

A highly successful 'Recruitment Day' in the Arcade, Saturday, May 29, was the result of a joint effort by many people. We had Magie's wonderful Victorian costumes, the Victorian photographer's studio, with costumes loaned by Sally, from Masqueride, our new cards and the wonderful new banner, which arrived just in the nick of time! Wayne also donated a beautiful photograph of the seafront,



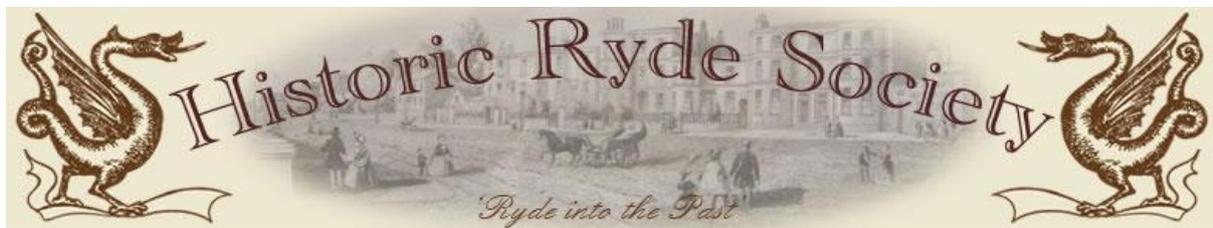
looking west up Pier Street, which made £77 for the raffle. It was won by a local lady. Lynne certainly looked the part! Two families from Ryde jointly won a Family Membership by successfully completing the Children's Quiz, and the cards proved very popular! The total for the day was £180, and we recruited four Individual Members and one Family Membership. A photographer from the County Press arrived, so please look out for a report in

next Friday's issue! Huge thanks and well done to everyone involved - hopefully all our fund-raising events will be as successful!



This is Erica and Geoff (henceforth, Isambard) and one of Magie's beautiful gowns.

Our next event is the Antique Fair, in the Masonic Hall, John Street, Ryde, on July 4. It will be open to the public between 10am and 4pm, but please come along at any time to say hello, and to have a look at this wonderful building, being thrown open for such an event for the first time! We will be providing refreshments for a small donation, and entry to the Fair is 50p. There will also be a sales table, and we will be encouraging people to join the group. Please tell your friends and family to come along, and learn at first hand how the plans for the basement of the arcade are progressing.



Issue 3

June 2010

www.historicrydesociety.com

The banner arrived on the Island on Friday evening.....a close thing! We had Tony's expertise on hand, as, in a former life, he was Managing Director of the company which produced it for us. Tony has also very generously said he will gift the banner to HRS, for which we are very grateful.

Claire designed the banner - even putting up with changes suggested by Diana at the last minute! The background image was provided by Wayne, and shows the view down Union Street at the time of one of the Fleet Reviews of the 1890s. Notice the bottom of Union Street is still blocked off. The smaller images are from postcards which Diana has unearthed, including one of the 1906 Ryde Carnival. An image of Ryde Esplanade, which includes a rare glimpse of the entrance to the Victoria Pier, generated much interest in the arcade on Recruitment Day. Claire was also busy producing the artwork for the notelets. They come from a book of engravings dating from the 1860s, which Diana found on e-bay.....always worth a look! They are available for £2.99 for a pack of six, with each design in each pack, or singly for 70p. They will soon be available to buy from the website. We are also about to publish the first in a series - Arcade Series - of booklets about various topics relating to historic Ryde. The first is a brief history of the Royal Victoria Arcade, which has been written by Diana. This will be available by the time of the Antique Fair on July 4. The second booklet is also almost ready for publication. If any member has an idea for a short publication about any Ryde history topic, please do get in touch. This is yet another way of fundraising and sharing Ryde's history at the same time.

HISTORIC RYDE SOCIETY
Ryde into the Past

GIVE
RYDE'S
PAST.....

TO THE
FUTURE

Help us raise
funds for a
permanent heritage
centre in Ryde.

