

# BEYOND THE GRAVES

Volume 5, Number 4, October 2010

## “TYING THE KNOT”

### RYDE 1960S WEDDING

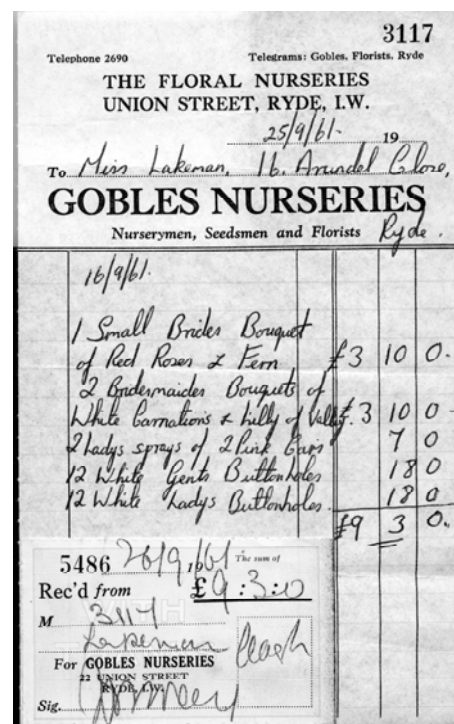
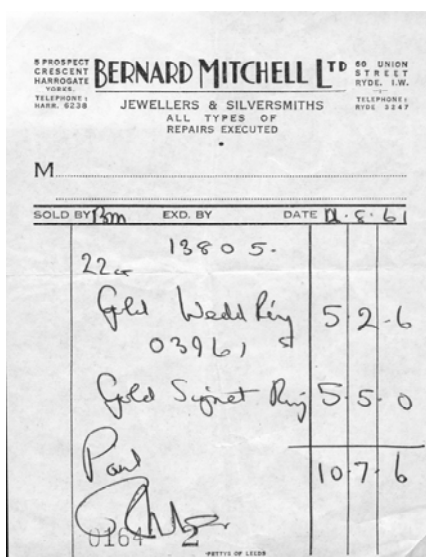
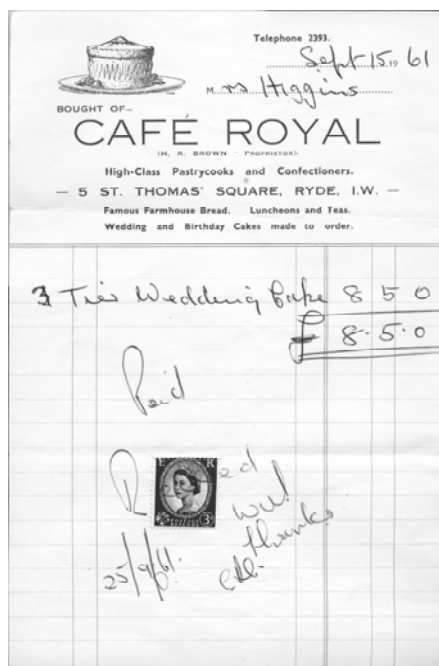


On 16 September 1961 Nora Lakeman of Arundel Close, Ryde married Edward Higgin of Solent View, Seaview. Nora was a nurse at St Mary's Hospital and Ted was an Operating Theatre Technician at Ryde County Hospital. The bride wore a ballerina-length gown of white nylon over rose embroidered taffeta, short veil and coronet head-dress, and the bridesmaids wore ballerina-length dresses of lilac rayon brocade. Although the wedding took place at St Peter's in Seaview and the bride and bridesmaids dresses were purchased in Portsmouth, it was in other respects mostly a Ryde affair. The price of things was very different and the currency wasn't even the same half a century ago.

The reception for 64 guests was held at Ryde Castle Hotel, McGroggan Ltd were the proprietors. It cost £52.8.6. which included dinner, sherry, port, orange juice and cigarettes. The three tier wedding cake was from the Cafe Royal, 5 St Thomas' Square, priced at £8.5.0. The wedding rings were purchased at Bernard Mitchell, 60 Union Street for £10.7.6. The flowers were from Gobles Nurseries, Union Street and cost £9.3.0. These included the bride's bouquet of red roses and fern, bridesmaids' bouquets of white carnations and lily of the valley, 24 white carnation buttonholes and two lady's sprays of pink carnations.

