

Don Hyde tribute



When the Hythe Local History Society was formed in 2014 one of the projects embarked upon was oral history. The intention was to record and preserve the memories and details of a selection of older Hythe inhabitants for future generations.

We were delighted when Don Hyde agreed to be our first subject, John Osborne (Chairman) and myself and friends spent two very enjoyable sessions talking, listening to and recording Don's many and varied memories. Don was born on 4th November 1923 in Stotfold, Bedfordshire. When he was 6 years old the family moved to 21, Ormond Road, Hythe where Don continued to live all his life.

Don started his education in Hythe and went on to the Harvey Grammar School. He played the usual sports but always had a very special love of cricket, which was eventually to take him on to play for Hythe Green. Don delighted many with his humorous after dinner speeches at Cricket Club dinners.

On 25th August 1942 when Don was just 18 years old, he volunteered for the Royal Engineers. He shared many of his army memories with us and fortunately we were able to record his voice while he reminisced down the years. In the mid-sixties Don joined what was then Portland Plastics (now Smiths Medical International Ltd) and he retired from there in 1989.

Sadly, Don Hyde passed away on 8th May 2015 which was the 70th anniversary of V.E. day. Even though Don was the last surviving member of his family the chapel was full at his funeral on Thursday 4th June. That says so much about the man. Those who knew and loved Don will not forget him and the Hythe Local History Society will enable his memories to live on and be available for all to share in the future.

Alethea Lester

9th June 2015