

Issue 5

October 2010

We're delighted to announce we now have two new publications to add to the HRS Shop! Books 2 and 3 of the Arcade Series are now available to buy at Splash, Ryde Stamp Shop, and Collectors' Haven, in the arcade. Book 2 is called Ryde Art Treasures Exhibition 1881 - 1882. Prompted by Tony's purchase of the catalogue of this amazing exhibition, Diana trawled through the local newspapers of the time, and discovered what a fantastic event this was! Held to raise funds for the Ryde School of Art, which at the time was heavily in debt, the exhibition ran for an extended five weeks, and over 14000 people went through the doors of Ryde Town Hall, to view, what was acknowledged at the time, a once in a lifetime event. The logistics of arranging and looking after such an exhibition today are mind-boggling!

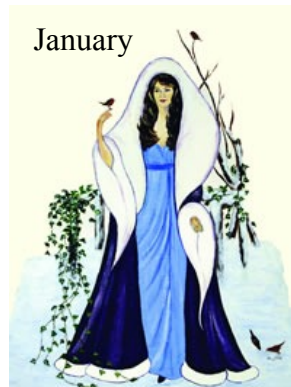


This image from the London Illustrated News shows Princess Beatrice and the Mayor of Ryde, Benjamin Barrow, at the opening of the Ryde Fine Art Exhibition, December, 1881.

Book 3 introduces Damon Corr, one of our members, and a Ryde fireman. Damon was driven to investigate the story of Colin Weeks, also a Ryde fireman, whose war diary he found at the Fire Station. As he read more, Damon decided this was a story worth telling to a wider audience, and his book, 'And the nightingales sang', is on sale at the same outlets as above. All books, and cards can also be bought from the website, with postage added. Please just send your requirements to Claire or Diana via the website.

The Rotunda Images are complete!

The twelve images for the rotunda ceiling are now finished, and we are in the process of creating the vinyl panels which will go up in the arcade. The artists are: January - Martie Cain, February - Lisa Robinson, March - Jeff Please, April - Jan Rossetti, May - Rai Barker, June - Wendy Watkins, July - Marcia Mence, August - Loraine Payn, September - Sarah Combes, October - Lynne Phillips, November - Ben Spurling, December - Ann Stuart. They have been photographed and sent to be reproduced on vinyl. The rotunda panels are very surprisingly, nearly 5 feet high, and the paintings will be increased to that size. Then we will hire a cherry-picker or something similar, for the installation. If anyone has a cherry-picker, or knows someone who does, please shout now!



These are the images for January through to April, painted by Martie, Lisa, Jeff and Jan. These images will be reproduced as cards and a perpetual calendar, which we hope will boost profits for the society. We are so lucky to have so many talented artists on board.

May



June



July



August



May, June, July and August, painted by Rai, Wendy, Marcia and Loraine. There will be biographical details about each of the twelve artists on boards around the fountain area in the rotunda. This means that as everyone is looking up at the images, they will be able to read about the inspiration these talented folk used to create these wonderful designs.

September



October



November



December



These last four are September, October, November and December, painted by Sarah - a portrait of her beautiful eldest daughter, Alice, Lynne - Miss Plenty!- (this image has caused many a fluttering of the heart amongst the male members of the committee!) - November, by Ben, and December by Ann.

We're thrilled that 27 local businesses and individuals have agreed to sponsor these images, and are confident that they will bring increased footfall into the arcade and benefit the whole community. We are delighted that Rai and Lisa, who both have shops in the arcade, have painted two of the images, and Glad Rags and Collectors' Haven have sponsored the paintings. The other sponsors are: Annuity Direct, Attraction, Casati House, Chic Antique, Chocolate Apothecary, Patricia Coombes, Depth, Eve Designs, Framers, Gibbs and Gurnell, Cllr Brian Harris, Mayor of Ryde, 2010-2011, I Love Ryde, Jaks, Just Home, Kate and Helen McDonnell, Donald McGill Postcard Museum, Elizabeth Pack, Richwoods Furniture Store, Ryde Business Association, Ryde Lions, Seaward Guest House, Silver Lining, Splash, Wightsight, Zabre. We are also grateful for the support of Ryde Town Council, the Isle of Wight Council, particularly Lee Byrne, and the Heritage Lottery Fund.



