



ARCADIA

The newsletter of
Ryde District Heritage Centre

July 2011

Royal Victorian Ryde 2011 got off to a wonderful start with Town Crier Steve King leading Shires Bob and Jeff, from Windmill Farm down the High Street to the Royal Victoria Arcade. Liz Jones, Vice Chairman of HRS is on the right of the picture.



The weekend was a celebration of the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Arcade, and Historic Ryde Society was delighted to welcome Lady Lucinda Lambton, the great-great-great granddaughter of Lord Lambton, who laid the foundation stone of this iconic building, in May, 1835. The children of Fiveways and Greenmount also joined in the celebration, as did members of HRS, and invited guests, including the Rev. Brian Fessey, and Andrew Turner MP. Rhea Campbell-Smith thrilled all with her amazing portrayal of the young Queen Victoria, and HRS would like to thank Sally and her team from Masqueryde, for her beautiful dress. The committee was delighted that our two Heritage Lottery officers, Emily and Chrissy, were able to join us for the launch of the HLF project.



After a champagne reception in the newly-refurbished centre, Andrew Turner cut the ribbon and Ryde District Heritage Centre was officially opened! IW Heritage Officer Lee Byrne was very pleased with what HRS has achieved. Lucinda then addressed the assembled company.



What they didn't know, was that the floor of the centre was still being vacuumed at 11.30 am, and Diana got some green paint on her hand when cleaning behind the back door. The fact the paint was still wet is proof of the hard work by Wight Construction, to enable the ceremony to go ahead on schedule.

The weather was glorious, and the weekend greatly increased the profile of Historic Ryde Society. Some of the audiences were a little disappointing, (where were ***you?***), but all were extremely enthusiastic, and the committee was encouraged by the tremendous turnout for the second evening of the Old Time Music Hall. Lynne's Ghostwalks, and The Magical History tours on the Old Girl belonging to Southern Vectis, were also very popular, and HRS is grateful to Graham Pearce for getting the flyers to the bus with less than 10 minutes to spare! HRS would like to thank Annie, of the Black Sheep, for hosting Robert Poulter's New Model Theatre on Friday evening and throughout Saturday. This was another amazing show, and a few lucky souls thoroughly enjoyed his work. Michelangelo's sponsored Mike Parker, an internationally renowned harpist, to appear at Garfield Road Methodist Church on Saturday afternoon. Mike thrilled the audience with a potted history of the harp over the last 1000 years, and ended the concert with a performance of 'I've got a ticket to ride', on his latest 'toy' - an electric harp!



The photoboards Lynne and Brian made proved very popular over the weekend, and Lynne has now been commissioned to produce one to go to London in December. Roving theatre, Morris Dancers, Antique Fair, Street Organ - all combined to make this weekend a wonderful event for the town. HRS would like to extend thanks to all volunteers who helped out with Front of house, and who stepped into the breach with less than ten minutes' notice! In all, nearly thirty volunteers came forward to help with the event, which is a wonderful indictment of the interest in what HRS hopes to achieve in Ryde. Thanks to all.



Many thanks to Gloria, and Lesley and her team for a wonderful finale to the weekend, in the Gala Screening of Young Victoria. Michael Maloney, aka 'Sir Robert Peel', was a delight, and the evening passed off very well.

On Saturday, 9th July, twenty-four volunteers gathered in Michelangelo's to celebrate the success of the weekend. Wayne mentioned everyone by name and detailed how each had contributed to the Society in general, and the weekend, in particular. He highlighted how well the committee works as a team, and how lucky we all are to have gained so many new friends over the course of the last two years. The success of the Ryde District Heritage Centre now rests with these people and the people of Ryde. Please go out and encourage all friends and family to support this very worthwhile cause!

