



ARCADIA

The newsletter of Ryde District Heritage Centre

July 2013

The Ice Well Fund

The school room has seen four successful art exhibitions over the last few months, all in different styles. The next artist will be in residence from the beginning of September. Below is a part of the last exhibition, by HRS member, Marcia Mence.



A display of images of 'Summertime in Ryde' has now been installed. These images include many carnival images, to celebrate the 125th Ryde Carnival, which will take place in August 2013, and the anniversary of the Waterside Pool.

The Isle of Wight Heritage Service is kindly loaning a large selection of Masonic photographs, taken by arcade photographer, Charles Knight. This will form the major part of a short exhibition to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the East Medina Lodge in Ryde.

HRS is pleased to have been invited to be involved in Ryde Arts Festival 2013. Items have been loaned for display in St Thomas' Heritage Centre over the first week of July, and an exciting project to record 'a capella' singing from the well has gone.....well!!! A copy will be given to the Centre soon.

The first target of £1000 has now been passed, and we're forging ahead with plans for the well and the adjacent room. Work to clean the walls, remove flaking plaster, and rotten timber has begun. Sponsorship of bricks, parts of the pier planks, and the stairs is well established, but another opportunity has now been added. The upright posts of the railings on Ryde Pier feature starfish, snails and flowers....how many of you have never noticed? Wightlink has kindly agreed that HRS can advertise 'sponsorship' of these uprights, for £10 a post. Although no names will be added to the pier itself, there will be a list of donors in the Heritage Centre, and people will be able to walk along the pier to see 'their' post.



The fund received a surprise but welcome boost on midsummer's day. A visitor from the mainland, who visits the Island once a year, and who had visited the Centre last year, came in to see what changes had been made over the year. On hearing of the Ice Well Fund, he handed over £100 as his contribution! We need more visitors like him!

Funding

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the HLF grant application was unsuccessful. Several other grant funding bodies have been approached and we're delighted to announce a donation of £2000 from the Daisie Rich Trust, which is based on the Isle of Wight. More applications are being written on an ongoing basis to groups such as The Georgian Society.

The main drive at present is to establish the rarity of the ice well.

In the 'bible' of ice house information: The Ice Houses of Britain, Beamon and Roaf, 1990, out of 2099 ice houses and wells listed, only two are noted as being an integral part of a building. One of these is near Northallerton, 11ft by 8ft, with a barrel vaulted ceiling of 5ft 6in, and with steps leading to the floor of the well. A hotel in the 1980s, when the well was used as a beer cellar, it has now apparently reverted to a private residence. The second was in the basement of The Royal Hotel, Plymouth, bombed, burned down or demolished circa 1940. Different sources quote differing events, with the same result: the building no longer exists.

This leads us to believe that the ice well uncovered last October could be unique in the British Isles.

The dimensions appear to be almost identical to that formerly in the hotel in Plymouth. The brickwork is in perfect condition, with only the wooden doors missing.

If anyone has any contacts in the world of journalism, or the media in general, we need national coverage to establish whether there are any more out there! If the well turns out to be unique, that may lead to new opportunities for funding.

The New Website

Thanks to webmistress, Claire Kay, the new-look website is now up and running. It may not appear very different, but it's a very much simpler programme for those involved in adding pages and images to the site. If anyone is interested in learning more about how to add pages and images, please get in touch, as help is always appreciated!



The photoboards which were painted by Lynne Gregory Phillips from ideas taken from the Donald McGill postcards, have proved to be a great success! The first three were done for the Royal Victorian Ryde weekend in July 2011. A fourth is currently being produced, following a request from Ben Leal, of Appley Café. Ben will take two of the boards with him for his café pitch at Bestival, this September.

Brian Harris, the mastermind behind the physical construction of the boards, has screwed a bucket on to the foot of each board, including the one on the pier following a report from Wightlink staff of how popular they are. In total, the boards have now raised £550 for the funds!

Thanks also to Ryde Mayor Wayne Whittle and his staff for displaying them at Delicious and Wimpy cafés.

Easyfundraising - a gentle reminder of how everyone with access to the internet, who buys items online can help... If you sign up to easyfundraising, or use easysearch as a search engine, you can raise funds for Historic Ryde Society with no extra cost to yourself. There is a link to the page on the HRS homepage, and over 2000 online shops take part. So far, 31 members have raised £214.48. Please consider helping out in this way, as we all know that 'Every little helps'... Each search undertaken using easysearch raises 0.5p.