JOIN HERE
TODAY

Annual Membership	
Individual	£10
Family	£15
Corporate	£30

www.historicrydesociety.com

We were very pleased that Helen Goodman, a mosaicist, was able to come to the arcade on the 29th, to have a look at the fountain area. Helen measured the area and has gone away to do costings for a mosaic in that space. She also suggested we have a quotation around the walls of

Historic Ryde Society
Established October 2009
www.historicrydesociety.com

the fountain area. The theme of the mosaic will be the four seasons of the year. This will tie in with the plan to do images of the months in the rotunda ceiling. Lynne is in charge of the 12 artists, who will produce images in the style of Walter Crane. This is an engraving from the 1840s, and the only image we have of what was once on the ceiling. When renovation work was done in the 1970s, the paint was taken back to the plaster, but no trace of the images was found. Image courtesy of Roy Brinton.



We have had an architect looking at the basement of the arcade and he is drawing up the plans of what we want to do with the space. Once this has been done, Jeff will get to work to produce an artist's impression of how we want the centre to look.

Lee Byrne and Mr Cartwright have also asked us to be involved in the signage design for the arcade. The signs which appear on the side of the building as you go up and down Union Street have to be changed, as do the ones on the front of the building, including the one above the gate. It has been agreed for the main one above the gate, that there will be an image of the arcade as it used to look, plus some

historic information about the building itself. This will be printed on vinyl and stuck up on a board. Lee wants some generic designs for the other areas, where individual shop units advertise. No decisions have been made on this so far, and we would like to involve the traders in the arcade in any discussion about how these signs will look. This will be important for their businesses. It is also very important to make the building look as good as it can be, as such a lot of money is currently being invested in its future.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

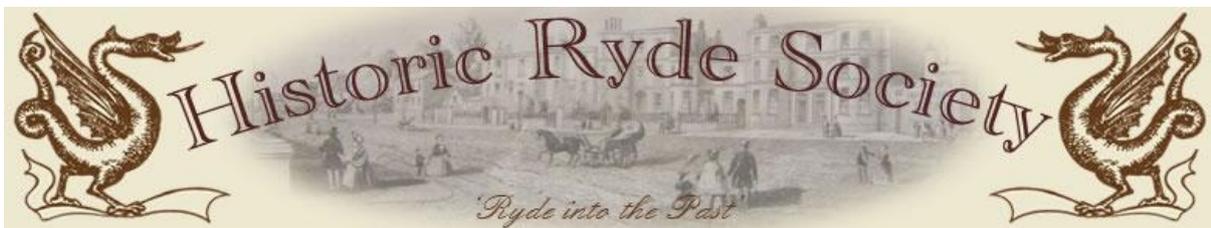
At the moment, our only planned event is the Antique Fair, Masonic Hall, July 4, 10 - 4.

The images for the ceiling of the rotunda are now being drawn. Once these are finished and approved by Lee Byrne and English Heritage, they will be installed. This will call for another celebration!

The same will apply to the designs for the signage in the arcade. Please keep looking at the website, where the information will be updated on a regular basis.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

With the new members recruited on Saturday, our numbers are increasing all the time! We now have 10 Corporate Members, 13 Family Members, and 22 Individual Members. If we count Family and Corporate Members as being at least two people, that's already 68 people with an interest in seeing a Heritage Centre in the town! This is wonderful news, as we now have a great many artistic people on board, who are willing to share their expertise with us. The more work we can



Issue 3

June 2010

www.historicrydesociety.com

do in the Arcade basement ourselves, the less we will have to pay out in rent. For those of you who don't know the space, here it is.



This is the large space looking towards Church Lane. We intend to divide this space into three, with a section for the Pier at the far end, a chemist's section in the middle and a third section with, as yet, no specific subject.



The second image shows the area which we will use as the corridor. It still has the original flagstones, and is all very flat, so perfect for push-chairs and wheelchairs.



This small section also lends itself perfectly to house its own exhibition, separate from the main body.

We hope you'll agree this is all very exciting! We're unable to progress very far at the moment, as the builders will be in the arcade for several weeks yet. However, we have had an architect go in and draw up plans, and, once he has handed these over to Jeff, he will draw an artistic impression of what we have in mind.

We also need to be concentrating on the Royal Victorian Ryde weekend, July 1-3, 2011. This is the weekend after the Grand Opening of the World Island Games, and we hope to liaise with Havenstreet Steam Railway's 1940s weekend, to make it one to remember! With all the extra media interest in the island, we must make the most of it! Please get in touch if you want to help in any way – we need lots of help!