

BEYOND THE GRAVES

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THE ROYALS



Official Coronation Photograph 1953
Image from Wikipedia

QUEEN ELIZABETH II DIAMOND JUBILEE

The Queen came to the throne on 6 February 1952 upon the death of her father King George VI, and her coronation took place on 2 June 1953 at Westminster Abbey. The crowning of the Sovereign is an ancient ceremony, rich in religious significance, historic associations and pageantry. For the last 900 years, it has taken place at Westminster Abbey, the royal church for the Palace of Westminster.

To mark 60 years of her reign Diamond Jubilee celebrations will take place in 2012, centered around an extended weekend on 2, 3, 4 and 5 June.

KEY EVENTS

Saturday 19 May - Troops from the Royal Navy, the Army and the Royal Air Force will parade through Windsor Castle and town before Her Majesty and The Duke of Edinburgh. A unique event before an audience of Armed Forces personnel, their families, and veterans will follow in the grounds of the castle.

Sunday 3 June - Up to a thousand boats will muster on the River Thames in preparation for the Queen to lead the Thames Diamond Jubilee Pageant.

Monday 4 June - Thousands of beacons will be lit around the world to commemorate Her Majesty's 60 year reign over the UK and Commonwealth.

Tuesday 5 June - The Queen and other members of the Royal Family will attend a National Service of Thanksgiving at St Paul's Cathedral, London.

LOCAL EVENTS

The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, is to visit Cowes on Wednesday 25 July. Chairman of the Isle of Wight Council, Councillor David Williams, said: "The visit is a wonderful opportunity to showcase the Isle of Wight to the Queen, who last visited in 2004...We very much look forward to welcoming Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh to the Island in the Queen's Diamond Jubilee year."

High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight, Susie Sheldon, said: "The Island is honoured to host a visit from Her Majesty The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. It is a very exciting year for the country and it is wonderful that people of the Island will have an opportunity to see the Queen on her historic jubilee tour."

RSHG will be holding a 'Royal Weekend' in Ryde Cemetery on 26 and 27 May with exhibitions and Royal tableaux, a character walk, children's activities and Royal street party (weather permitting). After the weekend, the exhibition will be on display in Ryde Library until 9 June.

The town of Ryde will also be hosting a Jubilee weekend of events at Appley Park 2 - 4 June.



RSHG Weddings and Royals event,
Ryde Cemetery 30 April 2011
© Ryde Social Heritage Group

Unlike her great great grandmother, Queen Victoria, our current Queen has only visited the Island three times since coming to the throne, in 1965, 1987 and 2004 (as Princess Elizabeth she did also visit in 1938). Queen Victoria was not just a Royal visitor but became an Island resident in 1845 when she and her husband Prince Albert purchased the Osborne Estate. This led to frequent visits by royalty from all over the world.

RYDE CELEBRATES QUEEN ELIZABETH'S JUBILEES AND VISITS

Monday 26 July 1965

The Queen visited Ryde as part of a two-day visit to the Island. The Royal Barge arrived at Ryde Pier Head at 2.15pm where Ryde Rowing Club saluted her arrival with raised oars. The Mayor, Alderman W Ramage, was presented to the Queen and on the landing stage were Borough officials in traditional robes. The Royal car drove along the Promenade Pier, where there was a guard of honour, lined on either side, comprising ex-service personnel, young people and other organisations.

The Mayor escorted the Queen to the Town Hall where she signed the visitors' book and was invited to inspect the Borough regalia and selected pieces of the Brigstocke collection of china and glass. The Queen then visited the Royal Victoria Yacht Club where she inspected the club trophies and objects of historical interest.

The Queen's visit to the Island took her to Newport, Carisbrooke Castle, Osborne House, Ventnor, Shanklin, Sandown and Yarmouth.

(Source: Royal Visit Programme 1965 and Ryde Centenary Handbook 1868 - 1968)



1977 Silver Jubilee Celebrations



Memories of Caversham House by Liz Deakin

"Of the many happy memories I have of the time I spent as a pupil at Caversham House, my favourite has to be from the summer of 1977, the Queen's Silver Jubilee year.

