



Issue 7

March 2011

### Rotunda Images Installation and Celebration



Historic Ryde Society is delighted to announce the successful completion of our first community project. The installation of the rotunda images was completed on January 13, 2011. We are indebted to Andy and Adam of Warrens Display Ltd, who installed the images free of charge. At the celebration on January 27th - a bitterly cold evening! - the 100-strong crowd heard chairman, Wayne Jones state that this was a community project in all ways - done by the community, paid for by the community to be enjoyed by the community. There has been much media interest in the paintings and they have been greatly admired. Cards are available for sale, singly, or in sets, at Splash, Union Street, or Collectors' Haven, numbers 4 and 5, the Arcade.

### Ryde District Heritage Centre

Work to create a heritage centre in the basement of the Royal Victoria Arcade began in mid-February. Wight Construction won the contract to do the work, made possible by a generous grant from Ryde Townscape Heritage Initiative. Historic Ryde Society is indebted to Lee Byrne and Mr Cartwright, the owner of the Arcade, who are both very enthusiastic about the plans for the centre. Work is progressing rapidly, the walls have been plastered, a new floor has been installed, and a toilet facility has been increased in size. HRS is very lucky to have the services of Andrew and Beth Laitt, of Depth Ltd, as architects.

The image on the right shows the basement as it was when the builders doing the arcade renovation moved out. The lower pictures show



some of the work being done to make the fabric of the building secure, in order to create a wonderful space for the heritage centre.



### HRS AGM and Brannon Talk

Over 40 members and friends attended the first AGM of Historic Ryde Society. The audience were given an update on the 'state of play' regarding funds, membership and the plans for the arcade basement, and our Royal Victorian Ryde event over the first weekend of July. We were then delighted to be given a fascinating talk and slide show by Ken Hicks, about the Brannon family, engravers and founders of the Isle of Wight County Press. Ken brought along some of his collection, not all Brannons, which included a lovely early engraving of the garden of Westfield House, in Spencer Road. Many members took the opportunity to renew their subscriptions, and the raffle raised £59.

## Bicentennial of Ryde Pier

An original copy of Ryde Pier Act, dated July 13, 1812, was very kindly lent to the society by Ken Hicks. Ken agreed that we could photograph the Act, which Claire did (very efficiently!) and it has been photoshopped and printed out on A4, which has worked beautifully.

After 30 pages, there are three showing the rates levied for landing various items on the pier. The image below shows the second of these pages with a selection of items available, and how they were quantified. It makes for interesting reading!

52 <sup>d</sup> GEORGE III. Cap. 196.			
			s. d.
Butter	-	per Barrel	4
Biscuit	-	per Bag	3
Beans and Pease	-	per Sack	3
Corn	-	per Quarter	4
Bottles (empty)	-	per Dozen	1
Do. in Hampers full	-	per Dozen	1
Brushes (small)	-	per Dozen	9
Brooms (Hair) and Mops	-	per Dozen	1
Barilla (Pot Ashes)	-	per Saron	6
Barley (Scotch)	-	per Sack	3
Beer	-	per Hoghead	6
Do.	-	per Barrel	4
Do.	-	per Half Hoghead	3
Boxes, heavy	-	per Cwt.	3
Do. Hat (double)	-	each	3
Do. (single)	-	each	2
Do. (small)	-	each	1
Cheefe	-	per Cwt.	2
Currants	-	per Butt	1
Do.	-	per Half Butt	6
Do.	-	per Cartcel	4
Clover Seed	-	per Sack	3
Calves Skins	-	per Dozen	1
Cordage	-	per Ton	1
Canvais	-	per Bolt	2
Coffee	-	per Cwt.	3
Colours	-	per Firkin	2
Chairs	-	per Dozen	3
Cider	-	per Pipe	1
Do.	-	per Hoghead	6
Do.	-	per Half Hoghead	4
Carboys	-	each	2
Earthenware	-	per Crate	2
Flour	-	per Sack	4
Glafs	-	per Square Crate	4
Gunpowder	-	per Barrel	4
Household Furniture	-	per Article	1
Hemp	-	per Ton	2
Hops	-	per Bag	6
Do.	-	per Pocket	4
Herrings (Red)	-	per Barrel	4
Hides, raw	-	each	1
Hogheads (dry Goods)	-	each	9
Iron	-	per Ton	6
Iron Pots	-	each	1
Lead	-	per Ton	6
Leather	-	per Hide or Buff	2
Malt	-	per Quarter	4
Mahogany	-	per Foot	2
Molasses	-	per Puncheon	9
Do.	-	per Half Puncheon	4
Mustard	-	per 36lb. Barrel	3
Nuts	-	per Bag	2
Nails	-	per Do.	2
Oatmeal	-	per Sack	3
Oil	-	per Pipe	6
Do.	-	per Hoghead	4
Do.	-	per Half Hoghead	2
Do.	-	per Jar	1
Do.	-	per Chest	1
Do.	-	per Half Chest	1

