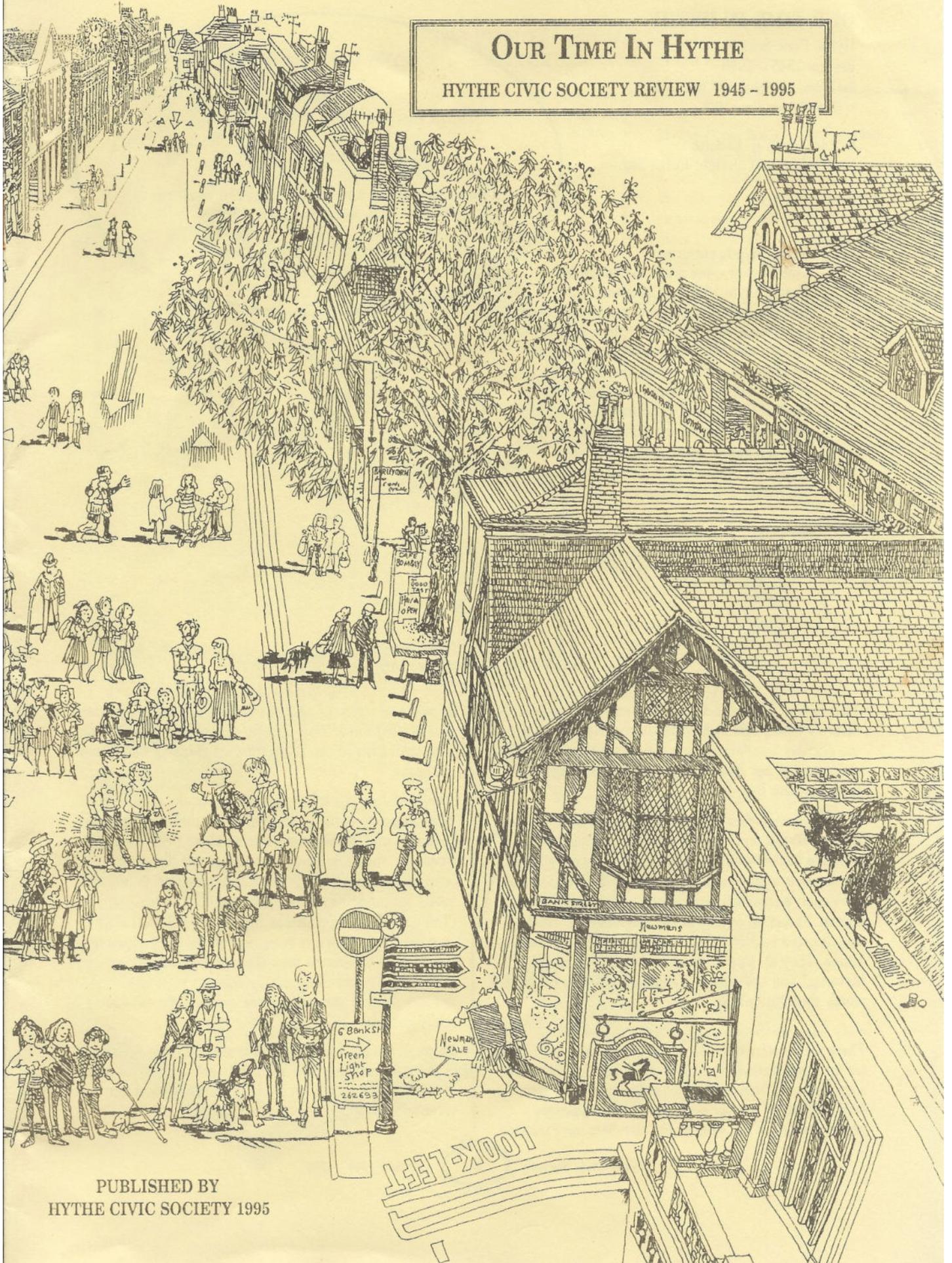


OUR TIME IN HYTHE

HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY REVIEW 1945 - 1995



PUBLISHED BY
HYTHE CIVIC SOCIETY 1995

LOOK-LEFT

OUR TIME IN HYTHE

Hythe Civic Society
Review 1945 – 1995

The Society was known until 1965
as Hythe Citizens' Union (HCU)

Editor: Geoffrey Roberts
Illustration and Design: Rufus Segar

Acknowledgements

This Review owes much to the written history up to 1985 by Christine Lester, who has kindly permitted many quotations to be made from her work (*given here in italics*), and also to the later study by our archivist, Maurice Young. Senior members of the Civic Society kindly read the first draft of the Review, their comments resulting in corrections and additions. In case any errors or omissions are still found, the Editor hopes for the pardon of the reader and the subject.

March 1995

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Illustrations © Rufus Segar

Hythe Civic Society 1995

Patron:

The Rt Hon Lord Deedes of Aldington MC PC DL

President: John Davies

Vice-Presidents: Christine Lester, Muriel Sharp
Ron Collins, Alan Stirk, John Sutton

A List of Officers 1945 – 1995
is on pages 8 and 9

FIFTY UP! Introduction

This Review is a celebration for members – present and future – of survival and achievement. Hythe has one of the earliest foundations as a civic society and a membership greater, per head of population, than any other town we have heard of.

In 1945, contrasting with the excitement of the Allied victory, Hythe properties were forlorn. Five years of wartime neglect and air raids had been cruelly made worse, even within reach of peace, by destruction from the enemy's cross-Channel shells and pilotless flying bombs. Ahead of Victory in Europe, the concerned townspeople had established the new Hythe Citizens' Union. They at once drew up a list of buildings of historical and architectural interest and a list of houses worth reconditioning.

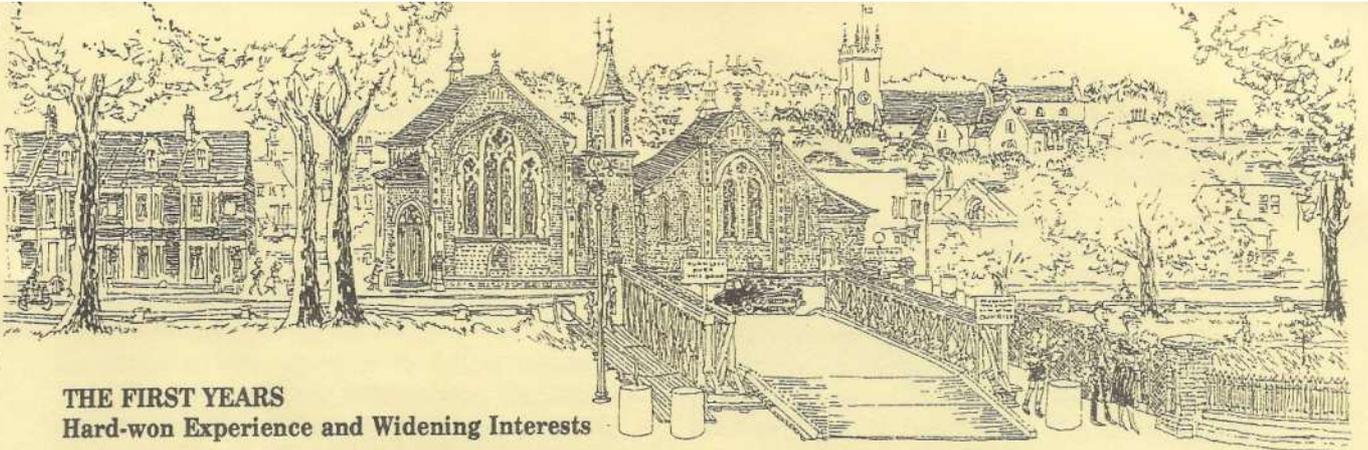
ITALICS DENOTE EXTRACTS FROM CHRISTINE LESTER'S 40 YEARS HISTORY

These were both welcomed by the Borough Council which set up a Reconstruction Committee on which four Advisory members from the Citizens' Society (HCU) were invited to serve, one for each ward. This appeared promising but in six months the members were notified

of only two meetings and in October 1945 the committee was discontinued. That October the Society arranged its first exhibition in the Town Hall, on Housing and Town Planning.