All the children made bunting and our class performed a country dancing routine in the front garden, now Dover Park Nursery. We were all given commemorative mugs, which we thought was wonderful."

The photo on the right was taken at Smallbrook, Ryde. The children of the Oakfield area had the use of the ground for sports, tea and general fun. All the children received a Jubilee Mug, the colour of their choice.

The Silver Jubilee saw 200 ships of the Royal Navy, the Commonwealth and foreign navies, and the merchant fleet, line up at Spithead on 28 June 1977. People crowded on the Pier to watch the Royal Yacht Britannia pass through the lines of ships.



Photo of celebrations at Smallbrook
Photo © Ann Barrett



Crowds on the Pier 1977 from the Roy Brinton Collection

1987 Bi-Centennial of the First Fleet to Australia

The Queen and Prince Philip came to Ryde on 13 May 1987; 200 years to the day since the First Fleet left the Motherbank on the start of its hazardous voyage to the New World. Their visit to the Island, the first for 22 years, included the opening of the Australian exhibition at St Thomas' Church, Ryde to celebrate the bi-centennial.



Union Street, Ryde, May 1987
from the Roy Brinton Collection

2002 Golden Jubilee

The Golden Jubilee was intended by the Queen to be both a commemoration of her 50 years as monarch and an opportunity for her to officially and personally thank her people for their loyalty. Celebrations took place throughout the country between May and July 2002. People numbering in their hundreds of thousands turned out to Jubilee events. The festivities culminated on The Mall in London on 4 June, when over one million people attended the parade that ended with a flypast by Concorde and the Red Arrows over Buckingham Palace.

Ryde celebrated with an afternoon of entertainment on the Esplanade, starting with a procession of 15 foot high puppets, known as Global People, through the town. They were made by pupils of Ryde High School's carnival club and had an African and Aboriginal theme. P J's School of Dance, along with a number of Ryde primary and middle schools and the Flamettes, performed jubilee displays. There were local bands and DJs, break dancing with Chichester based group Born to Rock, face painting, henna art and stalls to entertain the crowds.

May 2004

The Queen visited the Island on Wednesday 19 May, to open Beaulieu House, a new respite centre for children. The Queen also visited the Isle of Wight Farmers' Market, Osborne House and Havenstreet Steam Railway and unveiled a specially commissioned piece of commemorate artwork, which celebrates the Island's position as home to the UK's largest walking festival. Prince Philip visited GKN Aerospace and Cowes Combined Clubs. School children in Ryde were allowed time off to see the Queen either at Newport or Havenstreet Steam Railway.

A SELECTION OF RYDE'S OTHER ROYAL CELEBRATIONS AND VISITORS

12 August 1819

His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent, after dining with Mr Nash, at Cowes, yesterday, went on board the yacht, where he slept, and this morning got under way, and cruised about. On coming through Spithead, to witness the sailing match off Ryde, a Royal salute was fired from all the ships. The number of Gentlemen's pleasure vessels and boats are innumerable. The Isle of Wight is thronged with Nobility and Gentry.

The Isle of Wight is in a complete bustle at the present moment, by the presence of his Royal Highness the Prince Regent, whose rendezvous is appointed in that Channel. The inhabitants are elated with joy at the event, no Monarch having ever been upon the Island since the imprisonment of the unfortunate Charles at Carisbrooke Castle.

Source: The Morning Chronicle, London, Saturday 14 August 1819

(King Charles I spent 14 months at Carisbrooke before his execution on 30 January 1649)



George, Prince Regent
Image from Wikipedia

Summer of 1831

Sir Michael and Lady Seymour had the honour of receiving Princess Victoria, together with HRH the Duchess of Kent, and entertaining them at luncheon. Afterwards Sir Michael conveyed their Royal Highnesses in his barge to Ryde steering the boat himself. Princess Victoria who was then aged 12, showed a lively sympathy with Sir Michael in the loss of his arm, which had been shot off in a battle with the French in 1794. She expressed great surprise and interest at his ability to do so much with the remaining arm.