It is hoped that our major fund-raising event in 2012, will be over the middle weekend of July, to celebrate the bicentennial of the passing of Ryde Pier Act. We aim to call this event - 'The Start of the Pier Show'. Watch this space!

Book 4 in the Arcade Series, the booklets published as fundraisers for the Society, has just been printed. It is called 'A snapshot of Ryde Pier'. See page 4 for details. Included in the Ryde Pier Act book, was Ryde Town Act, dated May 14, 1829. This has also been printed out and will be available for reference in the centre in the arcade.

## St Patrick's Ceilidh Evening

The committee would like to extend huge thanks to Lesley Ford and her team for organising a very successful fundraising evening at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club in Fishbourne. The RVYC was originally based on Ryde Pier, before a new clubhouse, now the Prince Consort, was built in 1846, the foundation stone being laid by Prince Albert, on March 2nd.



The RVYC moved to Fishbourne in 1965, and we are very grateful to them for allowing us to hold our first ceilidh evening in the clubhouse. Hopefully, the first of many events there!

Nearly 100 turned up for the event, and several people came to chat and indicated they will join the society over the next few days, so it was a great opportunity to spread the word and gain new members.



A highlight of the evening was a display of Irish dancing by Jodie Green. The committee could learn a few moves and benefit greatly!



Altogether, the whole evening raised £534 for funds, so well done everyone! Look out for the next one!

The above picture shows Treasurer, Tony Packer, and Vice-President Roy Gilbert, who own Collectors' Haven in the arcade, Minutes Secretary Erica Manley, and Nuala Gilbert.

We were delighted to take this opportunity to launch Book 4 in the Arcade Series, A snapshot of Ryde Pier. Price £3.50, available in Collectors' Haven and Splash, next to the arcade.



The committee is delighted to be able to announce that Hovertravel has very kindly agreed to sponsor a display in the new centre. Brian, Tony and Diana met with Managing Director Neil Chapman during March, and introduced him to the delights of the Royal Victoria Arcade. Although still in a very rough state, Neil was immediately able to grasp the vision, and is granting us access to the hovercraft archives, in order to help maximise the space available. Keen to involve and promote the local community, Neil also hopes to advertise more comprehensively in Southsea, and bring more people into Ryde. This is a very exciting opportunity to create an area on the island, dedicated to the development of the hovercraft, and which will recognise and laud the genius of Sir Christopher Cockerell, and publicise the unique qualities of Hovertravel, still going strong after nearly 50 years.

Our minutes secretary, Erica Manley, began her working life in the wind tunnel, when the hovercrafts were first being developed and was lucky enough to meet Sir Christopher Cockerell and many others involved in this pioneering venture.

Neil has very kindly invited the committee to a celebration to launch the late-night Hovertravel service, with an opportunity to network with other attractions across the South. We will upload a report of this wonderful opportunity on the website in due course.

The committee is also delighted to be able to offer Members of Historic Ryde Society the following discounted fares on Hovertravel, on production of your Membership card. New cards will soon be issued. This is a new venture for the Society, and we hope all Members will take full advantage of this wonderful offer!

**Members are entitled to a 10% discount off standard adult and child period returns, day returns and single tickets only**

**Tickets are only available on the day of purchase at the Hovertravel terminals and not in advance  
Member ID will be required in order to receive the discounted fares**

**This discount is eligible for the member + 1**

**This discount is subject to availability and can be withdrawn at anytime**



## YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU!

Remember when you joined Historic Ryde Society and ticked the 'active' box on the Membership form? We hope you do, as the time has come for members to come forward and volunteer to give a few hours of their time. We are looking for people willing to deliver flyers and leaflets around the town. Does anyone feel they need a bit more exercise? How about taking a friend, or a friend's dog, for a walk, and using this opportunity to spread the word? HRS needs more funding to create the best possible space in the arcade, as we hope to be able to use state of the art technology to deliver the archive we plan to build, to the community. If this is to be the truly community-based project we hope it will be, as many people as possible need to be involved and fund-raising will be an ongoing process.

