

## ARCADIA

### The newsletter of Ryde District Heritage Centre

Spring 2014

Registered Charity Number 1153947

#### Mrs Gloria Minghella MBE JP DL

The death of Mrs Gloria Minghella in March dealt a huge blow to the whole community. Our number one fan, during a recent conversation with Gloria she confessed that when she first heard of the plans to create a heritage centre, she thought it 'pie in the sky', and that it would never happen.

She admitted to 'not having the measure of the group, but she had it now'. The Society shall remain forever in her debt, as she did a great deal to promote HRS at every opportunity. The image below shows Gloria and Edward at the Gala evening in Ryde Castle Hotel, July 3 2011.



Gloria's experience and charm when dealing with all walks of society was very welcome during the first Royal visit to the Heritage Centre in July 2012, when HRS Prince Richard, the Duke of Gloucester, came to open the extension in the basement. Simon Tidd, the Duke's equerry, subsequently wrote a letter of thanks, saying how much the Duke had enjoyed his visit, which is now on show.



Here, Gloria chats to the Duke prior to the unveiling of the plaque in the rotunda of the Arcade. Volunteers Lynne, John, Brian, Tony and Peter are in the background, with then Mayor David Woodward, Heritage Lottery representative Alastair Fairley, Neil Chapman, of Hovertravel, and architect Andrew Laitt of Depth Ltd.

#### WWI Centenary

Historic Ryde Society is planning to mark the centenary of WWI with a joint display curated by volunteers working with Ryde Town Council, and a group of local collectors of Isle of Wight Rifles memorabilia.

It is expected that the IW Rifles display will be opened in June, and the WWI display later in the summer. If anyone has anything of interest relating to WWI which they would be willing to loan to the Centre, please get in touch via 01983 717435. All such items will be covered by the Society's insurance, and displayed in locked cases, so you can rest assured they will be well looked after.

**Second-hand books** - since the books were introduced last year, they have raised well over £100 for funds - at just £1 per book! Never underestimate the power of someone else's cast offs.....

**Easyfundraising** - again! Over £16 raised since the last newsletter! - a gentle reminder of how everyone with access to the internet, who buys items online can help... If you sign up to easyfundraising, or use easysearch as a search engine, you can raise funds for Historic Ryde Society with no extra cost to yourself. There is a link to the page on the HRS homepage, and over 2000 online shops take part. So far, 31 members have raised £241.10. Please consider helping out in this way, as we all know that 'Every little helps'...  
Each search undertaken using easysearch raises 0.5p.

**Ryde Town Council grant** - RTC has granted Historic Ryde Society £2000 for ongoing costs towards the running of the Centre. The Society is grateful to the Council for their continuing support.



*Donald McGill.*

The Donald McGill Postcard Museum is being installed in the Heritage Centre, but this is taking much longer than anyone foresaw. As James is only in Ryde three days a week, and is also still busy making globes, his time is very limited. It is hoped that this new attraction for the Arcade will be open very soon.

*Donald McGill.*



**The Community Book project** - This ten week project has now been running for four weeks. Led by children's author, Philip Bell, of Beachy Books, the project will result in ten copies of a book about Ryde being given to the Society. It is then up to the Society to publish further copies if so desired.

To date, six volunteers have become involved, but it's something which people can dip in and out of, so, if you're feeling so inclined, pop along at 0930 on a Friday morning and find out what it's all about. There will be no workshop during half-term week on Friday, May 30.



Sally-Ann and Philip hard at work figuring out the layout of the Community Book, May 2014.

The book will have three new walking trails around Ryde with details of historical interest along the way. One will lead along Spencer Road and back along Queen's Road; the second comes up Union and High Streets, and proceeds through Vernon Square and down George Street; the third leads along the Esplanade, up East Hill Road, and back through Appley, North Walk and the seafront.

Philip's work is mostly funded by the Arts Council and he has published many Jack and Boo children's stories. If anyone is part of a group which may be interested in writing a Community Book, please get in touch with us and we can pass the message on to Philip.

## Events update

Berno Inferno's 70s and 80s disco was rescheduled for Saturday, January 18. A bijou crowd braved the foul weather and boogied the night away.

Many thanks to Christian, Liz and Graham for all their hard work organising this event, and to Jay for manning the door.

The four pub quizzes so far this year have raised over £600 for funds. These take place in Yelf's Hotel on the last Thursday of the month. The June quiz, however, will take place on July 3, 7pm, £3 as usual. Group visits continue to bring new people into the Centre. In February, a group of young people from The Foyer, came to visit.