Source: <http://smithandgosling.wordpress.com>

Monday 2 March 1846

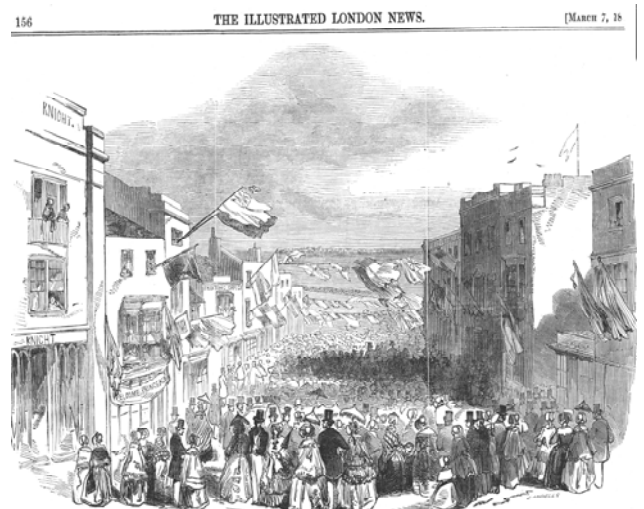
Royal Victoria Yacht Club

Foundation Stone laid by HRH Prince Albert.

The meeting of the Lodge at the Town Hall was the largest on record, some 138 Brethren attending. Although normally only allowed when one of the Brethren was to lay the stone "to do honour to her (the Sovereign) august and illustrious consort" a procession was formed and they proceeded to the end of the Pier at Ryde where HRH having landed at 3pm, accompanied him to the site of the intended building, where the tools were handed to him, and at the same time explained to him their proper use, and the stone having been laid in proper form, the Brethren reformed the procession and accompanied HRH as far as the gate of the Pier, then returned to the Lodge room.

The procession composed the Masonic Lodge, the magistrates and authorities, and principal inhabitants of the town.

Source: The Freemasons History of East Medina Lodge No 175 from 1813 – 1913 and Freemasonry in the Isle of Wight published by W Bro F W Sargent, 177 High Street, Ryde 1913



Union Street, Ryde
Illustrated London News 7 March 1846

July 1864

On Tuesday, the evening being delightful, the Queen in an open phaeton drawn by four greys, preceded by an outrider, passed through Ryde, returning by the Esplanade, Pier Street, past the Royal Victoria Yacht Club House, up St Thomas' Street, along Spencer Road to the bottom of West Street, where her Majesty got out of her phaeton, apparently with the design of seeing Sir Augustus Clifford's new gateway, which is surmounted by the beautiful bronze stag so much admired in the Great Exhibition of 1851, and which was a favourite work of art in the eyes of Prince Albert.

Source: Isle of Wight Observer 30 July 1864



Postcard showing the entrance to Westfield Park

July 1865

The inhabitants of Union Street were gratified on Monday last by seeing one of the Royal carriages drive down that street.

It stopped at the entrance to the Arcade, and their Royal Highnesses the Princess Helena and Louise got out and walked to the photographic studio of Mr Jabez Hughes. They remained with him some time.

We trust he was as successful on this as he has been on former occasions. Of this, however, we have little doubt, and it is only to be regretted that his splendid new premises in Union Street - a temple of photographic art - were not sufficiently completed to have taken the portraits of his Royal visitors there.

This would have been a fitting inauguration of Regina House. Let us hope that such an honor is yet in store for our enterprising and spirited townsman.

Source: Isle of Wight Observer 29 July 1865



Regina House,
Union Street, Ryde
IW Record Office collection

September 1870



Empress Eugénie
Image from Wikipedia

It was on Ryde Pier that the Empress Eugénie, wife of Napoleon III, Emperor of France, and long time friend of Queen Victoria, landed on 8 September 1870 from Sir John Burgoyne's yacht "The Gazelle", after her flight from Paris. Her journey begun on the night the news of the Catastrophe of Sedan reached Paris - over 100,000 French troops and Napoleon III himself had been captured by the Prussians.