Christine Lester's words foretell the peaks and troughs of progress upwards to an ideal of mutually agreed town planning and development during these fifty years. From the simple postwar beginnings the planning methods became more prescribed by legislation, necessarily so. Innocent enthusiasm was hard to maintain. (The Citizens' Union almost foundered in 1960.) Fifty years on, new Charters requiring public authorities to consult and co-operate may still mask handed-down decisions. Nevertheless, our systems to safeguard townscapes and the countryside are now the envy of many nations.

Through the good and the bad times the Civic Societies of Britain must continue to "boldly go". This is the story of one of them, in a town so clearly rewarding of our voluntary work.



The Bailey Bridge across the Canal 1940 - 1956

THE FIRST YEARS
Hard-won Experience and Widening Interests

The HCU in its first five years pressed for more openness in Council matters but found an active role only in conserving old buildings, rather than in new housing. The Committee strove hard for a Master Plan for the development of Hythe and the appointment of an architect.

A town plan had been drawn up by an expert in 1936 but this had been mislaid, another was started in 1944 but not completed. There was much (council) disagreement over the Horn Street building development, some urging good planning and modern facilities, others maintaining that the need was so great that any roof over one's head was better than none!

Attempts to preserve good examples of old buildings were partially successful but after three years' effort, in March 1949, very restorable cottages near the bottom of Church Hill were razed to the ground. The Borough Council's own scheme to preserve the Almshouses and Yeoman's House there fell through and the Yeoman's House was demolished.

Mercifully the fight in which the Society shared to save the old Almshouses was successful and they were reconditioned and converted into flats - now "Centuries".

In these partial "successes", or even the failures, much more is achieved for the community than may be apparent. The hard work involved has its influence on all concerned: townsfolk know there is an organised channel for their Why Don't THEY? ideas, and local government feels more obliged to anticipate the community's reaction to new schemes.

In addition to housing and town planning, the founders of the Citizens' Union charged themselves with Education, to organise lectures, exhibitions and local history study, and Entertainment, social events to increase membership. These activities were later to be carried seamlessly into the constitution of the Civic Society and have been a feature of Hythe leisure life ever since.

In October 1946 the first HCU Local Art Exhibition was held at the Town Hall, organised by Lady Bovenschen, Mrs Mallorie, Mr Baker Clack and Major Yearsley. This and two later ones were all very successful.

A much bolder venture - and what a harbinger for fifty years ahead - stemmed from a Mayor's public meeting in 1947:

Much research by the HCU had gone into the possibility of forming an Old People's Housing Association and providing a Home for old people with small incomes but not qualifying for Public Assistance. The committee was undaunted by the task of raising the necessary capital but exhaustive enquiries revealed too little demand to justify the scheme.

And perhaps there was a dawning acceptance that such financial ventures should be left to THEM, County Hall or the new National Health Service and the social insurance scheme. The community's resolution was not strengthened by the advent of other new Acts and Commissions. The Town and Country Planning Act of 1947 transferred a wide range of local planning powers to the County. The Boundary Commission of that time wanted to incorporate Hythe into Folkestone; the town's population of 9,000 was classed as too small to be an effective administrative unit. Miss Lester notes that the Boundary Commission was dissolved in 1949 (and Hythe continued as a Municipal Borough). That year began an extension of 25 years of Borough status for Hythe, until the major changes of the Local Government Act of 1972/4.

1950 - 1960:
Deflected and Then Disheartened

From 1950 the HCU's planning interests appear to have waned except for concern about the Kent County Council development plan and, in particular, the early proposals it incorporated for a vastly wide new Prospect Road, to slice along The Grove. By the late 1950s, with its population still increasing by less than one hundred per year, Hythe may have seemed to be returning to a backwater. Its noisily busy era of weapons training on the Ranges had quietened. Its railway station had closed back in 1951. As Newman's little bus nipped up to Sandling Station, (no longer The Junction), passengers' thoughts may have been on the lessons Britain had learned at Suez, but more likely on the electrification of the railway and the ending of 3rd Class compartments.

The thoughts of the Hythe Citizens' Union committee became centred on their objects of Education and Entertainment. Miss Lester again:

Further Art and Photographic exhibitions were held, the Art ones as the HCU's contribution towards Hythe's Spring Festivals, and excellent lectures arranged, and then in April 1956 the Society staged its first Old Hythe Exhibition at the Town Hall. A wonderful collection of exhibits was assembled from the Archives, from many Hythe residents and local societies but perhaps most from the treasures of Mr. Frederick Horton whose home (two houses in Dymchurch Road) was a museum in itself!

Sir Wyndham Deedes opened the exhibition and there were lectures for five successive nights. The Mayor at that time - Mr C.T. Sanford - did a mammoth task in setting up the staging for the exhibits and the money raised was divided between the Mayor's Benevolent Fund and the Society. So popular were the lectures that the librarian Mr Elliston Erwood started the Library and Museum Committee lectures which ran for many years thereafter.

It was in 1956 that the Town Bridge into Stade Street was rebuilt, and handsomely done, 16 years after its destruction by a German bomb and temporary replacement by a Bailey bridge.

But from about 1957 the HCU activities were much reduced for a number of reasons and membership had dwindled. Came the ignoble day, seen as inevitable by some, in March 1960 when a proposal was made that the organisation which had started with such brave hopes fifteen years before should be wound up.

"Not so!" - cried a dozen stalwarts led by Christine Lester. These few members were strongly against the idea:

... especially as, following the recent launching of the Civic Trust, amenity societies were springing up - not dying. From that very small nucleus officers were elected and a new membership roll started and very gradually numbers mounted. A revision of the HCU 'Outline of Policy', registration with the Civic Trust, the formation of a History Group, a programme of lectures and films for alternate winter months followed. Attempts were made to beautify the landward side of Princes Parade (then a rubbish tip).

Since 1949 Mrs Mallorie (Chairman), and Lt. Col. Moss (Secretary) and Mr E.T. Jury (Treasurer) had acted as the officers of the HCU for eleven loyal years. Indeed, Tom Jury was to continue for much longer. The incoming Chairman and Secretary were also a duo dedicated to Hythe. Councillor Charlie Sanford, recently Mayor (1955 and 1956), and to be elected again in later years, took the Chair. His knowledge of the town as a son of

Hythe was immense and his energy matched it. The Secretary was our historian, Miss Christine E Lester, then Deputy Headmistress of Folkestone Grammar School for Girls. She provided gifted support to the HCU and the Civic Society for twelve years in that honorary role and then more as Vice-President. She left Hythe in 1986 at the age of 79 but still keeps in touch with members.

In general, though, the members of the Committee and Presidential members were younger in the 1960s and 1970s than the average today, 1995. This is in common with other voluntary societies. The change must stem partly from the happy fact that the average older person is more active than he or she used to be. Another undeniable change is that employment uncertainty and job performance pressures currently discourage younger people from accepting voluntary office. There must, however, be a deep reservoir in the 1990s of men and women of talent for voluntary work who have retired much earlier than they would have done in the recent past. For them, volunteering to hold office for only three or four years is seen as normal because of the rapidity of other changes around us.

1960 - 1973

More Confident, More Competent

The HCU total membership in 1960 was down to less than twenty. Lean times but eager people! The Borough, in contrast, passed the 10,000 population mark the following year and was about to benefit from the considerable upsurge in industrial and residential development in South-East Kent. The first swallow was seen in the start of building of the nuclear energy reactors at Dungeness, destined to be the largest nuclear plant in the world.

During the years 1961 - 64 the small band of members husbanded their resources. A simple step of great value, but which later lapsed until 1981, was to go out and collect annual subscriptions rather than hoping members would remember to hand them in. Affiliation was made with other conservation societies. In 1962, after a Mayor's Town Meeting to publicise a new Hythe Development Plan, the HCU organised another open meeting, with the Mayor, Gerald Walter, again invited - and agreeing - to chair it, but with an independent review by a speaker from the Civic Trust.