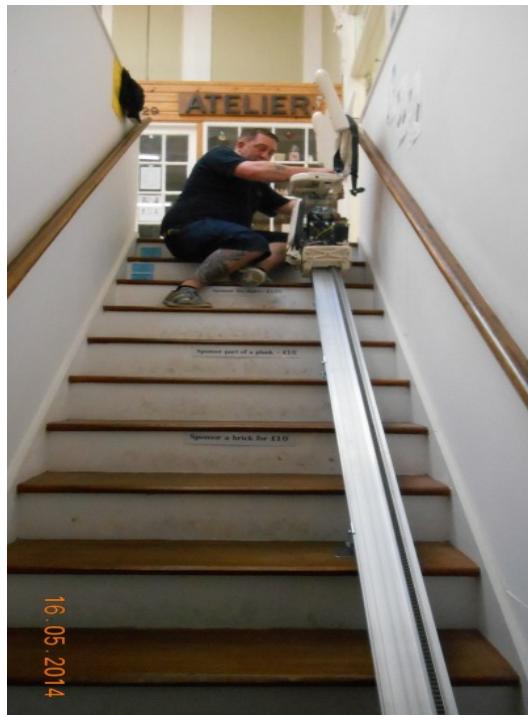
Later that month, a group from Ryde Round Table were given a guided tour of the Centre, including the ice well, with which they were all fascinated. The group very kindly gave a donation of £100 towards the funds. Thanks to Tony, Derek and Diana for giving up their evening - especially Tony, who was missing the football match!!

The fourth HRS AGM took place in Yelf's Hotel on Wednesday, February 12. Thirty seven people came out on a filthy night, which was wonderful. Sadly, because of the weather, the speaker, Bob Wealthy, who lives on the mainland, was unable to attend. His talk, on Ryde Airport, will be rescheduled later in the year. Keep watching for more information!

Adrian Searle's talk on Sophie Dawes, and the Folk Night with Wihtwara both proved popular events and added nearly £300 to the funds.

Richard Smout, of the Isle of Wight Heritage Service, led another successful House History workshop in the Centre on Wednesday, February 26. These workshops are held several times over the course of the year. If you would like to take part - and it's FREE!! - please contact the Centre and leave your details with one of the volunteers. The next workshop will be in the autumn.

**The Stairlift** - Historic Ryde Society was given a grant from the Community Development Foundation to install a stairlift in the Royal Victoria Arcade, to encourage more people to come down into the basement and immerse themselves in Ryde's history. The great day arrived, and the stairlift was installed on May 16. All the volunteers had a spin up and back down the stairs - it's honestly by far the easiest way of finding out exactly how it works! - and the following day it was first used by a member of the public, who declared it 'A very smooth ride. Much better than my doctor's!'



The image shows the final tweaks being done before the installation of the new stairlift was completed.

Historic Ryde Society is very grateful to the local committee of the Community Development Foundation and hopes that this will prove a very popular addition to the Heritage Centre.

## Dates for the Diary

May 29 - pub quiz as above.  
July 3 - pub quiz as above.  
July 13- Antique Fair. Masonic Hall. 10am till 3pm. 75p admission. Home made refreshments available.  
July 31- pub quiz as above.  
August 28 - pub quiz as above.  
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.  
October 30 - pub quiz as above.  
November 12 - Members talk - Martin Simpson - 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.

## HELP!!!!!

We're always looking for new volunteers to help man the Heritage Centre, particularly over the summer months, when we'd like to open every day. If anyone has a couple of hours to spare, and thinks they might like to help, please get in touch.

**Newsletter:** Is there anyone out there who would be willing to help with the newsletter? Please get in touch via RDHC - 01983 717435.

HRS is currently looking for volunteers to help with admin tasks. Please contact as above.

Historic Ryde Society, creators of the Ryde District Heritage Centre, Royal Victoria Arcade, Union Street, Ryde. PO33 2LQ tel. 01983 717435 [www.HistoricRydeSociety.com](http://www.HistoricRydeSociety.com)

## 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 Spring 2014, HRS has:  
Individual Members - 92  
Family Memberships 59  
Corporate Memberships - 17

## WWI display

There is currently some Isle of Wight Rifles memorabilia on display in the first chamber of the rotunda basement.

This display will subsequently include the WWI display being organised by Ryde Town Council. If anyone has anything which could be loaned for this display, please get in touch.

**HRS Board of Trustees: Spring 2014**  
**Acting Chair:** Brian Harris

**Treasurer:** Tony Packer

**Secretary:** vacant

**Members:** Alan Brading, John King, Peter Lawrence, Vic Scovell, Ron Watts

**Committee member:** Martin Jenkins

Judith Lazell is the Youth/School liaison person.

**Registered Charity No:** 1153947

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