Arriving at Ryde in the middle of the night, the poor storm-tossed woman looked so sadly disreputable, she was refused entrance to the grand Pier Hotel. Mr Sadler of the York Hotel was awakened by urgent knocking at his door. He found two ladies and two gentlemen asking for the best suite of rooms he had. They spent the night there, and not until they left did Mr Sadler know that he had sheltered Empress Eugenie.



Official Engagement Photo
by W & D Downey 1870

The wedding between Princess Louise, sixth child of Queen Victoria, and John Douglas Sutherland Campbell, Marquis of Lorne took place on Tuesday 21 March 1871. The ceremony took place at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. The wedding day was celebrated in Ryde with a public holiday and a procession through the town.

The principal streets of the town were gaily decorated with flags, the pier was all ablaze with bunting, and the flag staves at the preventative station and at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club House were profusely dressed. After dark the Town Hall was illuminated.

A procession was formed at the Town Hall and marched through St Thomas' Square, Cross Street, Melville Street, Monkton Street, Wood Street, Barfield into Star Street, Star Street to High Street, up High Street to Green Street, through Green Street to Upper West Street, along Upper West Street, down John Street, High Street, and Union Street, and through Pier Street, to the Esplanade, where it halted. On the Esplanade the children sang "God save the Queen", accompanied by the bands, after which the Mayor called for three cheers for the happy pair, which were given in a style that made "the welkin ring".
Source: Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle Saturday 25 March 1871

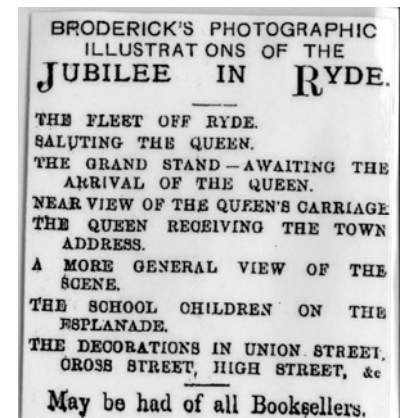
July 1887

The Queen was Amused!

Ryde Illuminated Procession marking Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee:

"Turning into Union Street, it is quite possible that Her Majesty experienced a surprise aural as well as visual for, stationed on ledges on either side of the second floor windows of Messrs Gibbs and Gurnell, on the east, and of Mr Richard Colenutt on the west, were two Highlanders in full costume, playing on bagpipes patriotic Scotch airs as her Majesty passed by.

As the Queen went by they played a well-known Scotch air, which caused Her Majesty to look up with a smile, and call Princess Beatrice's attention to the men"
Source: Isle of Wight Observer 1887



August 1889

At Ryde last night in connection with the regatta a carnival was held, there being a procession nearly a mile long, with hundreds of people in fancy costume. The Queen, with Princess Beatrice, drove into the town in a carriage and four. Her Majesty and the Princess subsequently alighted and walked through the streets, being evidently highly amused by the proceedings. The Royal party was heartily cheered by the spectators.

Source: The Pall Mall Gazette, London, Friday 16 August 1889

"...Captain Conway at the head of his troupe of 12 ghosts (figures all in white and with white conical caps) proceeded to the top of West Street and stood in line. As the Royal carriage passed the ghosts gave a very unghostly salute in military style, and both the Queen and the Princess Beatrice seemed very amused at the odd incident."

Source: Isle of Wight Observer 17 August 1889

King Alfonso of Spain



His Majesty The King of Spain's Visit to the Isle of Wight Gun Club, Ashey, August 17th, 1910

King Alfonso XIII of Spain visited Ryde several times. He had a great interest in sports, attending yachting events and the Isle of Wight Gun Club to whom he donated a cup. In 1912 the cup was won by a Mr Langdon with the maximum number of points for '10 birds continuous fire (handicap)'.

This wonderful photograph is one of a number sent to us by Colin Caws in New Zealand and shows the King of Spain's visit to the Isle of Wight Gun Club at Ashey on 17 August 1910.

