



ARCADIA

The newsletter of Ryde District Heritage Centre

January 2014

Events update

Historic Ryde Society is very grateful to Anna Sacchini of Michelangelo's, who closed the restaurant to enable the staff to come along to the Mystical Mist evening in the Blacksheep Club Lounge on October 13. The event was fully booked, and the audience was enthralled with the sitar and harp recital and duets performed by Anna and Rosie. The evening raised £293 for funds.



Many thanks also to Graham Pearce of Island printers who supplied posters and tickets for this event, and to Lesley for her hard work in helping with this, promoting the event, and attending on the evening. Thanks also to Christian, who acted as doorman for the evening.

Berno Inferno's 70s and 80s disco had to be postponed at the 11th hour, following a complaint from a local resident. The event was rescheduled for October 25, and proved so popular, another has been arranged for the same venue - Ryde Town Club, 8 till midnight - for Saturday, January 18! No excuses now! Get out those flares and boogie on down! Tickets @ £4 available from Liz at Splash, or on the door, on the night.....Be there, or be square!

Fifty-three people attended Mark Earp's illustrated talk on the history of Ryde, which was the November members' meeting. All were delighted with the turnout, which raised over £100 for funds. Thanks to all members and friends who came out to support the Society on yet another successful evening. The programme for next year is not yet finalised, but the first talk will follow the AGM on February 12, when Bob Wealthy will give an illustrated talk on the history of Ryde Airport. The September talk will be 'The Ship that hunted itself' by David Slade. This talk is about the action between HMS Carpania and SMS Cap Trafalgar, September 1914, to fit with WWI centenary.

Historic Ryde Society Chair Liz Jones worked very hard to collect 33 vouchers for the Grand Christmas Voucher Raffle 2013. The raffle was held over the weekend of December 7/8 and raised £252 for funds. Many thanks to all the businesses which contributed to the raffle, and to Erica and Lesley, who did a stalwart job selling tickets in the Arcade.

Liz and Lynne got into the spirit of the Ryde Christmas Extravaganza over the weekend of December 7/8. As well as the voucher raffle, the weekend saw the Antique and Collectors' Fair in the Masonic Hall, John Street, which added another £350 to the funds. Thanks to all the volunteers who helped out on the day, and to Theresa for her wonderful baking!



The December 7/8 weekend also brought the Ryde Business Association grotto into the rotunda basement. Sponsored by Ryde Town Council, the grotto was manned by Francine, as Santa's elf, Sarah and her family as Victorian ladies and Christmas fairy, and an assortment of Father Christmasses - Tony, Vic and Ron. All looked resplendent, and 96 children came to visit over the two weekends of opening. Visitors also included Queen Victoria and retinue, and Ryde mayor, Cllr Wayne Whittle and family.



The Christmas grotto was decorated by Helen Davenport and as well as Francine's wonderful balloon animals, the children were entertained by Barbara Jane Mackie who enthralled them with her story-telling. In several cases, they wanted to listen to the story over and above visiting Father Christmas! Many thanks to the volunteers who did extra duty over this time.

Ryde Castle Hotel re-opening - In late October HRS was delighted to be invited to the official opening of the newly re-furbished Ryde Castle Hotel, following the disastrous fire of March 2012. The event was attended by IW and Ryde Town Councils, IW Chamber of Commerce, Onboard TV, and us! The photograph shows Liz taking a starring role in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



In order to avoid the Christmas rush, volunteers and friends joined for a festive meal at the newly re-opened Ryde Castle Hotel. Thirty-three attended.



On the day after the festive meal, two groups came to visit the Centre. In the morning, we had a coffee morning for a group from the Ryde Lions. Some of the RDHC volunteers are member of the Lions, so the group is already actively involved with the Centre. In the evening, a special opening was arranged for members of the 41 Club, to allow them to tour the Centre and see the Ice well. Tony, Brian, Vic and Diana were then invited to join the Club for their monthly meal at Yelf's where the Club very kindly handed over a cheque for £50.

School visit - Haylands Primary came to visit RDHC as part of their Victorian studies, following on from their first successful visit last autumn. The staff recognised the usefulness of the Heritage Centre in their curriculum, and there has also been interest from other schools on the Island. If you have any connection with local schools, please can you spread the word! School visits are free for staff doing reconnaissance trips, and free for the children's visit.



School visits can be arranged by calling the Centre during opening hours - Tuesdays to Thursdays and Saturdays 11 - 4, on 01983 717435, or admin@historicydesociety.com.

Fundraising for the Centre continues on an ongoing and relentless basis. The monthly pub quizzes, held in Yelf's on the last Thursday of the month, are now well established on the HRS calendar, as are the two Antique and Collectors' Fairs. There are other events in the pipeline, which we hope either yourselves, or friends or family will be able to support. Coming soon are a disco and a ceilidh, so please watch the website, or follow us on Facebook or Twitter, to keep abreast of the latest news re the Centre.

