



ARCADIA

Spring/Summer 2017



STOP PRESS! STOP PRESS!
We've just got the grant
awarded by "Down To The Coast!"
Details in next issue.

The newsletter of Ryde District Heritage Centre

Registered Charity Number 1153947

Issue 29

Patrick Nott

As many of you will be aware, Patrick Nott, HRS member and former lecturer at the IW College, died last November.

He was extremely interested in all aspects of local history, and wrote the definitive account of the Quaker movement on the Island, a copy of which was presented to us.

Recently the executors of Patrick's estate invited us, along with our friends in Ryde Social Heritage Group, to visit his home to sort through a large amount of paperwork he had bequeathed to be shared between the two societies. He also left substantial sums of money to both us and RSHG - we intend to use ours to progress work within the Tony Packer Room to provide a fitting tribute to him.

Our member Brian Puttock has given his recollections of Patrick:

"I knew Patrick Nott well, as he and I worked at the IW College at the same time for over 20 years, where he was an excellent and respected physics teacher.

"As you are aware, he was an enthusiast on various aspects of local history, but his most important cultural contribution was as the first major biographer of the "father of modern seismology", John Milne. He saved the work of this very important scientist from near-oblivion."

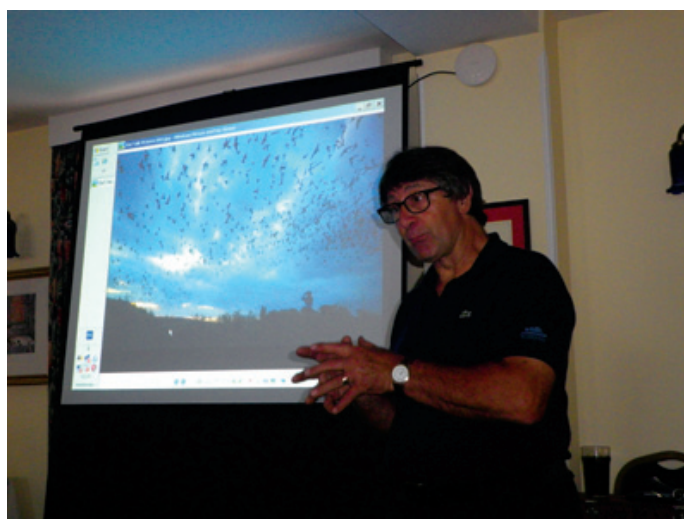


Graham Street's Bat Talk

On Wednesday 14th June, the Island Bat Hospital's Graham Street gave a wonderful talk to a packed audience at Yelf's Hotel in Ryde.



We learnt how bats do a valuable job controlling the insect population and getting rid of mosquitoes in particular, helping to prevent us all getting ill.



Graham brought along a couple of bats to show us, the larger one shown here, and went on to tell us of the excellent work that the bat hospital does in rescuing, healing and releasing bats back to their own habitats, and of the hospital's world-wide connections, sharing information and advice with other bat hospitals and rescuers.

Lifeboats Past, Present and Bembridge



Despite a disappointing turnout on 17th May for Dr. Noel Stimson's talk on Lifeboats - a brilliant talk was given to those who did attend, about the history and development of lifeboats on the island, a fitting tribute to those brave crews who have saved so many lives while risking their own on an almost daily basis.

Isle of Memories



On March 8th Jo Cooper gave us an interesting talk on her memories of growing up in Ryde during the 1950s and 60s, which a lot of our members can relate to, as it was their formative years as well!. A great nostalgic talk was well received by an appreciative audience.

If any members would like to help out at the next Collectors fair on Saturday 23rd September, either manning the door or helping in the kitchen, baking some cakes - or to have a stall - please contact Jerry Bryett on 01983 611375.

200 Years of Shanklin Chine

We were invited to attend the celebrations marking 200 years of Shanklin Chine on 20th April. To celebrate the anniversary, the chine's manager and Lady of the Manor of Shanklin, Anne Springman, and Island geologist and coastal scientist Prof. Robin McInnes have co-authored a new book. Packed with drawings and photographs, the book outlines the history of the chine from its formation until the present day.



From left to right: Ben Rouse, the new High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight (and who has already been booked for the official opening of the Tony Packer Room), Charles Chapman, Chairman, IW County Council, Anne Springman MBE, owner of Shanklin Chine, Major General Martin White CB CBE JP, HM Lord-Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight and Fiona White, Martin's wife.

Collectors Fair

On the 24th June, the fair organised by Jerry Bryett raised £175. Thanks to Gillian Drewett and Brian Harris for manning the kitchen and to Molly Sandle, Jan and Jill for supplying the cakes. The next collectors fair will be on Saturday 23rd September.



