



## ARCADIA

### The newsletter of **Ryde District Heritage Centre**

Autumn 2014  
Registered Charity Number 1153947

The Autumn finds Historic Ryde Society as busy as ever! At the end of August, Historic Ryde Society had a stall at St John's Station, as part of the 150th anniversary of railways on the Isle of Wight. A very windy day, we nevertheless sold £50 of merchandise, so well worth while.

The image below shows the stall at St John's Station. As a result of this day, Historic Ryde Society was invited to have a stall at the Classic Car Rally in September, which also went very well. The image shows Claire and Sheila manning the stall. It was so windy again, the banner had to be tied to the railings behind!



September was a busy month for group visits to the Heritage Centre. Members of the Vectis Military Historical Association, Ryde Rotary Club and an Island branch of the Red Hat Society all enjoyed visits to the Centre.

The September Members' talk was David Slade's fascinating 'The Ship that hunted itself'. Almost 100 years ago to the very day, in September 1914, HMS Carmania and SMS Cap Trafalgar engaged in battle, each disguised as the other.



Tony and Tony were delighted to hand the reins of quizmaster over to Chris Ody for the September quiz, which made a welcome change for them. Many thanks to Chris for his hard work. If anyone else feels moved to take on the role of Guest Quizmaster, please get in touch!

Historic Ryde Society would like to thank Lesley Ford very much for her hard work organising the Summer Breeze Disco Night at Ryde Town Club, which raised funds for Breast Cancer Care and Historic Ryde Society. Thanks also to Marius, Sheila and Diana for giving up their evening to man the door and sell the raffle tickets. Unsure how to explain the meaning of 'Burlesque' to Marius, who hails from Romania, once he actually watched the demonstration, Diana didn't see him for the rest of the evening! It was quite an eye-opener for him...



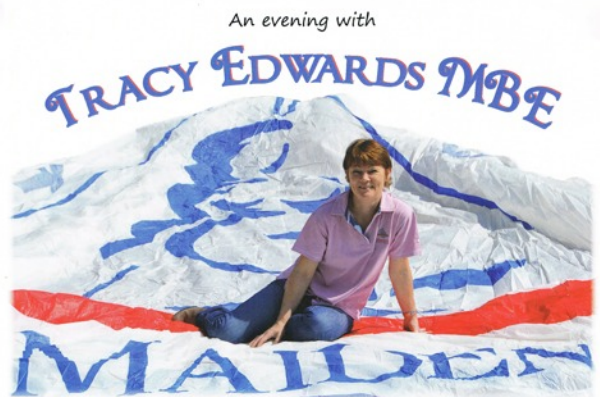
The October talk was an extra event arranged to allow Bob Wealthy to deliver the talk postponed due to dreadful weather in February. Following a recent plug in The County Press, which obviously helped, over 70 people turned up for the evening, which amazed both the volunteers and Yelf's staff, as more and more people came through the door. Historic Ryde Society is very grateful to Yelf's, who give the use of the dining room free of charge, but it's always good to know so many people are also buying drinks at the bar on these occasions, bringing extra business to the hotel.



The media frenzy of the summer was renewed this month when the Society was approached by the BBC Countryfile programme. This resulted in Tony and Vic being interviewed by Matt Baker. It will air on November 2.

In the 25th anniversary year of the successful Round the World trip of the first all-female crew, skipper Tracy Edwards MBE successfully launched an appeal to bring yacht Maiden back to the UK. It is hoped she will be refitted and used for charity events around the country.

As a result of the appeal, Tracy has agreed to be the after dinner speaker at an event to be held at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club, Fishbourne - next to the Wightlink Ferry Terminal - on November 22. Full details below. This event will raise money for Historic Ryde Society and Breast Cancer Care.