The happy couple caught the ferry and headed off to honeymoon in Devon. The bride's travelling costume was an off white coat over a blue dress with white accessories.

On return they moved into their first home together in Swanmore Road and paid £3 per week rent. Wedding presents were most gratefully received from friends, relations and staff of both hospitals.



## "A VERY PRETTY WEDDING"

1901. Marriage solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Holy Trinity, Ryde, in the County of the Isle of Wight.

No.	When Married.	Name and Surname.	Age.	Condition.	Rank or Profession.	Residence at the time of Marriage.	Father's Name and Surname.	Rank or Profession of Father.
260	Sept. 12 <sup>m</sup> .	Wallace John Weeks	28	Bachelor	Bank Clerk	31 Queen St., Colchester.	Frank Weeks	Jeweller
	1901.	Alice Jane Woods	25	Spinster	—	Barfield, Ryde.	Henry Wheeler Woods	Retired.

Married in the Parish Church according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, by Wm. Jameson or after Banns by me,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, { Wallace John Weeks, } in the Presence of us, { Henry W. Woods, } Wm. Jameson,  
 { Alice Jane Woods, } { Herbert Woods, } Peris Hart. Weeks,  
Rosie Mary Weeks.

A very pretty wedding took place at Holy Trinity Church, Ryde on Thursday 12 September 1901 between Wallace J Weeks of Colchester, son of Frank Weeks of Newport, and Alice J Woods, only daughter of Henry W Woods of Barfield, Ryde.

The bride wore a dress of white Soie de Chine with tucked fichu, a wreath that was worn by her mother at her wedding, and a lace veil lent by her aunt, Mrs White of Kingswood, Herts. Her bouquet was of stephanotis and white roses.

Alice was attended by five bridesmaids; Rosie and Kate Weeks wore dresses of pale green muslin and white chiffon, with hats tinted with green and feathers to match; Miss White and Nina Woods wore Heliotrope muslin. They carried shower bouquets of pink geraniums and white roses. The bride's niece, Dorothy Woods, wore a white silk dress, inserted with lace, with a matching hat and carried a basket of similar flowers.

The honeymoon was spent in South Devon. The bride's going away dress was of crushed strawberry frieze, with a light travelling coat and black picture hat.

Source: Isle of Wight Record Office, Isle of Wight County Press 14 September 1901

### NOVELTIES IN WEDDING GIFTS.

The choice of a wedding gift is anything but easy nowadays, when apparently everyone possesses everything that they can possibly require. One enterprising jeweller has, however, hit upon a new present of great beauty. It takes the form of a high Pompadour basket made of silver, with a deep pierced top, destined to hold fragrant pot-pourri or bon-bons. A far more elaborate style of present now on view in London, according to the *Pall Mall Gazette*, is a small bag purse made of whole pearls set in a transparent mesh of platinum, the rim being of platinum encrusted with brilliants, while the clasp is composed of a couple of tiny acorns, which show two perfect miniature pearls, each set in a little cup encrusted with very small diamonds.



Isle of Wight Observer 11 February 1911

## RYDE'S "ROYAL WEDDING" OF 1876



Ryde by Brannon (Beachlands 2nd from left)

The wedding of Miss Nora Lees of Beachlands, Ryde to Clarence Pigou in November 1876 was probably the nearest thing to a Royal wedding that Ryde has ever seen and the bride's parents, Sir John and Lady Lees, were the nearest thing to Royal residents. The report in the Isle of Wight Times described Miss Lees as "a *real* lady - not because of birth, position and education have made her such; but for her noble qualities of mind, unselfishness, general affability, &c, and the absence of all spurious pride and affection." A prize indeed for Clarence!

