

IN PROGRESS

Hythe in Bloom

Established in 2004, Hythe in Bloom (HIB) was born as a partnership between the Civic Society and the Hythe Chamber of Commerce – now the Hythe Business and Tourism Association.

With funding provided by SEEDA, concrete planters were purchased by the Society, installed along the High Street and planted with floral displays to provide colour to the town. Thirteen years on, Hythe in Bloom is still going strong. From small beginnings, with just the High Street planters to care for, our area of responsibility has grown to include most of the railing planters in Prospect Road – 33 are provided by HIB, six by SDC. To cover the cost of all the plants and compost for the High Street and the plants, compost and watering in Prospect Road, we receive funding from several quarters – including commercial sponsors and Hythe Town Council.



Back in 2011, we began a programme of daffodil bulb planting and so far we have brought spring colour to Tanners Hill, London Road, Green Lane and St Leonard's churchyard, with lots more planting planned. Also, in 2016 we supported the Rotary Club 'Purple for Polio' campaign by planting 5,000 purple crocus corms in Mackeson Square: they look lovely in the spring!



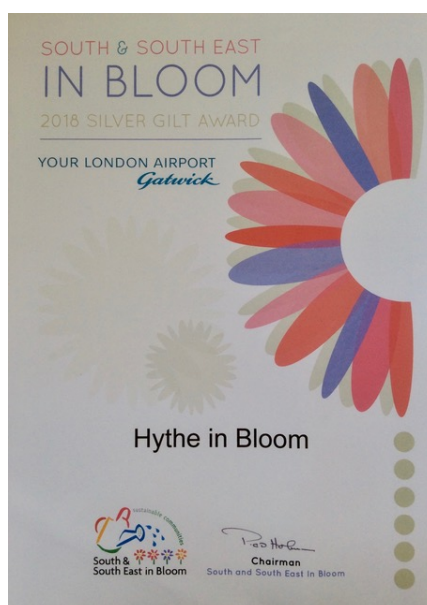
Early in 2017, a number of HIB volunteers joined forces with Saltwood Village Society to form 'The Friends of Sandling Station'. This group has begun work on the flowerbeds at Sandling Junction and the results are clearly visible already! The group has cut back all the overgrown flowerbeds and- with the support of Southeastern - has re-planted with colourful, robust planting.

The key to the success of HIB is the team of volunteers who plant, water and maintain the troughs in the High Street during both the summer, and winter, months and who give up their time throughout the year to carry out other tasks as they arise. Without them HIB could not continue and Hythe would be a far less colourful place. We are always looking for more hands to join us so, if you are interested please contact us.



Hythe in Bloom Wins Award:

In 2018 Hythe in Bloom entered the 'Parishes in Bloom' category of the South & South East in Bloom Competition, the largest horticultural campaign in the region involving hundreds of communities each year. Participating communities create lasting improvements to their local environment for the benefit of those who live, work and visit there. Hythe won a silver-gilt award. Well done, team!



St. Leonard's Churchyard

For several years, the listed ragstone wall to the western boundary of the churchyard had been in a very poor state of repair to the extent that a hole had appeared which was in danger of growing larger and ever more expensive to remedy. Having persuaded SDC to make good the damage to the wall, a group of volunteers – numbering close to thirty individuals – set about smartening up the rest of the churchyard. Since it is 'closed', it is the responsibility of SDC to keep the area in order but over several years, despite their best efforts, it had become heavily overgrown with weeds and brambles and the trees required considerable pruning to bring everything back to a manageable level.

The work was carried out by volunteers from the Society and from St Leonard's Church congregation with support from Colin Homewood, Andy Dartnall, Roger May, Stephen Bailey Landscaping and Veolia.

Over the past six years a regular programme of work has continued both on the churchyard grounds and, thanks to the skills of three volunteer stone masons – Colin, Andy and Roger - restoring many damaged headstones, various areas of damage to the walls, and installing new gates to the North Road entrance. To complete the transformation, the railings have been stripped and repainted by individuals from the Community Payback scheme with work completed by Society members.



2011



2017

We continue the work with regular 'tidy-up sessions', so do come and join us!

Interpretation board for Mackeson Square

Having completed virtually all the work on Mackeson Square (see 'Completed Projects'), it remains only to install an interpretation board highlighting the importance to the town of the Mackeson Brewery. Work is now in progress.

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We continue to look for worthwhile projects to enhance our town and its amenities so, if you have any ideas, we would be delighted to hear from you.

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