3 Course Dinner at Royal Victoria Yacht Club  
£39 per person

Saturday 22nd November 6.30pm for 7.00pm

Dress code: Jacket & Tie

Musical Entertainment by the  
Phoenix Duo & Berno Inferno

Tickets available from:

Splash, 57 Union Street, Ryde - Tel: 616257  
Harwoods, The Square, Yarmouth - Tel: 760258

Bembridge Sailing Club, Embankment Road, Bembridge - Tel: 872237

Pascall Atkey & Son Ltd, 29-30 High Street, Cowes - Tel: 292381

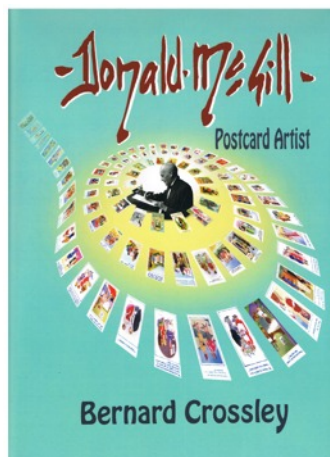
Royal Victoria Yacht Club, 91 Fishbourne Lane, Ryde - Tel: 882325

Raising funds for Historic Ryde Society and Breast Cancer Care



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A new book about the life and times of Donald McGill has recently been published. By long time McGill authority, Bernard Crossley, it is hoped to have a Ryde launch and book-signing at the Heritage Centre on the evening of Tuesday, November 18. Further details will be sent out to the Membership and the media in due course.



Historic Ryde Society is still looking for someone to help out with admin tasks and with the newsletter. If anyone is interested in either of these posts, please get in touch via the Centre, on 01983 717435. Thanks very much.

## Dates for the Diary

November 12 - Members' talk - Martin Simpson - The Fossil Man. Yelf's Hotel, 7pm.

November 22 - An evening with Tracy Edwards MBE - details on page 3.

November 27 - pub quiz - Yelf's hotel, 7pm. £3 a head - raffle as usual.

November 30 - Antique and Collectors' Fair Masonic Hall, John Street.

December 18 - pub quiz as above.

January 21 - Members' talk - details to follow.

February AGM - details to follow.

March 17 - Members' talk - Roger Whitby-Smith - details to follow.

May 20 - Open talk - details to follow.

July 21 - Open talk - Angela Buckley - Chair of the Society of Genealogists and HRS member - details to follow.

September 23 - Members' talk - details to follow.

November 17 - Members' talk - details to follow.

Raffle prizes are always needed, so please don't throw anything away if you have something which may be a useful prize!

Historic Ryde Society - Patron Lady Lucinda Lambton  
President: Gioia Minghella - Giddens

HRS Board of Trustees: Autumn 2014

Chair: Brian Harris

Treasurer: Tony Packer

Members: Alan Brading, Martin Jenkins, Claire Kay, John King, Peter Lawrence, Vic Scovell, Derek Tomlinson, Ron Watts

Derek is the Volunteer Co-ordinator. He can be contacted via:  
[volunteercoordinator@historicroydesociety.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@historicroydesociety.com)

Judith Lazell is the Youth/School liaison person. She can be contacted via:  
[schoolscoordinator@historicroydesociety.com](mailto:schoolscoordinator@historicroydesociety.com)

Registered Charity No: 1153947

If you would like to contact anyone on the committee, please email  
[admin@HistoricRydeSociety.com](mailto:admin@HistoricRydeSociety.com)

As a change from previous years, there will be two extra talks this year, for which there will be a blanket charge of £5 for all who wish to attend. This is in an attempt to raise more funds for the Society, to enable the new fire escape to come to fruition. Once in place, work can begin on the radio displays and the ice well rooms. One of these talks will be by Angela Buckley, who recently joined Historic Ryde Society. She is going to talk in July about 'The Real Sherlock Holmes' - Meet Jerome Caminada, a Victorian Super-Sleuth'.

### Membership Update:

Membership now runs on a rolling basis. Members receive free entry to Ryde District Heritage Centre, four talks, four newsletters and 10% discount on Hovertravel. Well worth the money! As of Autumn 2014, HRS has 181 Individual, Family and Corporate members.

Historic Ryde Society, creators of the Ryde District Heritage Centre, Royal Victoria Arcade,  
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