By 1964, with some sixty members, the Hythe Citizens' Union could reckon that it had survived. On their Talks side the encouragement from having speakers of high standard led now to a printed programme of eight meetings in the year. The Committee marked the Society's deliverance by doubling the subscription.

At about that time Portex transferred operations to its Boundary Road premises, now with 150 employees, and

other large industrial or commercial companies opened premises in Ashford and Folkestone. At Dungeness A the No.1 and No.2 reactor buildings were rising to change dramatically the flat skyline. The employees, many imported for their skills, took houses in Hythe. The new Pennypot housing estate and Burmarsh Road were the next large areas to follow Horn Street and, on the hill, Charliers' small Castle Avenue development was later to be followed by their new Freshfield Lane and Harpswood Lane houses.

All these were 'green field' sites, as were to be Reachfields and Turnpike Hill in later years. The Society's old Minute Book did not concern itself with events which were, as in 1066 and *All That, a Good Thing*. The building of many new houses was applauded, not controversial. There were, however, changes a few years ahead which were not so acceptable to members.

National developments were beginning to favour an upsurge in leisure interests and in the ability of individuals to help in the community. Telephones had long been too numerous to cause much comment but now cars were, without exaggeration, to change people's lives. In Kent the registered numbers rose from 60,000 cars in 1946 to 80,000 in 1950 but then to 270,000 by 1963.

At committee meetings the norm of Minutes being gabbled from a handwritten book into cupped ears was becoming transformed: carbon copies were followed by still-clumsy roneo machines but after them came the photocopiers which were to spread the written word faster and wider than ever dreamt of when the HCU began. That the Minutes are still described as "taken as read" is our quaint reminder.

Tom Jury, Barclays Bank Manager, will remember those days well. The longest-serving Civic Society officer, he was Honorary Treasurer from 1946 to 1970.

For Hythe members, 1964 - 1965 was the year that gave a new pattern and impetus. New civic issues were looming, newly-arrived residents were taking close interest and the HCU was in vigorous mood.

Stimulated by the various conferences attended, and conscious of the many new developments taking place in this corner of the country, the Committee felt increasingly strongly that the HCU should be more actively concerned and when at the next Annual General Meeting - 1965, Mr Booth expressed his wish to resign from the Chairmanship owing to his increasing deafness, the election of Lt. Col. Drake-Brockman to that office was clearly the right course. Changing the name of the Society to the Hythe Civic Society to bring it more into line with the other amenity societies and to prevent the misunderstanding which apparently exists in some quarters, where it is thought to be political, was unanimously agreed.



With the new Chairman's close involvement with the C.P.R.K and K.C.S.S. the Society was now kept better informed and had greater opportunities for co-operation in its efforts. During the next two years attention was given (among other matters) to a listed building survey, the possibilities of trees on the Green, derelict land in the town, direction signs, Ministry of Transport enquiries, and a request was made for a map of Hythe at Prospect Road car park. Membership numbers continued their slow steady climb and in 1967 reached 100. Frequent appeals were made to the Society by members of the public for action, help or support on various matters, and wherever possible this was given.

Now, with its much more comfortable name, the Civic Society also took on the role of watchdog for small civic shortcomings which, uncorrected, so quickly lead to irate citizens. Street flooding, inconvenient bus times, dogs' mess, storm shingle on the promenade, uneven footpaths. Not for nothing did a committee member become known by impatient colleagues as Pothole Pat. The positive encouragement from today's District Council for residents to telephone direct with their grouse was not known in the late 1960s. Soon a Society sub-committee was set up to channel these public niggles to Borough or County Council.

However, the big issue in 1967 was at the seafront; its history of patchy development threatened exploitation. For the corner of South Road and Marine Parade this danger came from an unexpected source.

Here the Greater London Council proposed to build a ten-storey block of flats to house old people from the capital. From both the human and architectural angles this was felt to be a great mistake. Other sites, less exposed and isolated, were available and such a structure would be completely alien to the town. A public meeting was called and well supported, the local press took up the case and representations made by the Society were widely approved. These were to the Greater London Council opposing the scheme from the scenic and sociological point of view, to the Hythe Borough

Council urging that a comprehensive development plan for the seafront be commissioned from a qualified architect or Town Planner, and to the Royal Fine Arts Commission for their views which were very strongly in support of the Society's.

The project was abandoned but the Society's interest in the seafront remained. Interesting and ambitious plans already suggested were studied but set aside and then the Society's architect committee member, Mr Jeffrey Davies, drew up a very pleasing and interesting plan. This was considered and generally approved and roused considerable interest on the local council, which requested extra copies for the County Council. There the plans presumably remain.

Hythe residents living inland from the seafront remain incurious about the English Channel except when their attention is drawn to it by storms or worse. In 1962, at the height of the Cold War crisis over Cuba, they threw nervous glances at the Russian trawler fleet ominously anchored in Hythe haven. It was one night in 1967 that a single, huge explosion shook Hythe and shattered windows such as at Eldridge's, the drapers. An unladen oil tanker, the Texaco Caribbean, had blown up quite close to shore. Days later another ship hit the wreck and sank upon it. Then a third was involved. Soon afterwards the free two-way shipping was disciplined into one-way lanes farther out to sea, leaving Hythe observers with only a distant view of grey silhouettes always heading westward.

The Society's first Newsletter appeared in 1968. A monthly close-typed page of foolscap, it was written by the Secretary, herself, until May 1972. The Newsletter, the more so because of the steadily increasing membership, would have reported a wider spread of topics, from the Society's "business" and also the social aspects. Society visits to places of interest were to become much-enjoyed occasions. That of 1969, for example, was the first of several arranged by Mr E.W.Parkin. He persuaded owners of old houses in Elham to allow members to see over their homes.

In later years, the 1980s and early '90s, Kit Beal organised eight annual day trips which were each attended by 40 to 50 members and friends. Her choice of destination might be a famous Great House but also lesser known places to study the work of celebrated architects such as Philip Webb at Standens and Benjamin La Strobe at Hammerwood Park. In the mid-1990s these coach trips have been ably maintained by invitations from Douglas Amans to members in conjunction with the Men of Kent and Kentish Men – and their Maids.

Miss Lester and a Civic Society team ran the Household stall for the League of Friends of St Mary's,

Etchinghill, that fondly supported hospital for the elderly, now rationalised out. Committee members were involved, too, with the Old People's Welfare Committee of Hythe but these interests, surviving from the days of middle-class voluntary ministering, were rapidly giving way to other demands, more specific to a Civic Society.

Back to civic "business", the voluntary services of committee member Mr Jeffery Davies, an architect at the Folkestone council offices, proved very valuable again in what was to become Hythe's keenly-felt disagreement about the Small Arms School buildings on Military Road. For the Society, he drew up plans for a residential development which would retain the attractive fronts of the Georgian army buildings. Mr John F.H.Davies mounted an impressive photographic display for the Society's proposal. Hythe Borough Council, however, was trying hard to replace the job availability which was about to be lost to the town when the Small Arms School moved to Warminster School of Infantry and that once pre-eminent job provider alongside, Mackeson's Brewery, was to close for ever. The Society view is recalled by Christine Lester:

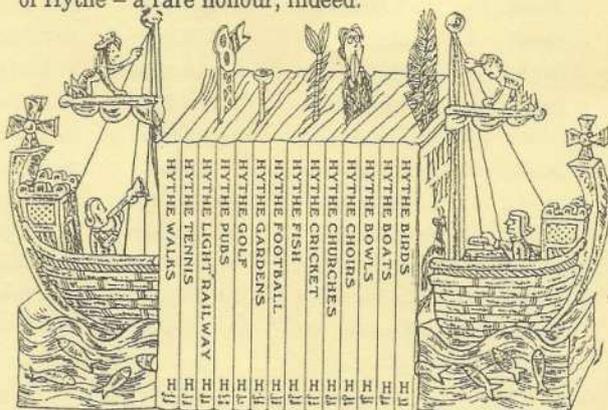
Dominating all else was the campaign to save the Hythe School of Infantry premises. This unique set of historic buildings could have been of great value to the town – Hay and Halliday, the two Georgian buildings, could each have become twenty-two flats, the Guardhouse a museum of Napoleonic history and the Mess a community centre, all very conveniently and centrally placed. The case for the preservation of these listed buildings went to a public enquiry and had much valuable support including that of the Duke of Wellington whose letter to Col. Drake-Brockman was produced, and that of Lord Clark, who appeared in person as a witness. Nevertheless the case was lost and development went ahead, the plans for which the Society had had no opportunity to see until matters had progressed too far.

