



ARCADIA

The newsletter of  
**Ryde District Heritage Centre**

Summer 2014  
Registered Charity Number 1153947

Historic Ryde Society has had a very busy summer! A talk by Adrian Searle on Sophie Dawes, and an evening of folk music with Wihtwara was followed by an invitation to display images at the Civic Service 2014. 'Tourism in Ryde' was well received.

**The National Piers Society held its 2014 AGM** at Ryde Castle, acknowledging Ryde Pier's claim to fame as the oldest pier in the country.

Having first contacted Historic Ryde over two years ago, HRS was credited in the Society's new book, British Seaside Piers, which was launched over the weekend. The event was attended by Gyles Brandreth, Timothy West and Prunella Scales, seen below. A marvellous cake, in the shape of Ryde Pier, baked by Island company Petticoats and Frills, was also on show.

HRS members were also invited to attend a talk by Philip Norman, the author of Babycham Night, the story of his childhood on Ryde Pier.



Vic and Tony catch up on the gossip with Philip.  
Below: Ryde Pier 200 cake.



The following day, Historic Ryde hosted the summer Antique and Collectors' Fair at the Masonic Hall. Over £300 was raised for funds, and one of the stallholders proclaimed it the best fair ever! Thanks to Jerry and Tony for their hard work in organising these events.

Ryde Business Association and Wightlink, invited HRS to have a stand at the Party on the Pier, celebrating the 200th anniversary July 27. The stand and photoboard proved very popular, and over that weekend the four boards brought in £130!

The boards have recently been hired for a wedding, and one is due to be taken to a ball in the autumn. Many thanks to Lynne and Brian for creating this steady income stream!



Historic Ryde volunteers Claire and Molly had a busy day at the Party on the Pier event.

A decision was made amongst the Board and the Trustees that it may be a good idea to open one hour earlier over the summer months, to catch early visitors to the arcade. This was put in place, and the earlier opening time will be honoured until the end of September.

It has been a particularly trying summer, with volunteers away and others very busy. Sometimes it has proved hard to keep the Centre open. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare, and thinks they may like to help out during this busy time, please get in touch.

Over the summer months, the Centre is open daily from 10 to 4, with the morning shift from 10 to 1, and the afternoon shift from 1 to 4. Call 01983 717435 for information.

Your Journey  
Into Ryde

Historic Ryde Society  
Registered Charity No. 1153947

The image shows the front cover of a book titled "Your Journey Into Ryde". The title is at the top in large white letters. Below the title is a historical black and white illustration of a coastal town with buildings, trees, and a pier. At the bottom of the cover, there are three smaller photographs: a view of a harbor, a street scene, and another historical illustration. The text "Historic Ryde Society" and "Registered Charity No. 1153947" is printed at the bottom right.

The Community Book project - The new HRS book - Your Journey into Ryde, was published on August 9. It costs £5, and is available from the Heritage Centre, Collectors' Haven, Splash and Framers or via the website. At 32 pages, it takes the reader on three trails around Ryde, pointing out houses and features of historic interest.

Written by HRS members Maurice Fairall, Sally-Ann Garrett, Bob White and Diana Wood, the book is a Beachy Books Community project. Please ask for more information, if you know of a group which may be interested in producing a book.

Historic Ryde Society is delighted to announce that Gioia Minghella has very kindly agreed to step into her mother's shoes and become the President of the Society.

The first event she attended in this capacity was the official opening of the Donald McGill Saucy Seaside Postcard Museum, attended also by members of Donald's family, and invited guests from the Island, as highlighted on the next page.

Gioia feels she'll never do as good a job as Gloria, but we'll see.....

The official opening of the Donald McGill Saucy Seaside Postcard Museum and the IW Rifles and WWI Centenary displays took place on Thursday August 14. The Isle of Wight High Sheriff, Mrs Claire Locke, was welcomed by Ryde Town crier, Steve King, and Historic Ryde Society Chairman, Brian Harris and invited guests. These included Patrick Tumber, Donald McGill's grandson, his great niece, Liz Windsor, and Bernard Crossley, whose new biography of Donald's life and work will be published and launched in the autumn.

Thanks to local IW Rifles enthusiasts, Ryde District Heritage Centre now has a two room IW Rifles and WWI centenary display. If you haven't visited for a while, you're going to see a huge change in the Centre. The displays we hope will remain for the full duration of the WWI Centenary commemorations.

The image shows the party at the top of the stairs, with Cllrs Charles Chapman and Roger Whitby Smith.

Local enthusiast Bernard Wood arrived looking resplendent in his WWI uniform!



The image on the left shows James Bissell-Thomas, (2nd from right) with, from left, Bernard Crossley, the author of the new book, Patrick Tumber, Donald McGill's grandson, and Bernard's wife, Pat. Historic Ryde Society members Sandy Harris, Sally-Ann Garrett, Martin Jenkins, John King and Peter Lawrence also dressed for the occasion as McGill characters. Sally-Ann's costume, which was based on the Mrs Ramsbottom character, was a delight for Donald's great niece Liz, who declared Mrs Ramsbottom her favourite character!

More images can be viewed on the Historic Ryde Society website: <http://www.historicrydesociety.co.uk/mcgill-wwi-displays-open/> and in the gallery pages.

## Dates for the Diary

August 28 - pub quiz Yelf's Hotel, 7pm, £3 a head. Raffle.

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.

September 27 - Summer Breeze Disco Night - Ryde Town Club, 8 till 12.30. Tickets @ £5 from Splash, Masqueryde, or Ryde Town Club

October 30 - pub quiz as above.

November 12 - Members talk - Martin Simpson - details to follow.

November 22 - 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.

The talk on Ryde airport by Bob Wealthy will be rescheduled in due course. Please look on the website and around the town for further details in due course.

Historic Ryde Society has now welcomed two wheelchair visitors to the Heritage Centre, thanks to the installation of the stairlift. Eileen Hobbs came in on July 26, with her friends Ann George and Teresa Feane, from Luton.



## 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 Summer 2014, HRS has 174 Individual, Family and Corporate Memberships.

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

### HRS Board of Trustees: Summer 2014

Chair: Brian Harris

Treasurer: Tony Packer

Members: Alan Brading, Martin Jenkins, Claire Kay, John King, Peter Lawrence, Vic Scovell, Derek Tomlinson, Ron Watts

Derek is the Volunteer Co-ordinator. He can be contacted via:  
[volunteercoordinator@historicrydesociety.com](mailto:volunteercoordinator@historicrydesociety.com)

Judith Lazell is the Youth/School liaison person. She can be contacted via:  
[schoolscoordinator@historicrydesociety.com](mailto:schoolscoordinator@historicrydesociety.com)

Registered Charity No: 1153947

If you would like to contact anyone on the committee, please email  
[admin@HistoricRydeSociety.com](mailto:admin@HistoricRydeSociety.com)

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