



## ARCADIA

The newsletter of  
**Ryde District Heritage Centre**

September 2011

Ryde District Heritage Centre opened on Monday, August 15th, 2011 - a little later than planned, but we're here! In the first few weeks, there has been a great deal of interest from holiday-makers and locals alike, and we've had a Yelf from Australia, and an old Rydeian from California, keen to touch base and exchange information. This has been the wonderful thing - the volunteers in the basement are learning as much from the visitors, as the visitors are learning from the centre. Artefacts are flowing in, saved from skips, retrieved from attics and family members, and given a new lease of life in this iconic building, itself a large part of Ryde's past. At present, we are continuing to open six days a week, Monday to Saturday, from 11 am. Adults £1 Children 50p Members free of charge.



### **Nat West Community Force 2011**

HRS has applied for a Nat West Community Force 2011 grant. This is a community led project, and voting opened on Monday, September 26th, 2011. Go to <http://communityforce.natwest.com/project/3292>, or phone 0800 2100 246, to vote for us. Spread the word! We need votes...



Claire and Nils

On Saturday, September 17th, eleven volunteers received oral history training from Sarah Lowry, who works freelance with the British Library and the Oral History Society. More volunteers are interested in this project.

These volunteers will go out into the community and record the memories of Ryde inhabitants to build Ryde Memory Bank, which is at the core of the HRS project. If you would like to be involved, please get in touch, on 717435.



Sarah, Jim and Bob



Vicki and Joan

Some of you may have seen the current BBC Reel History series on BBC 2 with Melvyn Bragg. As part of this national project, HRS will be showing silent vintage footage of bygone Ryde every day during October, bar Sunday.

The films include Fred Ward, on the last day of milling at Duffett's, footage of IW steam trains shot by Fred and his father, footage of Ryde in 1964,

Ryde airport during the 1930s, the Spithead Express, a very short piece of 'Our Sovereign Lady, Eastern Pavilion, Ryde, in 1953, and Babycham Nights. The film extracts will start at 11am, and will be shown on a loop throughout the day.



### **Our neighbours**

It appears we're not alone in the basement! This photo was taken during building work over the last eight months, and shows what is generally recognised as an orb, or energy hot-spot.

During September, a Paranormal Investigation was held, in order to discover more about these spirits. It is intended to hold another session (ticket price £10), during the evening of Monday, October 31st, when more equipment will be brought in, and members of the public will be able to watch Paul and Heather at work, trying to contact whoever is there. If you're interested in learning more, please call 01983 717435 between 11 and 3, Mondays to Saturdays.

### **School days in Ryde**

If you have any memories of your school days in Ryde, please get in touch. We're keen to open the Centre to schools free of charge, and hope to amass a number of memories of times past. School groups will be able to visit the Centre free of charge and teachers on reconnaissance trips will also be allowed to do their risk assessment free of charge. If you have any contact with local schools, please alert them to this fact, and ask them to contact RDHC on 717435. Thanks very much.

### **Community Groups**

If you are a member of a local group and wish to visit Ryde District Heritage Centre, please get in touch via the website, or call 01983 717435 during opening hours.

## Dates for the Diary

## Membership Update

Monday October 31st - A chance to watch a Paranormal Investigation, as Paul and Heather seek out spirits in the Heritage Centre. 7pm

Limited numbers - Tickets £10

Thursday November 10th - Titanic Revisited - a talk by Noel Stimson, George Street Centre 7pm. Members free, Visitors welcome for a small donation. Raffle and Refreshments.

Sunday December 4th - Antique and Collectors' Fair, Masonic Hall, John Street, 10 - 3. Entrance - 50p.

Talks next year will be held at Ryde Castle Hotel, on February 2nd, April 12th, September 6th and November 1st. Speakers to be announced in due course. There will also be a special talk by HRS Patron Lady Lucinda Lambton, during the second weekend of July.

Individual - 64 Members

Family - 33 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 the 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!