The morning service took place at Holy Trinity Church and it was estimated that in the church, in front of it and lining Dover Street were nearly 3000 people. The bride was "elegantly robed" in rich white Duchesse satin, with train, much trimming and tassel fringe. There were wreaths and bouquets of orange blossom and she carried a "magnificent" fan and "splendid handkerchief". The six bridesmaids were in cream silk dress and coat outfits, trimmed with blue velvet and pansies, extravagant hats trimmed with feathers, velvet and pansies. They carried fans and bouquets of yellow roses and violets. The wedding party numbered forty-five and the Times gave a detailed report on the colour and materials of all the ladies' costumes. The bridal pair "left the Church, over a flower bestrewn pathway", with the organ pealing forth Mendelssohn's Wedding March.

A long string of private carriages proceeded to Beachlands for the wedding breakfast where the 1st Isle of Wight (Ryde) Rifle Volunteers played on the lawn. Mrs Dunn, Beachlands housekeeper, was praised for providing the cake and "the entire breakfast was the work of her skilled hands, and in no respect was there the slightest possibility of any improvement having been made".

"In the afternoon (after Mr A Debenham had photographed the group) the newly wedded pair left *en route* for London amid the conventional shower of white satin slippers and rice."

There had been a dinner party of 20 at Beachlands on the eve of the wedding, another on the wedding evening, followed by a dance at the Town Hall where the bridesmaids and other guests appeared in their wedding attire. There was also a servants' party of about 50 at Beachlands on the wedding evening and many poor families "were supplied with dinners, puddings, cake, wine, &c".

The presents, about 200, were described as "costly and almost of endless variety, forming a glittering show... unique articles, rare specimens, curiosities, and things useful as well as valuable." A list of the jewellery alone gives us some idea:

Diamond ring, pink pearl and diamond ring, diamond solitaire earrings, turquoise earrings, white gold bracelet, plain gold bracelet, pearl and diamond bracelet, ruby and diamond bracelet, massive bracelet set with pearls, silver serpent bracelet, Indian bracelet, embossed Indian bracelet, gold bangle and sapphire and diamond locket.

Source: Isle of Wight Times Thursday 23 November 1876

### THE VICTORIAN WEDDING GIFT LIST: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE.

How well do you know your wedding presents? Try these top 12.

1. PORTE BONHEUR
2. ANTIMACASSARS
3. NIELLI CASKET
4. PIETRA DURA TRAY
5. ESCRITOIRE
6. ERERGNE
7. SILVER SUGAR SIFTER
8. PAIR OF PARIAN BOYS
9. ORMULO PINCUSHION
10. HOOP RINGS OF ALMANDINE
11. SCULPTOR CAUGHT NAPPING
12. BAGUE DE FIANCELLE LOUIS XVI



(Check how you did on the back page)

## MARRIAGE OF MISS DUFFETT 1913

In Celebration of the marriage of his daughter, Miss Dorothy Marie Duffett to Mr Walter Russell, of Smallbrook Farm, Mr J G Duffett entertained the employees at his Brewery and Corn Stores, and those at Gatehouse and Smallbrook, together with the bellringers at the Parish Church, to a sumptuous supper at the Anglesea Hall on Friday last. The health of the bride and bridegroom and that of the host was heartily honoured. Songs were given by most of those present.

"We append a list of the wedding presents."  
*145 different gift-givers were listed.*

### *Dad alone gave -*

Household linen, piano, drawing room suite, two pictures and gold tie pin

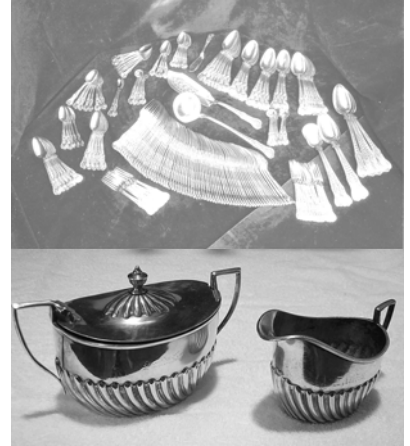
Bride to bridegroom - gold signet ring

Bridegroom to bride - gold watch wristlet

And they also received a gold pearl ring. Silver was mentioned 34 times.