Their increasingly sensitive antennae alerted the Civic Society members to several plans for town building developments at this time. Plans for what is now Hermitage Close and the Malthouse and for Whitegates old people's home were accepted relatively calmly. So, too, after initial disagreement over Findlay Court was the residential re-development of the old Brewery site.

Hythe Borough Council had achieved some job restoration with the new Seeboard area offices and maintenance depot on Military Road. And the housing needs in the Folkestone and Hythe Plan had been helped by the building of rented dwellings on the other half of the site – with a satisfying lawn area beside the main road. Down at the sea front the lack of an overall plan still displeased the Civic Society but the Borough Council was determined that, at least, Hythe should have the much-needed

attraction of a swimming pool. For that, however, a new and nearly terminal problem loomed.

The Local Government Act of 1972 was intended to abolish the Borough Council, so that any decision to provide a swimming pool in Hythe would be made by the new District Council, if at all. The Town Clerk, Mr J. Nowell DPA, sensed the urgency and moved very quickly. The swimming pool, which other powers had planned to build elsewhere along the coast, came to Hythe, to the town's lasting benefit. For these and countless other services during his twenty years as Deputy and then Town Clerk, James Nowell had conferred upon him the Honorary Freedom of the Borough of Hythe – a rare honour, indeed.



As the '60s gave way to the '70s there were other modest improvements to leisure life. Hythe and Saltwood Sailing Club built its own clubhouse and dinghy-park on Marine Parade. The Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Light Railway was refurbished to take advantage of the growing international interest in rare steam railways. Above the town, the Sene Valley golf course was created to join in the rapid development of that sport. For cerebral exercise the attractive new Hythe Library had been opened in 1962.

For an interim period the local government District-to-be had a number, 14, but no name. The Society "put forward our resolution on naming the District the *Lathe of Shepway* and our suggestion was brought to the notice of the Boundary Commission". The fundamentally important Local Government Act was effected on 1 April 1974. There had been time to forecast its consequences so that the 1974 Minutes of the Civic Society barely mention it but in nearly all matters of town planning and amenities the THEM became Shepway District Council not the Borough or County. In most matters financial, too, but where the decision still rests with today's Town Council it can be said that Hythe is not currently without funds. The Civic Society's call for a Community Centre, a town grumble since 1945, was in later years to bring this aspect into sharp relief. Electorally, from the new Act Hythe residents became

eligible to be Town or District or County Councillors – or all three at once.

Lt Col Drake-Brockman had, by 1972, led the Civic Society for six years of increasingly strenuous campaigning for conservation. "The Colonel" or "D-B" (be it noted in these days of instant use of forenames that his never was) had also seen a rewarding increase in membership from some 60 to no less than 320 in that time. He and his strong committee had put the Society into a new league. And he wished to hand over.

His going was accepted with regret but it was righted two years later when he was elected President. From 1960, perhaps influenced by Councillor Sanford's great interest, the Mayor of Hythe had been elected President of the Civic Society during his term of office. Some Mayors gave close attention to the appointment and, indeed, Councillor and Mrs Capon presented a handsome shield, the Borough Trophy, which was later named the Civic Society Award. Now, in 1974, it was thought better to have an independent President. This may have echoed the far away decision of Canon Newman to retire as Chairman when the Citizens' Union was thought to be associated with the Church. The Chairman who retired at the AGM after two short and busy years was Arnold Hollinghurst. He and his wife Evelyn were to remain staunch, active friends of the Society.

In spanning fifty years of activity this brief Review is not able to include reference to numerous men and women whose past work, though effectively given to the Society, gained too little lasting recognition. For just one to represent them all, older members might choose Mrs Heather Lovatt who, until her untimely death, contributed so much to the planning and secretarial work of the 1970s.

1973 - 1980 Hythe's Changing Appearance and the Hythe Tree Campaign

The new Chairman in 1974 reflected the interest in their adopted town of senior managers from the new industry and commerce of South-East Kent. Ron Collins was then Technical Director of Letraset at Ashford. He sought to broaden the Society's civic involvement; soon he formed a separate Local History Group and started the now widely known Guided Town Walks, with members as leaders. The Newsletter was given fresh impact by the new editor Dr Michael Fairhead and then his wife Libby.

Today, twenty years on, the editor clears the Newsletter with the Chairman before going to press. Probably Dr Fairhead did not. A year after his Chairman had created new lines of responsibility for the Committee the editor announced, "Following the failure of the functional system we tried to run last year, responsibilities are going to be more traditionally divided". Elsewhere he

wrote of many in Hythe "having a distorted view of us as a collection of elderly fuddy-duddies interested only in blocking the more forward-looking plans for the town". (Newsletter No.1 1975-76) Although asked to keep his publication to one sheet of foolscap, Dr Fairhead hoped to start a Readers' Letters section. "It is my intention to drop this after a trial period if it becomes dominated by old hands". This lese-majesty went with a warm and enthusiastic, occasionally haranguing, style. His half-dozen issues must have stimulated even the fuddy-duddies.

The local newspapers have not provided an easy window for displaying the Civic Society's activities. For one, at least, Press reportage has relied upon angry controversy which is not to the liking of most members: they mistrust this way of handling local issues. During Michael Fairhead's tenure, but almost certainly not of his making, the **Folkestone Herald** and the **Gazette** carried complaints about the Civic Society by its Patron, Albert Costain MP. Then the Committee sent to all HCS members and to the **Herald** a careful and convincing rebuttal of his points, which were to do with the Society's resistance to the demolition of the School of Infantry buildings. But the rebuttal was too long for a keep-it-snappy newspaper.

By 1975 Ron Collins was into the uniquely energetic stride of his seven years as Chairman. He temporarily edited the Newsletter at a later time of need and even managed a long stint as Secretary - all this while Chairman of a Civic Society of now more than 400 members. And all this while holding a senior job in industry.

His creation of the Hythe Tree Campaign yet to come, Ron Collins and the Committee strengthened the activity of the Society in a number of areas. The new Local History Group resumed a stronger identity with exhibition work, a separate series of speakers and individual research into Hythe past. Charles Cuthill began an effective spell in charge of Planning matters and Bertie Woods, while also Treasurer, completed his dedicated work in securing a Citizens' Advice Bureau for Hythe at Oaklands.

"The A259 controversy" in the mid-1970s referred not to the now-proposed link from the South Coast trunk road to the M20 via West Hythe but to Hythe High Street. As the town awaited the construction, after so many years, of the new (A259) Prospect Road the Society debated the need for a partial pedestrianisation of the High Street, when it would be relatively freed from vehicles, and the parallel problem of car-parking. A public meeting was held in November 1976 but the findings appeared to be little influenced by local opinion.

Hindsight in 1995 shows us a microcosm of new road

Hythe Citizens' Union

	CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER
1945-46	Rev E.A.Newman	Mr H.H.Bristow	Mr Firth
1946-47	Rev E.A.Newman	Mr H.H.Bristow	Mr E.T.Jury
1947-48	Gen A.L.Forster	Mr H.H.Bristow	Mr E.T.Jury
1948-49	Gen A.L.Forster	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1949-50	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1950-51	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1951-52	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1952-53	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1953-54	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1954-55	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1955-56	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1956-57	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1957-58	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1958-59	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1959-60	Mrs M.Mallorie	Lt Col B.Moss	Mr E.T.Jury
1960-61	Mr C.T.Sanford	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1961-62	Mr C.T.Sanford	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1962-63	Mr E.S.Booth	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1963-64	Mr E.S.Booth	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1964-65	Mr E.S.Booth	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury

The HCU changed its name
at the Annual General Meeting of 1965 to the
Hythe Civic Society

see the background notes on page 5

progress in Southern England. The Citizens' Union and others in 1946 called for work to begin on the Prospect Road widening, for which the land needed had been "frozen". They had to repeat that call, yet again, thirty years later in 1976. That year the Civic Society also called for a link road from the A259 to the A20 to relieve the towns along the coast from New Romney to Folkestone. Nineteen years later the Public Inquiry into that is now being held. (The new Ashford - Brenzett road, a County Council road, is not being built to meet that need.)

