

# ARCADIA

The newsletter of  
**Ryde District Heritage Centre**

July 2012

**STOP PRESS! Antique and Collectors' Fair, Sunday July 8, Masonic Hall, John Street. 10:00 till 15:30. Start of the Pier Show - July 13 and 14 - see page 3.**

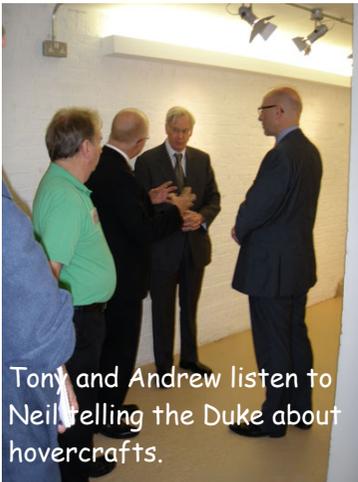
In less than eight weeks, The Far Side has been delivered with 20 minutes to spare before the first Royal visit to Ryde District Heritage Centre!

Thanks to sterling work by a small band of volunteers, some of whom worked in the basement until at least midnight three nights in a row prior to the visit, Historic Ryde Society was able to welcome HRH Prince Richard, Duke of Gloucester, to Ryde District Heritage Centre on Tuesday, July 3, 2012.

One day the previous week, no fewer than 15 volunteers arrived, ranging in age from 16 to 81, both of whom spent a few hours on their hands and knees, scraping many years of paint off the floor. The experience was quite humbling, and we are all very grateful for everyone's help.



Joan dusts the bunting ready for the visit.



Tony and Andrew listen to Neil telling the Duke about hovercrafts.

The Duke walked through the avenue of the arcade, and was told about the Royal photographers who had studios here. The rotunda images were pointed out, before going round to view the proposed Ryde crescent image at the entrance to the Heritage Centre. Several invited guests were then introduced to His Royal Highness, who was shown around the Centre by architect Andrew Laitt, and HRS secretary, Diana Wood. The Duke showed particular interest in the arcade porters' cap badge, on loan from IW Heritage Service, the photographs, both old and new, the Ryde Airport display, and plans for the Flightpath, where the airport display will share a space with the hovercraft material.

HRH unveils the plaque in the rotunda of the Royal Victoria Arcade.



HRH meets volunteers and invited guests in Ryde District Heritage Centre.



These images, by Isle of Wight County Press and Diana Wood, show invited guests and volunteers enjoying the Duke's visit. The Duke remained in the arcade for nearly an hour, during which time he was introduced to Rhea Campbell-Smith, who played the part of Young Victoria in the Royal Victorian Ryde event of 2011. Rhea offered the Duke a chocolate covered strawberry, which he enjoyed so much, he had another! Following a tour of the Heritage Centre, the Duke unveiled a plaque in the rotunda of the Royal Victoria Arcade heralding the official opening of Ryde District Heritage Centre. More photographs appear on the HRS website.

Andrew and the Lord Lieutenant listen to Brian chatting to HRH.



On Wednesday, June 27, a special event took place in Ryde District Heritage Centre. Christopher Balfour, whose father founded Ryde Airport, met Archie Faithfull, whose father sold the land for the airport, to Christopher's father. The 27th marked the 80th anniversary of the Spithead Express Service, between Ryde and Portsmouth. This meeting was orchestrated by Bob Wealthy, of Solent Aeromarine Ltd, who first alerted HRS to the anniversary. The meeting was recorded by Jonathan Skeet and Claire Kay, and the interview will be available to listen to in the Heritage Centre in due course. Part of the newly refurbished area of the centre has been set aside for a joint display of Ryde Airport and Hovercraft material. This area has been nicknamed The Flightpath.



# The Start of the Pier Show!

## July 13th and 14th 2012

Historic Ryde Society Pub Quiz  
at Yelf's Hotel  
on Friday 13th July 7pm  
£3 per head

Celebrating 200 years  
since the passing of  
Ryde Pier Act  
July 13th 1812



Historic Ryde Society  
proudly presents  
'Temples of Convenience -  
a history of the lavatory'  
A talk by Lady Lucinda Lambton  
at All Saints Church  
on Saturday 14th July 7pm  
Sparkling wine, strawberries  
and cream included.  
Tickets £6

Tickets available from Splash, Collectors Haven  
or Ryde District Heritage Centre on 01983 717435

Historic Ryde Society, members of the Ryde District Heritage Centre, Royal Victoria Arcade,  
Union Street, Ryde, PO23 3DZ tel: 01983 717435 www.historicrydesociety.com



A busy month for fundraising, July events begin with an Antique and Collectors' Fair on Sunday, July 8. This will take place in the Masonic Hall, John Street, from 10:00 until 3:30, admission 75p.

The Start of the Pier Show will take place on Friday, July 13, with a pub quiz at Yelf's Hotel, starting at 7pm. Admission £3 per person. Come with a team, or on your own, and join up with others.

On Saturday, July 14, Lady Lucinda Lambton will give an illustrated talk: 'Temples of convenience - a history of the lavatory' at All Saints Church, at 7pm. Tickets £6, to include refreshments. Tickets from Splash, or the Heritage Centre. **Booking essential!**



The Far Side of the basement would never have been ready without the unstinting and tireless dedication of many people, some of whom are pictured here. This has truly been a community project, with help from three young lads from 54 St John's Road, as well as volunteers, and Historic Ryde Society members, who said, 'We've come to help!' Very many thanks to you all.

## Dates for the Diary

HRS meetings of 2012 are as follows. Venue to be decided. Write them in your diary!

**July 8** - Antique and Collectors' Fair, Masonic Hall, John Street- 75p admission

**July 13th - 14th** - 'Start of the Pier Show' weekend - two evening events over the weekend of the 200th anniversary of the passing of Ryde Pier Act. See below:

Pub quiz - Friday 13, Yelf's 7pm. £3

Temples of Convenience - a history of the lavatory All Saints Saturday 14, £6 - 7pm. Booking essential!

**September 6th** - 'Diaries and Correspondence' by Richard Smout

**November 1st** - Adrian Searle, 'The Spy by the Sea - the story of Dorothy O'Grady'.

**November 21st** - House History workshop with County Archivist, Richard Smout. Limited places. Phone 717435 to book a place.

**December 2nd** - Antique and Collectors' Fair - Masonic Hall, John Street - 75p admission

**December 8th** - Voucher raffle, and possible whole town Victorian event. .

## Membership Update

Membership runs from February to February. Members receive free entry to Ryde District Heritage Centre, four talks, four newsletters and 10% discount on Hovertravel. Well worth the money!

As of July 2012, HRS has:

Individual Members - 80

Family Memberships - 47

Corporate Memberships - 16

**County Archivist Richard Smout is leading a third House History Workshop on Wednesday, November 21st, in Ryde District Heritage Centre, from 7pm to 9pm. This is a very popular course, and places are limited, so please book early, to avoid disappointment, on 01983 717435.**



Finally, the Councillor's gown worn in the 60s by Mr Minghella, has at last been found a suitable means of display. Here is Brian, with his new friend Ed.

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