



## ARCADIA

The newsletter of  
**Ryde District Heritage Centre**

December 2011

Since Ryde District Heritage Centre opened in mid August, nearly £2500 has been raised to cover overheads and keep us moving forward with plans for future development. As well as entry to the Centre, the merchandise we have for sale continues to increase, and our fundraising events are helping to boost the coffers. At Hallowe'en, nearly thirty members of the public came into the centre to experience something a little different. Paul and his team of Spirit Chasers led an investigation in the Heritage Centre, which led to various people experiencing certain presences, and energy hot-spots in the building. Everything was very positive, and the whole evening was enjoyed by all. Freshly back from America with a pumpkin knife in her suitcase, Lynne had made a wonderful job with her lantern, which added to the atmosphere.



Paul leads the investigation.



Our group of trained Oral History volunteers have started building Ryde Memory Bank, and by coincidence our first two interviewees both attended Westwing College, in Vernon Square, in the 1930s. Now in their nineties, both ladies were delighted to be able to talk about their school days at Westwing, and Caversham House, now Dover Park School.

Our November meeting saw an enthusiastic crowd listen intently to Noel Stimson's thoughts on the sinking of the Titanic, introducing many of us to the 'Conspiracy Theory' for the first time.



Our talks in 2012 will be held at Ryde Castle Hotel on Thursday evenings - February 2nd, April 12th, September 6th, and November 1st, when our speakers will be Roger Whitby Smith, Tony Gale, Richard Smout and Adrian Searle. More details on page four.



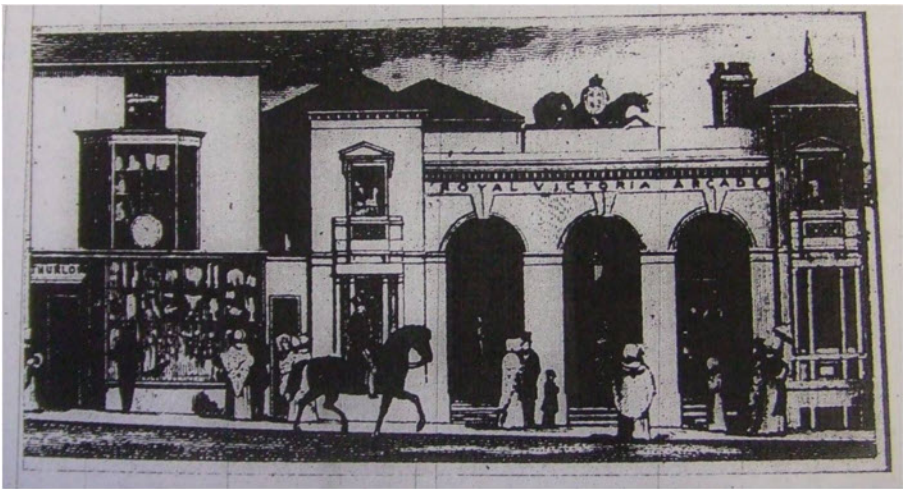
On Sunday, December 4th, HRS held their 4th Antique and Collectors' Fair, which raised over £600. This was a very successful day, and the two fairs we hold annually, in July and December, seem to be well and truly on the map.

The Christmas voucher raffle has again proved popular amongst businesses around Ryde, with over thirty shops and restaurants taking part. The committee is delighted at the support for the Heritage Centre around the town. The raffle takes place this coming Friday, December 9th, and tickets can be bought at Splash, Collectors' Haven, the Arcade, or in the Heritage Centre. The draw will take place at the Vernon Square Preservation Society carol singing event hosted in the Arcade at 6 pm on Friday evening, December 9th. Ryde School Brass Band will also be in attendance. Please come along and support this event. £2 for mulled wine and mince pie.



Brian admires his handiwork after restoring the spit, or bottle jack to working order. Found on eBay, and made by Woods, of Cross Street, the jack was missing its flywheel, one of which Alan happened to have in his shed. Brian then took the jack home and fiddled around with its workings until he had it in working order. We now have a very satisfying 'tick' in the Centre.

The Isle of Wight Heritage Service has very kindly loaned the Royal Victoria Arcade hat badge to the Centre. When it first opened, the Arcade had two porters on duty. This hat badge was part of their uniform, and may appear on a steel engraving published in the Isle of Wight Times in 1935, to mark the centenary of the foundation stone being laid. If anyone knows the whereabouts of this plate, please shout!



The gentleman standing in front of the left-hand pillar may be one of the arcade porters. This engraving was used to advertise Edward Thurlow's shop, now Splash and Framers.

## Dates for the Diary

## Membership Update

.Our Open Meetings in 2012 will be held at 7pm at Ryde Castle Hotel, by kind permission of Emma and Julian. Write them in your diary!

February 2nd AGM - followed by 'Ryde - a Regency Town, by Roger Whitby Smith.

April 12th - Ryde Election Riots - by Tony Gale

September 6th - Diaries and Correspondence by Richard Smout

November 1st - Adrian Searle, subject yet to be decided.

There will also be a special talk by HRS Patron Lady Lucinda Lambton, during the second weekend of July. Details to follow.

The second weekend of July marks the 200th anniversary of the passing of the Ryde Pier Act. This weekend will mark the end of the HLF project, and will be called 'The Start of the Pier Show.'

Individual - 81 Members

Family - 43 Members

Corporate - 16 Members

We're moving towards one joining date per annum, which will be at the AGM in February. At present there are some members who have not renewed their membership. We hope you will continue to support HRS in its efforts to run the Heritage Centre, and consider coming into the arcade to see what has been achieved so far. Members receive four quarterly newsletters, free entry to four talks, free entry to the Heritage Centre, and 10% discount on Hovertravel. Well worth the money!