Two evenings coming up on Wednesday, February 26, and Tuesday, March 11, are the very popular House History workshops, led by Richard Smout, of the Isle of Wight Heritage Service. Whilst not fundraisers, as these two workshops are **FREE EVENTS**, they do serve to encourage people to revisit the Centre and make use of the archives available to the public, which are housed here. To book a place on one of these workshops, please call 01983 717435 during Centre opening times. Please be aware that at this time of year there are often staffing issues, due to family commitments and illness. Centre opening times are updated on Facebook and Twitter in the first instance. If you have no internet access, please phone the Centre to check it's open before setting off from home.

A few months ago, following on from the bric-a-brac sale held in the late Spring, it was decided to keep a supply of second-hand books and sell them on behalf of the Ice Well fund. This has added another £100 to the coffers, so please consider donating any old books - or unwanted items which could be put towards the raffles held on an ongoing basis! All will be very gratefully received.

Easyfundraising - again! Over £15 raised since the last newsletter! - 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 £229.07. Please consider helping out in this way, as we all know that 'Every little helps'... Each search undertaken using easysearch raises 0.5p.

Historic Ryde Society is always looking for more volunteers to come and help with many varied tasks involved in the smooth running of Ryde District Heritage Centre. We have over twenty on the regular list, but, as with all things, there are family and work commitments and illness, which constantly means reshuffling the rota to ensure the continued manning of the Centre. If you have even a couple of hours a month to spare, that would be very helpful, so please get in touch via 01983 717435 during opening hours.

Besides manning the Centre, there are many behind-the-scenes administration tasks which need to be kept up to date on a regular basis. If anyone is interested in taking on the editing of the newsletter, we'd be delighted to see you! Are you interested in helping with, or learning more about websites? If so, Historic Ryde Society needs you!!!

Would you be able to take on the vital task of publicity and promotion for the Society? All fundraising would be worthless without this fundamental aspect being in place.... You know where to find us!

Historic Ryde Society's 4th AGM will take place in Yelf's Hotel, Ryde at 19:00 on the evening of Tuesday, February 12, 2014. It will be followed by an illustrated talk on the history of Ryde Airport, by Bob Wealthy, of Solent Marine. Bob is a regular visitor to the Heritage Centre, and introduced Christopher Balfour to the Society over two years ago. (Christopher's father Lionel was responsible for setting up Ryde Airport.) This visit of Christopher's led to the creation of the flightpath area of the Centre, which Christopher was delighted to furnish with photographs and original posters, and also the wooden sign which used to be on Ryde taxi rank.



This image shows one of the original posters advertising Isle of Wight Airways flights from the Island to the South Coast. On the screen can be seen part of the airport footage from the 1930s which was taken by Lionel, a keen amateur photographer and film-maker.

The company was called The Portsmouth, Southsea and Isle of Wight Aviation Company - come along and find out all about it on the 12th of February! Free to all HRS members, a small donation is requested of non-members. All are very welcome.

Two of this year's speakers still need to be finalised, but the September talk will be 'The Ship that hunted itself' - The Action between HMS Carmania and SMS Cap Trafalgar, September 1914. This will be to coincide with the start of the 100th anniversary commemorations of WWI. There will be other events in the Heritage Centre to mark this important anniversary over the course of the next four years. Please follow us on Twitter or Facebook, or go to the website for updates on new displays and exhibitions, as there are many exciting projects coming along!

Dates for the Diary

January 30 - Pub Quiz Yelf's Hotel - 7pm £3
February 12 - AGM and talk on Ryde airport by Bob Wealthy - Yelf's 7pm
February 26 - Free House History workshop. See advertisement below.
February 27 Pub quiz as above.
March 11 - Free House History workshop.
April 9 - Members' talk - details to follow.
April 24- pub quiz as above.
May 29 - pub quiz as above.
June 26 - pub quiz as above.
July - Antique Fair. Details to follow.
July 31- pub quiz as above.
August 28 - pub quiz as above.
September 10 - illustrated talk by David Slade - The Ship that hunted itself. Yelf's 7pm. Members free, small donation asked from non-members. Raffle.
September 25 - Pub quiz as above.
October 30 - pub quiz as above.
November 12 - Members talk - details to follow.
November 27 - pub quiz as above.
November 30 - Antique and Collectors' Fair as above.
December ? To be decided - 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.

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 January 2014, HRS has:
Individual Members - 92
Family Memberships 59
Corporate Memberships - 17

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 courses will take place on February 26 and March 11.

HRS Board of Trustees: January 2014

Chair: Liz Jones

Vice Chair: Brian Harris

Treasurer: Tony Packer

Secretary: Diana Wood

Members: Alan Brading, Claire Kay, John King, Peter Lawrence, Vic Scovell, Ron Watts

Judith Lazell is the

Youth/School liaison person.

Registered Charity No: 1153947

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

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