

JOSEPH BEENEY'S ALADDIN'S CAVE

Remembered by many of Ryde's older generation as one of the town's real characters, the late Mr Joseph Beeney is pictured in familiar pose – outside his "Aladdin's cave" in the Upper High Street 30 years ago.

Mr Beeney, who died in 1955 aged 63, was a general dealer who stocked an amazing range of goods, much of it purchased at Way Ridett auction sales.

As a young man he played soccer for Tonbridge Wells Rangers in his Kent birthplace. He was in business in Ryde for 17 of his 21 years in the Island and was a member of the Ryde Social Club.

What few people among his many friends realised was that he held the Military Medal, awarded for his gallantry during the ferocious battle of Vimy Ridge in the First World War – an action which won him promotion to King's Corporal.

This photograph is owned by Mrs Maureen Harrison of High Street, Ryde, one of Mr Beeney's seven children.



Extract and photograph from a Newspaper article supplied by R (Bubbles) Smith
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