For those of you who don't get the Gazette, we had an article in the issue of September 24. Diana was also on hand to photograph the photographer! Jason came and took a photo of Lynne with her painting of October, in front of the arcade. There was a short piece accompanying the picture, telling people a little bit about our plans for the arcade basement and next July, as well as the rotunda images. We will invite all local media to the Grand Opening Ceremony, as well as all members and sponsors. We also plan to invite some Councillors, and perhaps our local MP, Andrew Turner. This is a huge opportunity to do something special and make everyone aware of the quality of what we aim to achieve in the town.

The plans for the weekend next July are taking shape. We have secured the talents of Robert Poulter, who has a model theatre, and who runs workshops for people of all ages. We've invited him to come down from the Wednesday of the previous week and are in arrangements with one of the local schools for him to work with the children. All schools in Ryde have been contacted with basic information about the weekend, as we hope to gather the children together for a concert on the Friday afternoon. Someone has very kindly come forward and offered to stage a Music Hall event for us on the Saturday evening. We just need to find a venue and the audience!! Any ideas gratefully received! The Commodore cinema has agreed that we can use one of their screens on the Sunday evening, which is wonderful.

We're still looking for more people to come forward and offer assistance with all sorts of jobs re the weekend celebrations. If you have a few hours to spare and would be interested in being more involved, please get in touch via Wayne in Framers, or Liz and Lynne in Splash.

We need:

People to co-ordinate the Friday morning events, centred on the Royal Victoria Arcade.

People to liaise with the schools to produce the Friday afternoon concert.

People to confirm and book dates and times of music groups for the whole weekend.

People to organize the film productions for the Sunday evening, and liaise with Ryde Commodore Cinema.

People to design programmes, posters and leaflets.

People who want to dress up and be a part of the event....we need lots of ladies and gentlemen for the Friday morning procession, and strolling actors of all ages for the Saturday and Sunday.

People to advertise and sell the event to the businesses of Ryde, and encourage window dressing competitions etc.

People to drop posters and leaflets around the town.

If any of these take your fancy, or sound like a way of getting to meet new people if you haven't lived in the town for very long - the opportunity presents itself to open doors and get you out into the community! Don't be shy.....

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

For those of you who have internet access, the homepage of the website has been changed and we now have an RSS feed to alert regular visitors to new content on the site. This was the recommendation of our new computer whizz kid, Marius, who Claire and Diana were delighted to welcome on to the website team. Marius is transcribing all the newspaper articles we have put on the gallery pages, so that they will become easily accessible to people with vision problems. Marius says it's also very useful for helping him learning English, as he has recently come to live in Ryde from Romania. I'm not so sure the language of the 19th century journalists is exactly what he requires in the 21st century town of Ryde, however!

Historic Ryde Society would also like to bring to your attention Brading Roman Villa's Winter Lecture Series and some other events being hosted there. The first Winter Lecture is on Wednesday, October 27 at 4.30pm. This will be given by Professor Peter Stone, of the University of Newcastle, and is entitled Catastrophe. Further details below. An exhibition which will be of great local interest opens on Saturday, November 6, and runs for the whole month. This is staged by Ken Hicks, and is entitled Brannon. The exhibition is a sample of original engravings from Brannon's 'Vectis Scenery', which includes many local scenes. Please do try and support the villa in these ventures.

CATASTROPHE

Catastrophe is an exhibition which will be brought to Brading Roman Villa this month. In Iraq, before 2003, nearly 10,000 cultural artefacts were stored in air-raid shelters by staff at the Iraq National Museum. Objects in museums around the country were brought to a central location in Baghdad, where it was thought they would be safer. The most precious items were stored in the vault of the Central Bank.