"Those people who went on the Pier on Sunday morning had a good view of the King of Spain who was walking about like an ordinary mortal. The King left Ryde for Portsmouth on Tuesday evening at the conclusion of the International races and motored to London."

Source: Isle of Wight Observer 12 August 1911

VISITS TO RYDE BY QUEEN ELIZABETH'S SONS AND DAUGHTER

HRH Prince Charles 1982

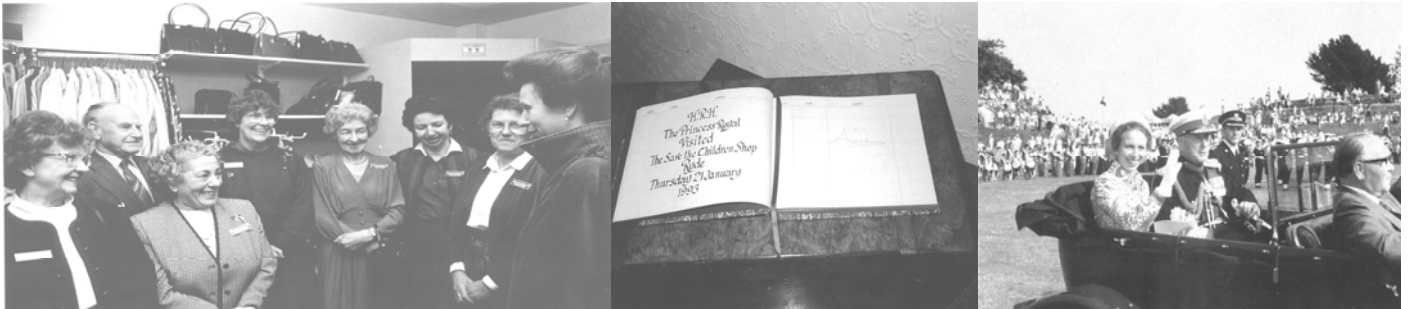
Prince Charles opened the first Abbeyfield care home on the Island, 'Lord Mountbatten House', Partlands Avenue commemorating his late great uncle Lord Louis Mountbatten, Lord Lieutenant of the Isle of Wight, in June 1982. The photograph shows NHS staff in the grounds next door, from left: Jan Johnson, Phyl Parnell, Sheila Scott and Doris O'Reilly. Behind them is Mr Coles.



HRH Prince Charles
Thanks to Jan Johnson for the photograph

HRH Princess Anne 21 January 1993

The Princess Royal, President, Save the Children Fund, visits Save the Children shop, Ryde.



From left to right:
Jean Smith, Percy Cotton, Toni Cotton, Jan Johnson, Mavis Willis, Joy Harrop, Jean Hilson and HRH Princess Anne.
Thanks to Jan for the photograph.

HRH Prince Andrew 1986

The Prince and his bride-to-be, Sarah Ferguson, visited the island. Hundreds of people gathered by Ryde Canoe Lake and waved flags to welcome them. The couple received good wishes for their wedding during their walkabout. The Prince later went on to officiate at the Schneider Trophy Air race.
Source: Isle of Wight County Press 27 June 1986



Prince Andrew and Sarah Ferguson married at Westminster Abbey on 23 July 1986.

HRH Prince Edward 23 March 2012

Friday 23 March 2012 was a glorious spring day – warm and sunny with just a light breeze - and RSHG spent an enjoyable afternoon at Ryde Pier Head as guests of Wightlink to witness the unveiling of the plaque commemorating the 200th Anniversary of the passing of the Ryde Pier Act. When the Prince arrived, before he unveiled the plaque, he chatted with us and the other guests. He spent time looking at our display about the history of Ryde Pier and asked questions about why the Pier was built and how people got ashore before that, he also asked about the work of Ryde Social Heritage Group.

HRH Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex visited Ryde to officially open the new Bembridge Building and Wessex Quadrangle at Ryde School and then to unveil the plaque at the recently restored Ryde Pier.



HRH Prince Edward and RSHG at Ryde Pier Head 23 March 2012
Photographs © Ryde Social Heritage Group