John King manning the door and the Masonic Hall entrance



Currently on display at Ryde Heritage Centre...



Servants bell panel made by W & J Woods, Electricians from Ryde.

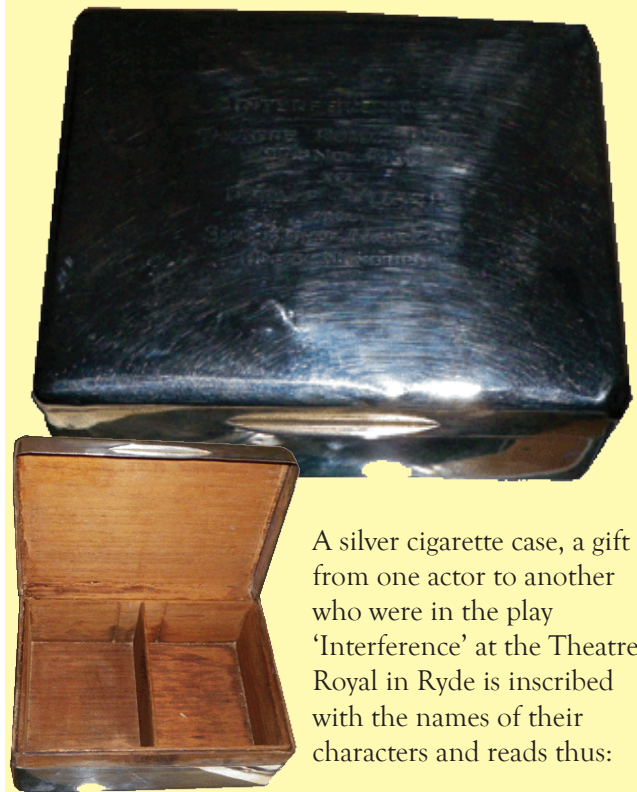


Porters' Badges from the turn of the century when they were licensed by the town council to work from the pier and railway station delivering luggage and goods. Rather like taxi licences today, the badge proved that you were a genuine porter. Licences were renewed annually.



Naafi Tea Pack celebrating 50 years of service in army canteens and catering for the Army from 1945 to 1995.

Does anybody know...?



A silver cigarette case, a gift from one actor to another who were in the play 'Interference' at the Theatre Royal in Ryde is inscribed with the names of their characters and reads thus:

INTERFERENCE
Theatre Royal Ryde
25th November 1935
to Philip Voaze
from
Sir John Marlay
Happy Memories

If anyone can throw light on who the actual actors were then please let us know.



Bus Stop for Ryde Town Centre from Seaview via Puckpool Park, before Southern Vectis.

ISLE OF WIGHT FESTIVAL 2017 Raffle Draw



The Isle of Wight Festival Raffle Draw took place in the Heritage Centre on 6th June, with Ryde Town Crier Steve King pulling out the winning ticket. The draw was won by Mr. Young from Binstead.

Steve King with Brian Harris and the winning ticket.



Day 20th and 21st May

The Rydabus weekend was really all about the buses, and the historic tours of ryde generated a fair amount of interest, sadly not many took up the offer of reduced price to the Heritage Centre, but it was a lovely sunny weekend and passengers enjoyed the buses and came away with a bit more knowledge of Ryde's past. Thanks to Brian Harris and Jo Cooper for manning the buses and providing information and commentary.

Passengers enjoying the ride

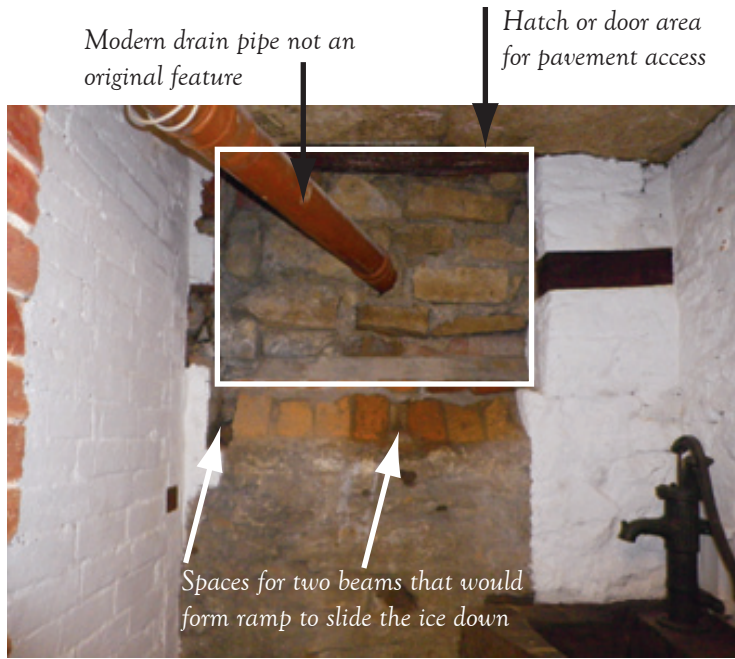


Above: "The Old Girl" at the Victoria Arcade stop, and below with other buses outside the Bus Museum.



