

ARCADIA

Autumn 2015



ANNUARY EDITION
4th
2011 - 2015

The newsletter of
Ryde District Heritage Centre

Registered Charity Number 1153947

Issue 23

The road to the Queen's Award...



Shires Jeff and Bob pull the carriage.



Then Chair Wayne Jones addresses the company.



Rhea and Gloria Minghella MBE

Out to the undiscovered ends... When Historic Ryde Society launched its HLF project in July 2011, there was little to suggest that less than four years on, the volunteers would win The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2015.

A Ryde Townscape Heritage Initiative grant of £30,000 created the blank canvas. Ryde District Heritage Centre was then established, following a successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, with a grant of £49,300 being made on April 19, 2011. A nerve-wracking few weeks! Thanks to IW Council Conservation Officer Lee Byrne, architect Andrew Laitt of Depth Ltd., and HLF officers Emily and Chrissie for their support and advice throughout.



The new sign goes up.

Like Topsy, the 'blank canvas' then continued to grow...



Sir Peregrine Worsthorne, Lady Sally Grylls and HLF Officers Emily and Chrissie.

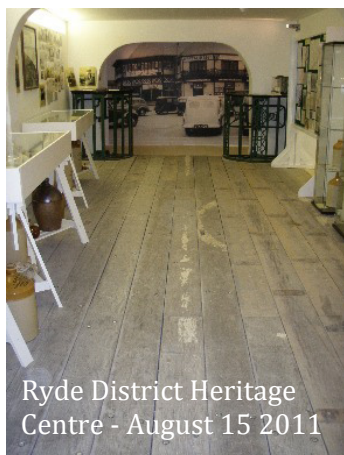


Preparing to watch Young Victoria.

The launch was the culmination of nearly three years of work behind the scenes. Diana presented her talk - 'The Lives and Times of the Royal Victoria Arcade' at Ryde Arts Festival 2009, attracting an audience of 60. She also had a small display in the rotunda of the arcade.

Having met Tony at Ryde History Week in May 2009, and knowing that Liz and Lynne were keen amateur actors, ideas began to form, and in July of that year the first small group met to discuss arrangements for the launch celebration, in 2011. Historic Ryde Society formed in October 2009.

Through further discussions, it was decided to try and establish a Heritage Centre in Ryde, and after considering shop units, and St Thomas' Church, the basement of The Royal Victoria Arcade came into play.



Lynne was in charge of the rotunda images project. Twelve local artists were commissioned to create images of the months of the year, following a contemporary engraving of circa 1840, showing the avenue of the arcade, with a central fountain feature.

The hugely successful photoboards were also made ready for the launch, and to date have brought in nearly £2500!

Since opening on August 15, 2011, HRS volunteers have clocked up around 20,000 hours' work, and welcomed nearly 13,000 visitors to the Centre.

Fundraising is a relentless task, and more volunteers are always welcome! Overheads are around £15,000 annually.



As well as talks and monthly quizzes, Historic Ryde Society welcomes group visits to the Heritage Centre, and has a handling collection and Powerpoint presentations which can be offered to other groups on the Island. Several 'memory trips' have been delivered to residential homes in and around Ryde, and oral history interviews made. If you know of anyone who may be interested in helping, or having one of these sessions arranged for a group, please get in touch via the Centre, on 01983 717435, during opening hours, or email admin@historicrydesociety.com.



'From humble homes and small beginnings,
Out to the undiscovered ends -
There's nothing worth the wear of winning,
But laughter and the love of friends...'

All will agree it hasn't been laughter all the way, but I know we've all made new friends and I hope all will agree the road taken has certainly been worth the end result -
Ryde District Heritage Centre, and
Historic Ryde Society - Queen's Award for
Voluntary Service 2015! Diana Wood

The Real Sherlock Holmes From Ryde to Ryde



Another sell-out event, Angela Buckley's talk about Jerome Caminada, a Victorian super-sleuth and very successful detective whose real life career paralleled that of the fictional Sherlock Holmes.

Angela, who is Chair of the Society of Genealogists kept us enthralled with tales of his history and exploits, went on to answer questions from the audience and also signed copies of her book.

In July we had a lovely visit from Kevin Shaw and Janice Eastment who are committee members of the the Ryde District Historical Society and Family History Study Group from Ryde, Australia which is a suburb of Sydney.

We had a pleasant meeting and exchanged local booklets.



Life and Death on the Mary Rose - with Trevor Sapey of the Mary Rose Trust



**Yelf's Hotel
Wednesday
Sept. 23 - 7pm
Donations welcome**

The only 16th century warship on display in the world, come and learn about this wonderful flagship of Henry VIII, which captured the public imagination when she was raised in 1982. The new museum dedicated to her reunites her with 19000 artefacts and crew.

Party on the Green

On 25th July we supported the Rotary Club of Ryde's Party on the Green which raised nearly £1,000 for their charities.



Dates for the Diary

August 27th - Pub quiz - Yelf's hotel, 7pm - 9.30pm.
£3 a head - raffle as usual.

September 23rd - Trevor Sapey - Life and Death on
The Mary Rose - Yelf's hotel, 7pm - 9.30pm.

September 24th - Pub quiz - Yelf's hotel,
7pm - 9.30pm. £3 a head - raffle as usual.

November 16th - John Medland - The Isle of Wight
Rifles 1915 - Yelf's hotel, 7pm - 9.30pm.

Membership Update

Membership now runs on a rolling basis. Members receive free entry to Ryde District Heritage Centre, Donald McGill Postcard Museum, four talks, four newsletters and 10% discount on Hovertravel.

As of Autumn 2015, HRS has 163 Individual and Family memberships.

Historic Ryde Society currently has over 650 followers on Twitter.

Historic Ryde Society Patron: Lady Lucinda Lambton

President: Gioia Minghella-Giddens

HRS Board of Trustees: Autumn 2015

Chair: Brian Harris, Treasurer: Tony Packer, Secretary: David Newman

Members: Alan Brading, Martin Jenkins, John King, Peter Lawrence, Ron Watts

Peter is the Membership Co-ordinator.

Registered Charity No: 1153947

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

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