Perhaps as an antidote to such apparently intractable, large problems, there were always individual members working, year-in year-out, on something smaller to enhance the visible and cultural environment. Evelyn Hollinghurst was one such. Troubled about the increasing

Hythe Civic Society

	CHAIRMAN	SECRETARY	TREASURER
1965-66	Lt Col R.F.H.Drake-Brockman	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1966-67	Lt Col R.F.H.Drake-Brockman	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1967-68	Lt Col R.F.H.Drake-Brockman	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1968-69	Lt Col R.F.H.Drake-Brockman	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1969-70	Lt Col R.F.H.Drake-Brockman	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1970-71	Lt Col R.F.H.Drake-Brockman	Miss C.E.Lester	Mr E.T.Jury
1971-72	Lt Col R.F.H.Drake-Brockman	Miss C.E.Lester	Col J.R.Johnson
1972-73	Mr A.Hollinghurst	Mrs E.Hollinghurst	Col J.R.Johnson
1973-74	Mr A.Hollinghurst	Mrs H.Lovatt	Col J.R.Johnson
1974-75	Mr R.B.Collins	Mrs V. Ryves	Col J.R.Johnson
1975-76	Mr R.B.Collins	Mrs C.M.Spinks	Mr B.R.V.Woods
1976-77	Mr R.B.Collins	Mrs C.M.Spinks	Mr B.R.V.Woods
1977-78	Mr R.B.Collins	THE CHAIRMAN!	Mrs E.Allan
1979-80	Mr R.B.Collins	Mrs K.Godding	Mrs E.Allan
1980-81	Mr R.B.Collins	Mrs K.Godding	Mrs E.Allan
1981-82	Mr A.G.Stirk	Mrs K.Godding	Mrs E.Allan
1982-83	Mr A.G.Stirk	Mrs K.Godding	Mr J.A.Winterton
1983-84	Mr A.G.Stirk	Mrs K.Godding	Mr J.A.Winterton
1984-85	Mr A.G.Stirk	Mrs K.Godding	Mr J.A.Winterton
1985	Mr J.W.Sutton	Mrs K.Godding	Mr J.A.Winterton
1985-86	Mr J.W.Sutton	Mrs K.Godding	Mr J.A.Winterton
1985-86	Mr J.W.Sutton	Mrs M.Green	Mr J.A.Winterton
1987-88	Mrs K.M.Beal	Mrs M.Green	Mr J.A.Winterton
1988-89	Mrs K.M.Beal	Mrs M.Green	Mr J.A.Winterton
1989-90	Mrs K.M.Beal	Mrs M.Jenkins	Mr J.A.Winterton
1990-91	Mr R.H.H.Stokes	Mrs E.M.Portch	Mr J.A.Winterton
1991-92	Mr R.H.H.Stokes	Mrs A.M.Bilsland	Mr G.Everett
1992-93	Mr R.H.H.Stokes	Mrs A.M.Bilsland	Mr G.Everett
1993-94	Mr R.H.H.Stokes	Mrs A.M.Bilsland	Mr G.Everett
1994-95	Mr R.H.H.Stokes	Mrs A.M.Bilsland	Mr G.Everett

burden of upkeep of Listed Buildings in private ownership, she found help from Albert Costain MP. She had a long meeting of instruction with the right Principal in the Department of the Environment, who then read through her wise and practical pamphlet of advice before it was issued to members with their Newsletter (No.2 1976-77).

Archive records, and beauty, and just fun were all found in those years by the Society's current President, John Davies. With his cheerful co-producers he found time from his business to create the audio-visual series on the Rivers of Kent. **The Kentish Stour** was shown to a Civic Society audience in September 1977 and since then, with other rivers, has been seen continually all over East Kent. (The writer's introduction to

its peaceful charm was in The PPL International boardroom at Ashford which is beside the Stour). Because of the skill shown twenty years ago, to view the **Rivers** today only adds nostalgia to the unfading enjoyment.

On the Planning front, by 1977 the Civic Society was gaining better communication with the infant Shepway District Council which resulted in some well-received decisions on the Hythe Town Centre Plan. Helpful talks were given by such as Messrs Cheyney and Thorpe, the town's award-winning architect partners

The next year was the 700th Anniversary of the charter given to Hythe by King Edward the First. It was celebrated by the Society with the active work of Tony Amess and his Local History Group in mounting an appropriate exhibition. Returning to our Elizabeth II days, Seeboard issued an invitation, an olive branch, to the Civic Society Committee. A visit to the new electricity headquarters on Military Road included the ceremonial planting of a tree, in which the hosts' latter-day opponent, Lt Col Drake-Brockman, took part as the Civic Society's President. Perhaps that friendly September evening was the end of a short but distinct era in Hythe's many centuries of development.

In the mid-1970s, along the Military Canal north bank and Ladies Walk, the magnificent elm trees, 160 years old and 80 feet high, became, all at one time, victims of the Dutch Elm disease sweeping across Britain. The consequences were to occupy Ron Collins, as Chairman and as founder of the Hythe Tree Campaign, for many years to come. The town's trees had been causing some private concern for a while but it was that startling disappearance of the elm crowns, green above the rooftops, which was to shock Hythe people into recognition of the problem.

District Council landscape funds were tightly stretched by the felling and clearing of the huge trees right through from West Hythe to Seabrook. The Civic Society established a tree fund, an exhibition was held, and the townsfolk responded magnificently. The full story, which gained national interest, was told later in the Civic Trust journal **Heritage Outlook** of July 1985 and in the **Arboricultural Journal** by Shepway's tree officer Morris Rollinson – who gave the campaign unflagging practical support. The people of Hythe and local organisations raised no less than £15,500 in the first four years for new trees. A **Tree Record** was made by Ron Collins for the donors' names and the plantings by Shepway workers. Volunteers from the Tree Committee carried out the year-on-year surveying and helped with the maintenance of

Campaign trees, from West Hythe to Tanners Hill and Horn Street and Seabrook.

Many other changes were in the air in Hythe around 1980. The Prospect Road widening was at last done, much less drastically than the early plans thanks to local opposition. Housing developments at Turnpike Camp on London Road, initially planned too densely, and at Reachfields and on Seabrook Road gained approval from the Society. The South Eastern Gas Board's plan for industrial or caravanning development on its land by West Parade was successfully opposed. The new town centre supermarket plan had, however, gained a warm welcome. During all these watchdog duties the gentle tradition of providing a good programme of general talks continued, at this time arranged by John Sutton.

At the AGM in May 1981 Ron Collins gave up the Chairmanship after what Christine Lester summarises as "*an exceedingly active seven years and much generosity to the Society*".

1981 - 1991 Gaining from Many Skills and Working Them Hard

Unless there is a crisis, the Honorary Treasurer of a voluntary society is best when seen regularly, smiling but unheard. This office has to be the voice of complaint that subscriptions, the main source of income, are not enough and that expenses are too much. At the AGM in 1980 the income and expenditure were only about equal at the £700 level with subscriptions bringing in less than £600. This very low level of operating would not be manageable if there were to be a sudden call for even small emergencies, let alone for expensive legal counsel to fight a campaign.

In 1980 Jack Winterton had arrived for eleven years' labour at the books. With good humour and persistence he was able to build up a fund for which the high interest rates of that decade hedged against inflation. His last report, at the AGM in 1991, showed an accumulated fund now able to meet urgent demands. A presentation was made to him by a relieved and grateful Society to which he responded by winning another increase in the annual subscription, to see his successor started.