We also need volunteers willing to help catalogue and collate artefacts we hope to put on display. We need volunteers to help create the photographic and film archive. We need volunteers willing to be trained to take on various roles in the delivery of the centre to the community. Even if you feel you can offer only one hour a week, we need to hear from you.

In the first instance, please give your name and contact details to Wayne, Framers, Liz, Splash, or Tony/Roy - Collectors' Haven, the Arcade. Thank you very much.

## RVR NEEDS YOU!

If none of the above interests you, and you would still like to be involved with the group on an active basis, please consider handing your name and contact details to Liz or Lynne, or any of the girls at Splash, next to the Arcade. We need to recruit many people to assist with our Royal Victorian Ryde weekend from Friday 1st, to Sunday 3rd July, 2011. We have arranged to advertise this weekend in conjunction with Ryde Regatta and Ryde Inshore Rescue, as well as Ryde Arts Festival. The World Island Games Opening Ceremony will come through Ryde on the evening of Saturday, June 25th, when it is estimated as many as 25 - 30,000 spectators may line the route.

We need to ensure Ryde looks the best it can be. Are you willing and free to come and discuss how you can help with arrangements to dress the town, distribute posters and leaflets, promote and sell tickets, or even dress up and wander around the town in full Victorian costume? We need ladies to line the avenue of the Royal Victoria Arcade, and gentlemen to wander around town looking distinguished...or devious, as you prefer! If you have any ideas as to how we can involve as many in the community as possible, please also get in touch. We will listen to any suggestions - within reason! - and hope that you will all enjoy and become involved with this wonderful celebration of an iconic building.

UPDATES Membership at the middle of March 2011

Individual Members - 49

Family Members - 22

Corporate Members - 15

**Please remember if you joined before July, 2010, subscriptions are now due, as we move to create one joining date annually, which will be the AGM in February. Anyone joining since July, will not be obliged to renew until February, 2012, although we certainly won't refuse anyone who wishes to renew early!**

Book 4 is here!

## A snapshot of Ryde Pier



Just in time to celebrate the opening of Ryde Pier after the extensive renovations, we are pleased to announce the publication of Book 4 in the Arcade Series - A snapshot of Ryde Pier. Composed mainly of snippets from the local press, this booklet looks at the main events over the first 100 years of the pier's existence.

This is available at Splash, Collectors' Haven, or from the website. Price £3.50

HRS COMMITTEE 2010-2013

PRESIDENT - Gloria Minghella

CHAIRMAN - Wayne Jones

VICE-CHAIRMAN - Liz Belcher

TREASURER - Tony Packer

MINUTES SECY - Erica Manley

SECRETARY - Diana Wood

MEMBERSHIP SECY - Gillian Webster

Committee Members:

Lesley Ford

Claire Kay

Lynne Phillips

Brian Harris

We currently have two vacancies on the committee. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in joining the committee, please let Wayne, Framers, Union Street, (01983 566054) know. We are also looking for volunteers to become involved in many different areas.

## EVENTS FOR THE DIARY

All meetings are free for Members. Guests welcome, but will be asked for a donation towards funds.

April Open Meeting

Thursday April 14th 2011

George Street Centre, Ryde 7pm

'In the Shadows of the Isle of Wight Dinosaurs'

Steve Sweetman, Portsmouth University

Friday - Sunday, 1st - 3rd July, 2011

Royal Victorian Ryde 2011

Friday, July 1 - theatre event

Saturday, July 2nd - Model Theatre, Harp Recital, and Victorian Music Hall

Sunday, July 3rd - Antique and Collectors' Fair  
Gala screening of 'Young Victoria'.

Other events around town over the weekend include fun fair, ghost walks, barrel organ and photograph opportunities. Southern Vectis have been kind enough to allow us to use the 'Old Girl' open top double decker on Friday and Sunday of that weekend. We will be touring Ryde.

September Open Meeting

Thursday September 8th 2011

George Street Centre, Ryde 7pm

Adrian Searle

November Open Meeting

Thursday November 10th 2011

Titanic - Revisited

Noel Stimson

Antique and Collectors' Fair

Sunday December 4th 2011

Masonic Hall, John Street, Ryde

10am - 3.30pm

Other events to be held throughout the year, including barndance, raffles, and fashion show. Please keep a constant lookout in the press for more details. Please encourage family and friends to support these events, and help Historic Ryde Society to achieve their hopes of a wonderful centre for the whole community.