The United Nations and the Hague Convention are working together to protect the heritage of the country, with limited success.

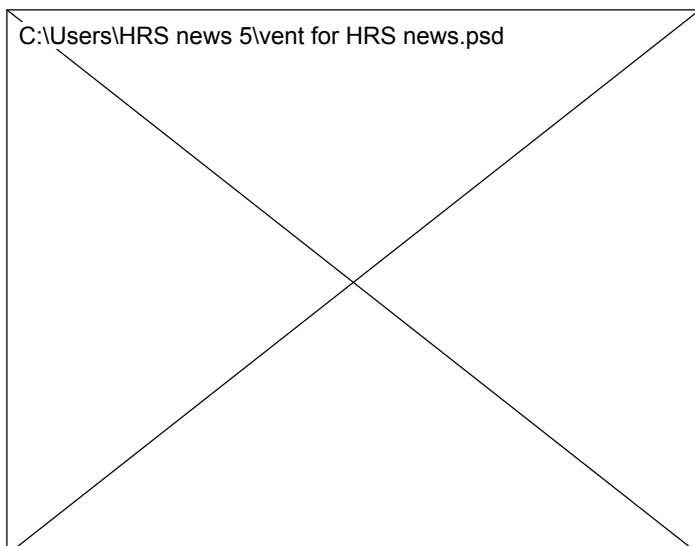
It is now acknowledged that over 12,000 artefacts relating to Iraq's heritage are missing. This exhibition aims to bring to the attention of a wider public the problems being faced by this beleaguered country, now in severe danger of losing its cultural heritage.

On Saturday, October 23rd, Historic Ryde Society has been invited to join with the Isle of Wight Industrial Archaeology Society to have a stand in Bembridge Village Hall to show the Isle of Wight what we have in mind for Ryde. We're delighted to be invited to this event, which will spread the word amongst a different group of people once again.

Patrick Nott, of the IWIAS has a particular interest in Henry Knight, who bought the Royal Victoria Arcade in July 1856, changing its entrance to how we see it today, in the autumn of that year. Henry was a very inventive man. He brought out four patents, and was responsible for the invention of a tin-opener, whose patent he sold to the firm of Crosse and Blackwell in 1880. The photograph shows one of the tin-openers, currently on display at the Guildhall Museum in Newport. Quite often, these tin-openers can be found on ebay.....or have a look in your kitchen cupboards. There may be a few more of them around!



Below is another of Henry's inventions, brought out in the early 1870s, and which proved very popular at the time. Henry's other patents included paint made from sand. Henry exhibited a Fairy fountain in the arcade in the 1860s, which was taken over to Portsmouth to entertain the French troops, and had installed in the arcade for over twenty years, an automatic weighing machine. He is also known to have exhibited a camera obscura in the same building.



UPDATES

At the beginning of October, we had 14 Corporate Members, 18 Family Members and 39 Individual Members.

We have also had a good response to the request for sponsorship for the rotunda images, and have received money from 27 individuals and businesses around Ryde and beyond. The Isle of Wight Council, National Lottery, and Ryde Town Council are also supporting us.

EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

Rotunda Images Celebration - tba

The rotunda images have taken eight months to get to where they are and will be ready to be installed very soon. Once they have been in situ for a couple of days....(just to ensure they're securely in place!)...we will be holding a celebration in the arcade which will be hosted by Roy and Tony, Collectors' Haven.

Thursday October 28 - George Street Centre

Please note new venue - new time!

Full Members' Meeting - 7.00pm Diana and Damon will each present their latest booklets, which will be available for sale @ £3.50. Tea, Coffee and cakes available for a small donation.

Sunday December 5 - Masonic Hall
Antique and Collectors' Fair - 10am - 3.30pm. Seasonal refreshments available. We will have a sales table at the fair.

Friday - Sunday, 1st - 3rd
July, 2011
Royal Victorian Ryde 2011