A last spurt before handing over the baton has the greatest value for voluntary teams. In 1982 Miss Muriel Sharp, who was then elected a Vice-President, handed over the task of distributing the Newsletter after sixteen years. For eight years, she had been membership secretary, too. In her last year as Distributor she organised the collection of members' subscriptions by the Newsletter distributors. Committee members and Mr Ames, whose shop had been

for so long a receipt-of-custom, helped where necessary. This lightened a vexatious chore for the Treasurer but also significantly helped to maintain individuals in membership.

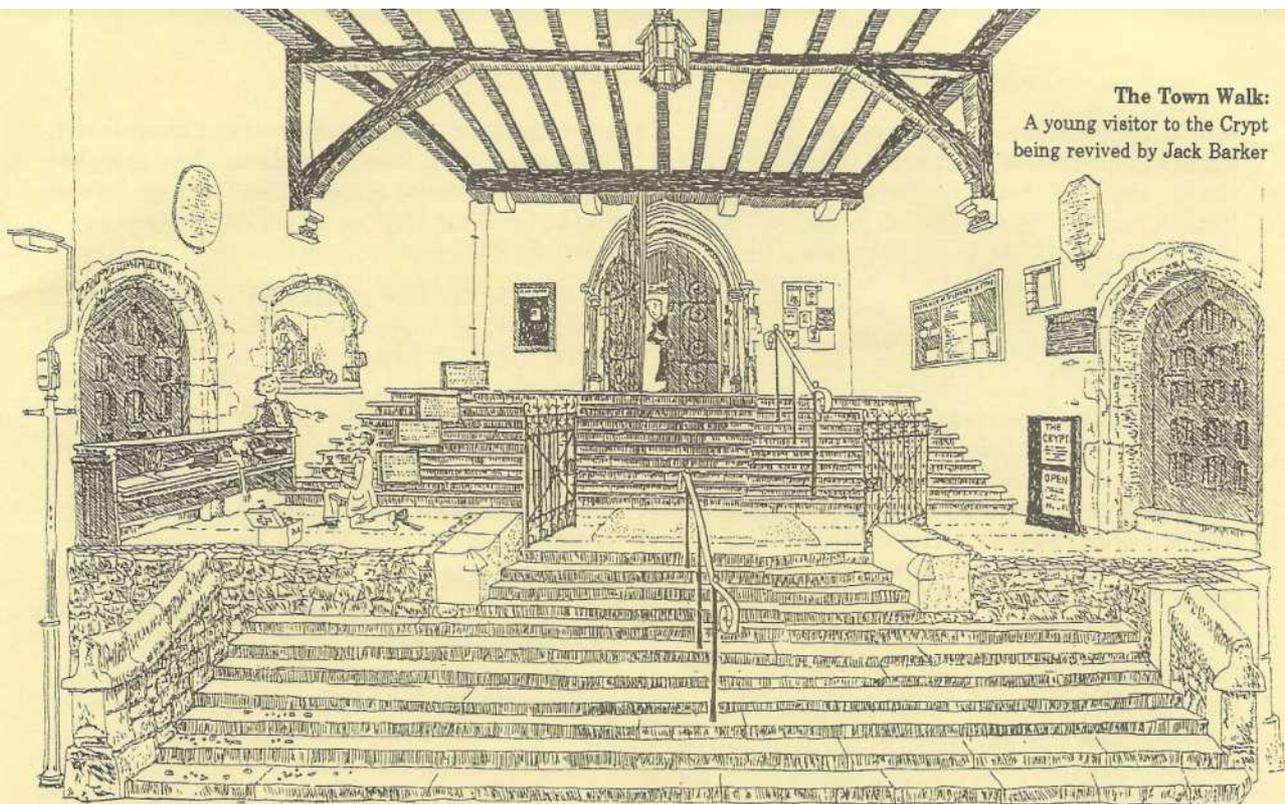
Membership numbers had risen rapidly in the late 1970s. From the acclaimed 320 in 1972 the total cruised past the 500 mark in 1976; as always windfalls of new names were enrolled during the Society's exhibitions. Since 1980 membership has remained generally above 600. The experience among other societies of a savage fall-out of members has been kept at bay. In the late 1970s it was minuted that 60 new members were required each year for the total to "stand still". In the three years to 1994 a much lower 42 enrolments each year would have achieved it. Despite the fierce recession at that time, only a small net reduction of 8 per annum was experienced - to a total still of 611 members.

Through Alan Stirk's reign as Chairman, May 1981 to summer 1985, the regular flow of planning applications (monitored by Charles Cuthill) and amenities shortcomings (John Sutton) continued to occupy members and the Committee. But two relatively large projects loomed which were both akin to the Chairman's experience as Chief Executive of the Kent River Authority.

The Hythe Sewage Disposal Scheme was a major new undertaking in advance of which many protagonists and experts lined up differently on the various topics. It was to be a number of years (1988) before the new systems of piping, treatment and then releasing from the long sea-outfall were completed. After the early representations, however, the site for the pumping station and covered tanks was moved to the west end of Range Road and, another early proposal, a storm sewage outfall at Seabrook was abandoned by the Southern Water Authority.

In those days increasingly loud rumbling thunder was heard from that most contentious subject, pedestrianisation of Hythe High Street. However, the Society's planners were themselves more concerned with the future of Princes Parade. The project, to become known as Hythe Marina but incorporating nearly 600 dwellings, was given skilled attention by Alan Stirk until long after he had handed on the Chairmanship to John Sutton. When a postal referendum was carried out for Society members the return of 76 votes in favour of "Port Hythe" and only 16 against reflected the general view prevailing even before some important modifications had been won from the developers.

Guided Town Walks by the Civic Society had been arranged for some years by 1985 and have continued for ten more, being currently under Sally Chesters. Every year there has been a call for more members to help as Guides but somehow the organisers have coped, with the



The Town Walk:
A young visitor to the Crypt
being revived by Jack Barker

aid of stalwarts with deep knowledge of Hythe and St Leonard's Church, Jack Barker and John Pearson among them.

In the 1980s John Sutton gave particular attention to this friendly service to townspeople and tourists. The leaflet written by Lt Col Forbes to accompany the walks has helped greatly and also contributed to Society funds. Duncan Forbes, between extensive foreign travel and writing spells, has helped the Local History Group, and in 1995 is Chairman of it. Since 1981 his definitive book of the town **Hythe Haven** has commanded strong readership.

More distant environmental concerns began to demand attention in the mid-1980s such as West Wood, Lyminge and the first attempt to build a holiday centre in it. The Channel Tunnel, of course, was seen from the outset as a dramatically huge development to respond to. However, rather like the M20 and the proposed high-speed Channel Tunnel railway across Saltwood parish, these colossi of planning applications are almost too much for a town society. It became usual for societies to comment via their affiliation to national organisations such as the Council for the Protection of Rural England or, on broad strategy matters, the County Council.

In earlier years contact meetings had been held with neighbouring societies similar to our own but, outside the town, this was not often fruitful and for local matters the link which became most used, often effectively, was that with the Town and District Councils. For the mammoth projects such as the Channel Tunnel it was found that good work could be done with Councils in

mitigating the immediate problems of construction traffic or local pollution.

In complete and splendid contrast to these environmental concerns came, in June 1986, the opening of Brockhill Country Park. Stretching from the doorstep of the town at London Road to Brockhill Lake and Slaybrook, this development by Kent County Council has proved to be a delight and a significant permanent asset for Saltwood and Hythe and for visitors from afar. An added benefit was that it removed uncertainty about the future of Brockhill valley land, thus ensuring for Hythe a close perimeter of countryside from The Roughs right round to Shorncliffe. The green valley of the Saltwood stream reaches in to only 500 metres from the Town Hall. At the innermost point, Newington Meadows, building applications have several times been refused by the planning authority.

Hythe - Living History was the title of a new and most successful exhibition at the Town Hall in the summer of 1986. Master-minded by the Civic Society, it invited all the town's organisations to take part in a show of their present skills and their histories. Perhaps the most talked about exhibit was the art of Tony Amess. Ten of his prints were bought by the Civic Society for future display.