Some of you may have read of this year's success in the **Community Action Awards**. HRS went one better than last year, and won the Arts and Heritage Category, which came with a certificate and a cheque for £250. This award is sponsored by Wightlink, and the cheque was presented by Kerry Jackson, of Wightlink. The photograph, taken by the County Press photographer, shows Tony, John, Molly, Alan and Brian in the Heritage Centre. The judges for this year's awards were Mike Bulpitt, of Community Action Isle of Wight, Deputy Lieutenant David Longford, and County Press Managing Director, Robin Freeman. All were very complimentary about the Centre and totally amazed by the ice well.

The monthly **pub quizzes**, held on the last Thursday of the month in Yelf's, are continuing to boost the coffers. HRS is very grateful to Yelf's for allowing us to hold these events, and the quarterly talks, free of charge.

The May quiz was sponsored by Barclays Bank. This was the busiest quiz so far, and 90 enthusiasts helped us to raise £400, which will be match-funded and which will go towards the Ice Well fund.

If you know of any other groups or businesses which may be interested in sponsoring one of the monthly quizzes, please get in touch via the website or the Heritage Centre.

Another recent event in Yelf's was the Bricazumble. This raised £220 on the day, but this has since been increased to over £300, as items donated have been sold on eBay and in the community. Many thanks to Liz and Christian for their ongoing hard work to increase the takings!

As well as the events advertised on page 4, there are others in the pipeline over the next few months. On Friday, July 19, you may see some Victorians wandering around the town. Please feel free to stop and chat to them.

More musical events are planned, with details to follow in due course. Historic Ryde Society is also taking part in the main Ryde Carnival procession on Saturday, August 17, the exact 125th anniversary of the original Ryde Carnival. If you would like to dress up and be a part of the HRS entry, please get in touch with Liz, at Splash, Union Street. Don't worry if you don't have your own costume, as something can be arranged for you.

Membership Update

Membership runs from February to February. Members receive free entry to Ryde District Heritage Centre, four talks, four newsletters and 10% discount on Hovertravel. Well worth the money!

As of July 2013, HRS has:
Individual Members - 70
Family Memberships 48
Corporate Memberships - 16

County Archivist Richard Smout will lead three House History Workshops annually, in Ryde District Heritage Centre, from 7pm to 9pm. This is a very popular course, and places are limited, so please book early, to avoid disappointment, on 01983 717435. The next course will take place on September 25.

Dates for the Diary

July 7 - Antique and Collectors' Fair
Masonic Hall, John St. 10 - 3:30 75p

July 19 - Victorian Strollers around
Ryde town centre.

July 25 - pub quiz Yelf's Hotel 7pm
£3 a head. Raffle as usual.

August 17 - Ryde Carnival procession

August 29 - pub quiz as above.

September 11 - illustrated talk by
Tony Gale. Yelf's 7pm. Members free,
small donation asked from non-
members. Raffle.

September 26 - pub quiz as above.

October 31 - pub quiz as above.

November 13 - Illustrated talk by
Mark Earp, on the history of Ryde.
Yelf's 7pm. Members free,
small donation asked from non-
members. Raffle.

November 28 - pub quiz as above.

December - Antique and Collectors'
Fair as above. Date to follow.

December 26 - pub quiz as above.

HELP!!!!

We're always looking for new volunteers to help man the Heritage Centre, particularly over the summer months, when we'd like to open every day. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare, and thinks they might like to help, please get in touch.

Newsletter: Is there anyone out there who would be willing to help with the newsletter? Please get in touch via RDHC - 01983 717435.

HRS is currently looking for volunteers to help with admin tasks. Please contact as above.

HRS committee: July 2013

Chair: Liz Jones

Vice Chair: Brian Harris

Treasurer: Tony Packer

Secretary: Diana Wood

Members: Alan Brading, Claire Kay, John King, Linda McArdle, Vic Scovell, Ron Watts

Judith Lazell is the Youth/School liaison person.

Linda McArdle is the person who organises group coffee mornings.

If you would like to contact the committee, please email admin@HistoricRydeSociety.com

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