Ice Well Pump and Hatch

Jerry and Mike have restored the pump from the Ice Well access corridor on the stone sink that would probably be used to drain excess water from top of the Ice Well, or for cleaning the blocks of ice before they went in to the well. It can clearly be seen how the ice would have been delivered from the street outside.



The Victoria Memorial



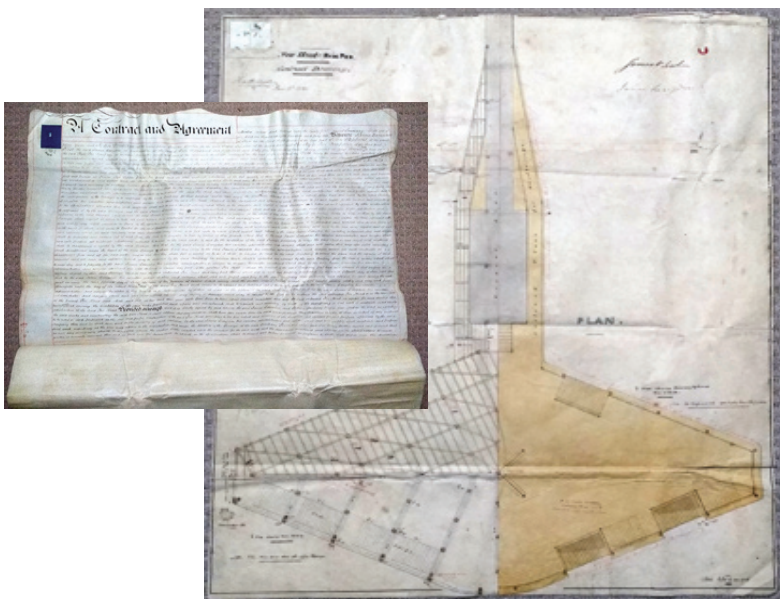
The Victoria Memorial in the square outside the Co-op (off Anglesea Street) used to be the Childrens Entrance from the old Ryde Hospital. The bust of Victoria is a replica - the original has been put on display in St Mary's Hospital at Newport.

A great acquisition for us!

We have been able to lay our hands on the original plans and contract for Ryde Pier c.1840. They are for the diamond-shaped pier head, built on the end of the pier, and are approx. 21" by 28".

The contract is dated 31st January 1840, signed by James Langdon, John Stephens and John Denham for the builders, and J P Lind, Chairman of the Court of Directors for the Ryde Pier Company.

Amongst the specs for types of wood, and wrought and cast iron, are the paint colours: stone for the superstructure and railings, and Brunswick Green for the inside of the passenger shelters.



Dates for the Diary

July 27th - Pub quiz - Yelf's Hotel, 7pm for 7.30 - 9.00pm. £3 a head - raffle as usual.

August 16th - Talk by Ruth Waller on Pig Leg Lane - Yelf's Hotel, 7pm for 7.30 - 9.00pm. £4 for members, and £5 for non-members.

August 31st - Pub quiz - Yelf's Hotel, 7pm for 7.30 - 9.00pm. £3 a head - raffle as usual.

September 23rd - Collectors' Fair - Masonic Hall, John Street, Ryde. 10am - 3.30pm. Free entry.

Membership Update

Membership now runs on a rolling basis. Members receive free entry to Ryde District Heritage Centre, Donald McGill Postcard Museum, 20% discount on talks (a minimum of four a year - six this year), up to four newsletters and 10% discount on Hovertravel.

As of July 2017, HRS has 153 Individual and Family memberships.

We are open all year Monday to Saturday 11am - 4pm, and Sundays in July and August.

If any member can spare a morning 11am - 1.30pm or an afternoon 1.30pm - 4pm to VOLUNTEER a shift at the Heritage Centre, we can really use your help - reception, admin, dusting, whatever you prefer please call in or phone the number below.

You don't have to be rich to make a difference - a gift in your will no matter how small can really help us to keep our Heritage Centre open for future generations.

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

HRS Board of Trustees: July 2017

Vice President: Ron Watts, Chairman: Brian Harris, Vice Chairman: Derek Tomlinson
Treasurer: Joseph O'Driscoll, Secretary: David Newman, Membership/Editor: Peter Lawrence
Trustees: Alan Brading, Gillian Drewett and John King.

Registered Charity No: 1153947

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

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