Kit Beal, then the Newsletter editor, commented that the exhibition confirmed "a rather special feature of Hythe, the way so many people and organisations come together to support a co-operative venture." That is still so, witness the High Street Fairs organised by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Venetian Fete

with its 15-20,000 paying spectators, and the Mayor's Hythe Festival Week begun in 1994. How strange, therefore, that Hythe, having lost its Institute and its large Church Hall in the 1960s has been unable yet to build its own Community Centre. From 1988 Civic Society interest was renewed. Soon a working group would begin beavering away at this unmet need as a campaign for it was re-started by a few Councillors.

In that working group was to be Fred Jones ARIBA who had given earlier help with monitoring planning applications for such as Blythe Court at the old 'Ritz roundabout' site, the new Hythe United Reformed Church and the re-building proposal for its old High Street site. In 1987 he took over the Local History Group. He found it not an easy task – like others before him and since.

Finding continually strong support for historical research work in this ancient town, with its now nationally recognised Local History Room, has proved strangely elusive. Certainly when long-time Society members review the leaders – Ron Lewis, Tony Amess, Fred Jones, Tim Lawrence, Duncan Forbes, Maurice Young and Denise Rayner – it can only be agreed that the quarry has been stalked in many guises. Fortunately, interest is on the up again in 1995, including members helping the Town Archivist. And, continuously, audiences are numbered in scores for the speakers which the Local History Group invites to seven of each year's Society talks.

For more than 25 consecutive years Hythe Civic Society has maintained a programme of high calibre. Nowadays, with fourteen talks in each September-to-April season, the audiences number 60 to 100 in the welcoming venue of the United Reformed Church. The subjects – local, national and international – differ widely but for each topic, and for our own organisers down the years, the need is the same: to find the best and then ensure a fuss-free evening in which to enjoy with the audience the excellent rapport of a 'live' occasion. Although entirely run by volunteers of the Society, this annual programme, like the summer season of Guided Town Walks, has become a dependable civic asset for Hythe.

At the AGM in May 1989 Kit Beal, now Chairman, gave out the results of an official Town Poll responded to by some 1,300 citizens on the question of "Does the Town Still Need a Community Centre?" The weak majority in favour, 4-to-3, was seen by members as a travesty, the subject having become loudly identified with breaking covenants and building on the Town Green; which latter was voted

against by 3-to-1. The Town Council was hampered by wanting to build on its own – and free – land near the town centre. The next suggestion was for a site between the Cricket Ground and the recreation fields at Wakefield Walk.

The Civic Society, very unusually, urged its members to collect a town petition against this location and, in 1991, a list of nearly 900 names was handed to the Mayor. Despite this mass-vote approach the Town Council valued the Civic Society's co-operation and this led to the Society issuing a questionnaire for future users of the Centre. Responses from 42 organisations were collated to provide a well-based set of proposals for the Council.

More years of effort would yet be needed for this major Hythe project. An enjoyable spin-off, meanwhile, was for the sub-committee members to do research around Kent looking at community centres and lunching at country pubs discovered by John Davies during his river forays. Ann Bilsland was a member, freed from her duties as Honorary Secretary to the Society.

The Secretary's deeds and Minute-writing remain faithfully anonymous. Down the years the unrelenting calls on the longer-servers such as Christine Lester, Kath Godding, Mary Green and Ann Bilsland have known little public awareness. With over 600 members and an Executive Committee of up to 15, the Secretary is General Staff and Information Centre in one. An important aspect has been the everyday liaison with Oaklands and the Civic Centre. The whole job, it seems, is just manageable – attempts to separate the parts have failed – and it must bring frequently a sort of reward beyond its modest honorarium.

1992 – 1995 To-day's Big Issues

By 1992, with Ronald Stokes as Chairman, the present Committee Members were mostly in place. Jack Adams was still sagely among them after a spell of five years as Vice-Chairman. A newcomer, Geoffrey Redfern brought his long civic experience to Planning. Betty Comyn continued to represent the Society with Age Concern. The bi-monthly Newsletter, under Geoffrey Roberts, had been restored to four pages, occasionally six, to allow fuller reasoning of the Committee's proposals or actions on behalf of members and to carry more of a spread of news and comment. Twenty-four volunteers, currently organised by Colin and Monica Ellis, give vital help as distributors to their fellow-members.

First, at the social level, the New Year issue reported that at the Christmas Dinner the Hythe Civic Society Award had been won by that most felicitous act of restoration, The Water Mill, the home of members Tony and Anne Marston. That evening, also, the achievement

Hythe Civic Society Award 1985
Cheyney & Thorpe's Tramway Stables

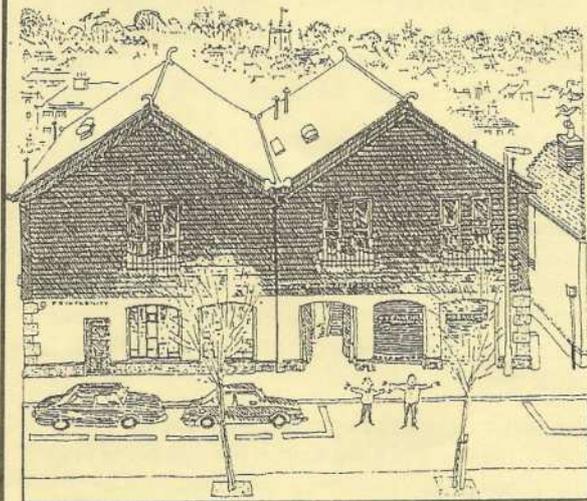
of the Hythe Tree Restoration Campaign appeal was marked by a presentation to Ron Collins for his work throughout twelve years. It had resulted in the extraordinary benefit to Hythe of a vista of handsome young trees on public land across the town.

While the Newsletter tracked the progress of other visible improvements in the town such as at the Scanlon and Duke's Head bridges and the Town Hall facelift, it found itself concerned more closely than ever with the High Street "pedestrian priority" scheme. That wording, not "traffic-free", described the unworkable mix of delivery lorries, priority cars and walkers first experimented with by Kent County Council in 1992 after the earlier Shepway failure. Michael Howard MP, then Secretary of State for the Environment, was one of those outspokenly opposed to the decision "made by people sitting in Maidstone". Nearly 100 members attended an emergency meeting to agree the Civic Society stance.

The years-long debate, and a totally changed two year traffic experiment, continued with a reducing level of acrimony, until late in 1994. The Society, through the Chairman, Ronald Stokes, was represented on the KCC Advisory Liaison Panel and by this and every other means members helped materially in gaining to-day's Traffic Regulation. This is at least much better than the first proposal and is seen by many as an acceptable compromise.

In the continuing liaison with the District and Town Councils the improvement of the newly-named Town Square (owned by Shepway) seemed a promising District proposal to incorporate with the new traffic system. That idea has lost out to the expenditure on Victorian street lights for the Town Conservation Area – an unsolicited gift of, as yet, uncertain reception. The High Street, as with nearly all small towns in England, has a sorry dearth now of shops with a range of staple goods. Valiant efforts from Chambers of Commerce and Industry and town centre managers have not reversed the trend. In Hythe this diminishment became further apparent, despite the strongest protests from the Civic Society and many others, in the downgrading of the Post Office from purpose-built premises to half a shop.

In different vein, during 1994, the Society brought to reality a long-nurtured wish to add to civic enjoyment by publishing members' writing. Design and printing techniques since the microchip have revolutionised the industry and aid small ventures. Written to celebrate its 200th Anniversary, Denise Rayner's story of **The Town Hall of Hythe** appeared. Her entertaining account was complemented by illustrations from Rufus Segar, another member. Local craftsmen and companies were also commissioned for Geoffrey Roberts' *Hythe Walking* which caught the growing interest of Hythe people in the town and its hinterland of today. At least two more



productions are in the hands of Hilda Scarth's publications committee.

Other long-standing ambitions now also have stronger potential. In 1993, the date September 23rd was "a milestone" in the words of Councillor Baxter who was leading Town Councillors' efforts towards a Hythe Community Centre. A site had been found to lease on Shepway's Prospect Road car park and the Town Council had £500,000 from earlier land sales to put towards the project. Since then there have been frustrating delays, and 1995 may yet see further changes. Meanwhile The Civic Society sub-committee may be able to reactivate its liaison with the Hythe organisations which first responded to its questionnaire three years ago.

