

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### Trees and planting

Ever since the decimation of Hythe's tree stock by Dutch Elm Disease in the 1970s, Hythe Civic Society has taken a pro-active interest in the management of Hythe's trees. Ron Collins, HCS chairman at that time, was one of the main organisers of the Hythe Tree Campaign. In 2003 we organised the planting of two Amelanchiers in his memory. Recently we have been working with Shepway District Council's tree officer on the problem of ash die-back in the area.

Over the years, we have arranged for a number of new trees to be planted, some as memorials:

- 2006 an oak to celebrate the appointment of Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Boyce, KG, GCB, OBE, DL as our Patron.
- 2006 a walnut in memory of John Davies, ex-Chairman of HCS.
- 2008 6 field maples and 9 small-leaf limes.
- 2014 a memorial oak.
- 2016 a memorial lilac.

Locations include Eaton Lands, The Grove, Holman's Field, Green Lane and Oaklands.



Lord Boyce's Oak

At the request of Hythe Town Council, we have also planted several new hedgerows (using our reliable team of volunteers) notably at the South Road allotments, at The Grove, at Oaklands and along the fence at Hythe Cricket Club.

## Eaton Lands

We continue to take an active interest in the management of Eaton Lands. Our enthusiastic volunteers have planted more hedgerows, bulbs and whips.



In the middle of the wildflower meadow an oak tree has been planted in memory of H. E. "Bim" Wilson (d. 2005), who was chairman of the now defunct Eaton Lands Preservation Society.

Working with the Hythe Environmental Community Group we have submitted proposals for the planting of a community orchard on the Lands. This is still being progressed.

If you would like to join us in maintaining our trees and plants or would like more information, please contact us.

An unusual visitor to Eaton Lands

## Cycling Matters

The Society has a Sustrans (National Cycle Network) representative who is responsible for monitoring the condition of the section of National Route 2 from Hythe to Old Romney and also their Route 11 from Brookland to the outskirts of Ashford.



We are also represented on the Shepway Cycle Group - a pressure group whose aim is to improve conditions for leisure cyclists within the Shepway area. It is currently working with SDC and KCC Highways Department on the Cinque Ports Cycleway running as far as possible along the coast from Folkestone to Dungeness. Work has recently started on the first phase along the seawall from Folkestone to Battery Point. It is designed to improve the section for both cyclists (particularly for families on bikes) and pedestrians. The second phase from Battery Point along the seawall to St Leonards Road, then through Hythe to the verge on the south side of the A259 and on to the Redoubt, is due to commence in early 2018.

## **Guided Walks for Schools**

The Society has a group of six trained guides who lead the guided walks around Old Hythe during the summer months, and it was one of these gentlemen whose idea it was to offer walks to local schools. As a Society we are, of course, keen to engage with youngsters in the local community and it is hoped that, if our offer is accepted, their interest in and respect for the fabric and history of our town will be enhanced. This project is still in the planning stages.

## **Talks to care homes and those in sheltered accommodation**

The guide who came up with the idea for schools also suggested that Town Walk guides could give talks, or 'A virtual tour of Hythe', to residents of care homes and those in sheltered accommodation and, at the same time, encourage residents to talk about their memories of Hythe.

As well as providing an interesting evening for those who are not able attend our regular talks, such an exercise could yield valuable information for our History Group and assist in their research.

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