Land for building upon, currently, has none of the financial excitement of the 1980s but the subject became much alive in 1994 at the Eaton Lands and Tracts to the west of Tanners Hill. The Town Council withdrew its intention to allow building of "affordable" housing on the 10 acres near to Hillcrest Road. The decision was influenced, perhaps, by the dramatic appeal of the Society's Patron, Lord Deedes, whose father sold the lands to the Eaton Lands Trust who passed their responsibilities to Hythe Borough Councillors in 1939. But the long-term future is not yet clear. The Civic Society, from 1989, had decided that the original Shepway Development Brief should not be resisted as a planning proposal but noted the need for clarification of the trustees' powers.

At Princes Parade, the Seabrook seafront, the proposal for a Hythe Marina was withdrawn early in 1995. This was, not least, because of the Department of National Heritage wanting to preserve the Royal Military Canal, now a scheduled monument. The future of the Canal and the land alongside at Seabrook, which

Shepway owns, will exercise the minds of councillors, residents and developers for a long while yet. The welcome new coast defence groynes and new shingle will probably not alter the parameters of their study.

Very near Hythe town centre, but on a much smaller scale, the Civic Society was an eager donor to Hythe Cricket Club last year when it set out to secure the freehold of the Ground. The neighbouring South Road recreation field belongs to the Town Council. In earlier years part of this area was sold for building the neo-Georgian residences off Twiss Road but today Council thinking favours keeping the remaining two-thirds for public use.

The national, indeed European, recession of 1991 – 1994 caused a big drop in the number of property planning applications for the Committee to consider. But there was a new, compelling, reason to think of the Civic Centre and County Hall. The Local Government Commission proposed to abolish the County Council. As a possible outcome, in Hythe's case, a merger was proposed of Shepway District with Ashford Borough as a unitary authority.

This year the Government provisionally concluded, after all, that there should be no overall change in Kent to the structure laboriously put into place after the 1972 Act. On Kent's Thames-side, however, local changes may yet be made. The fact that a costly, irrational reorganisation of the whole county was not, in the end, made was due to sane consultation patiently conducted and carefully responded to by the likes of the Civic Society all over Kent.

And how may this Review of the First 50 Years of Hythe Civic Society be concluded? Soon the review will have become an historic archive.

Our archivist, Maurice Young, understands well the passage of time when he writes:

"Let us hope that the continuing interest in the affairs of the Civic Society will protect what has been achieved in the past and that its members will be ensured of a favourable and peaceful future."

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Hythe Civic Society Award Winners

1975

Carriage Trade

1976

Portex Ltd

1977

Bayle Pottery

1978

The King's Head

1979

Hythe Town Council

Local History Room at Oaklands

1980

Alleman Ltd

International Stores

1981

W.G.Garrard & Co

Blue Shield Insurance

1982

Sutherland House

1983

P.Rumley

143 & 143a High Street

1984

Nicola's San Marco

1985

Cheney & Thorpe

Tramway Stables

1986

no award

1987

United Reformed Church

1988

Hythe Tree Campaign

1989

Mr S.H.Wood of Harry Wood & Son

Pork Butchers, 67 High Street

1990

Mr D.Dodd, DVL Properties

Tile House, Mount Street

1991

Mr & Mrs Marston

The Water Mill, Mill Lane

1992

Drs Foster, Lefevre & Montgomery

& Mr D. Irwin

Surgery, 116 High Street

1993

Hawkins Baker Design / Douglas Estates

6 & 8 Bank Street

1994

Colin A.Morgan & Co

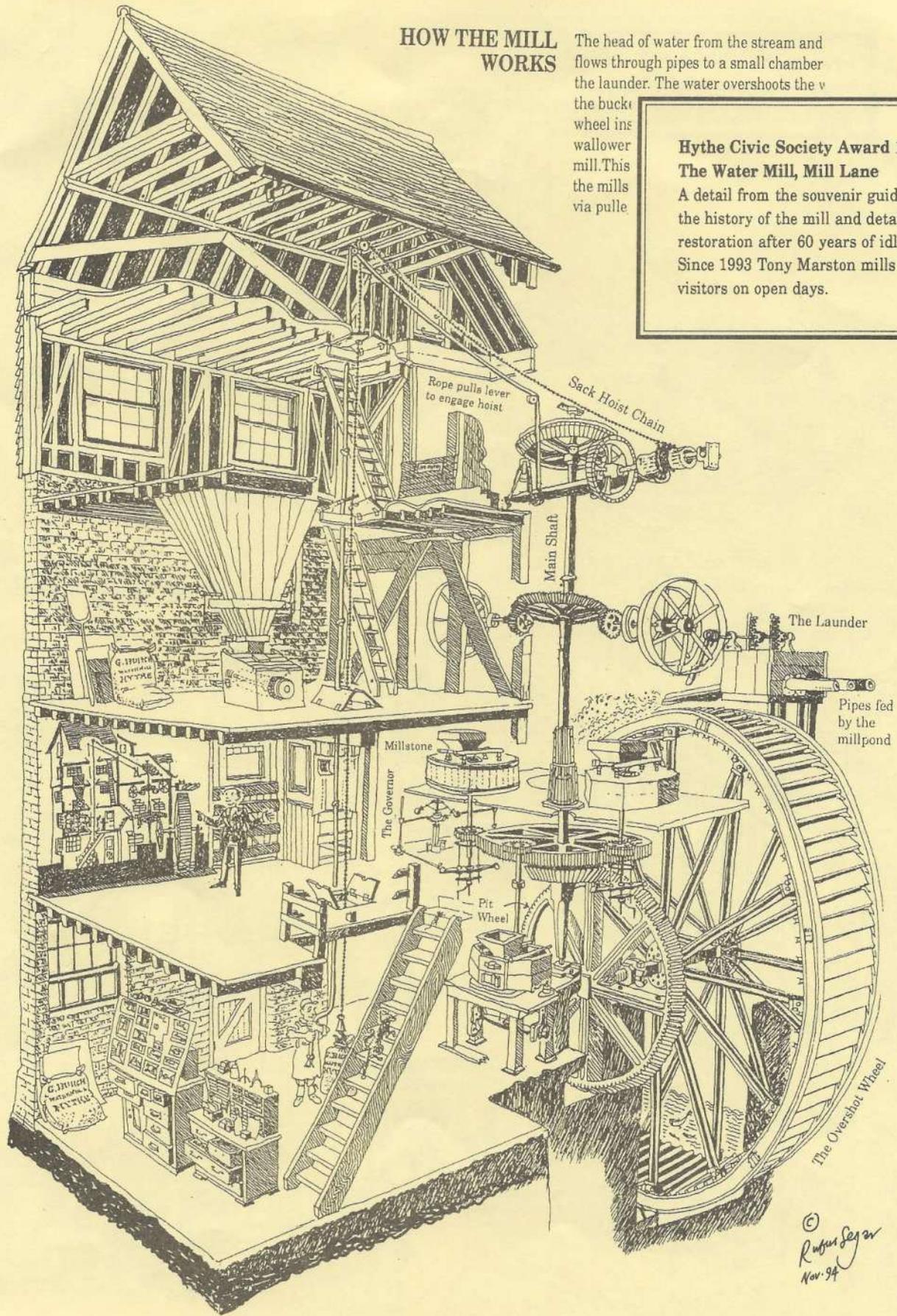
84 Stade Street

HOW THE MILL WORKS

The head of water from the stream and flows through pipes to a small chamber the launder. The water overshoots the v the buck wheel ins wallower mill. This the mills via pulle

**Hythe Civic Society Award 1991
The Water Mill, Mill Lane**

A detail from the souvenir guide giving the history of the mill and details of its restoration after 60 years of idleness. Since 1993 Tony Marston mills flour for visitors on open days.



Edited by Geoffrey Roberts
Designed and drawn by Rufus Segar
with contributions from Christine Lester and Maurice Young