As happens with presents there were quite a few repetitions. They received 13 vases and 13 pictures, (probably all useful), but could they use 4 butter dishes and 4 afternoon tea cloths, 3 hot water jugs and 3 biscuit barrels and 2 dozen dessert spoons. I also hope they liked sugar as they received 2 silver sugar basins, 2 silver sugar tongs, 2 silver sugar sifters and 1 silver sugar dredger! Fortunately they received a bottle of anti-tarnish from Barney.

Source: Isle of Wight Observer Saturday 18 October 1913



## VIC AND KATE WISE – MARRIED 1917

The picture shows Vic and Kate Wise on their wedding day 9 June 1917.

Everyone called him Vic although he was baptized Wilfred Victor. He was born in Staffordshire in 1896 and joined the Royal Artillery in WW1.

He met Kate Mantle while she was in London on war work and they married on 9 June 1917 at Ealing. Kate was the daughter of James and Rose Mantle (nee Charlo) and was born at Ryde in 1897.

At first they lived in the Midlands but in 1928 moved to the Island where they set up home at Oakfield. Vic died from tuberculosis five years later at 22 Harding Road leaving his widow, two sons and three daughters.

Kate never remarried. During WW2 she carried out fire watch duties and for many years she worked at St Helens Laundry in Oakfield. She died at her home 4 Eton Cottages, St John's Hill on 15 July 1963.





## MARRIED AT CHRISTMAS

We have Tennyson's warranty for asserting "That in the spring a young man's fancy, (or woman's, for the matter of that) lightly turns to thoughts of love," and we suppose the exceedingly mild weather before Christmas, which seem to have deceived the primroses, is also responsible for the fact that an unprecedented number of weddings were this year arranged to come off at Christmastide. Our respected Vicar, the Rev J Shearme, was occupied for a long time on Boxing Day tying hymeneal knots which are not easily slipped, while Mr Tutte, the Registrar, was flitting about with his official-looking tin case, engaged in registering similar transactions which had been entered into at the various dissenting places of worship. We are afraid to mention the number of weddings which have been reported to us, it is so out of proportion to the size of the town, but we trust that in each case the contracting parties will be happy, and that in none will marriage prove "a failure".

Isle of Wight Observer 31 December 1892



## MILITARY WEDDING AT HOLY TRINITY CHURCH 1917

A military wedding was solemnised at Holy Trinity Church on Boxing Day by the Rev J E Eddis, MA, RD, between 2nd Lieut W Drummond, of the South African Heavy Artillery, youngest son of C Drummond of Cape Town, and Hilda Marguerite James, second daughter of Francis R James, RN, of 3 Marine Terrace.

The bride's dress was embroidered white silk, with ninon corsage. She carried a sheaf of white lilies. Her two small bridesmaids, Doris James (sister) and Hilda Midlane, looked very sweet in dresses of pink georgette and mob caps, and carried baskets of pink and white flowers. They wore gold wish-bone brooches, the gift of the bridegroom. Sidney Midlane, RN, was best man.

A large number of friends attended the reception at the residence of the bride's parents. The newly wedded couple left for a honeymoon in Exeter. The bride's going away outfit was of navy blue, and she wore a handsome set of furs, the gift of the bridegroom.

Hilda James was well known in Ryde, having often given her services at concerts in aid of the Red Cross. The bridegroom came over from South Africa with the first contingent of the SAHA, and saw a good deal of service in France where he gained his commission on the field. The bride's father had just returned from a long period of service in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Source: Isle of Wight Observer Saturday 29 December 1917

## DIAMOND CELEBRATIONS



Two Ryde couples celebrated 60 years together over the Christmas of 1922.

Mr and Mrs Phillip Topp, of Haylands, were married on Christmas Day at the Wesleyan Chapel in Nelson Street, Ryde. Mr Topp was a lifelong member of the Primitive Methodist Church and the Society Steward of the Chapel in Star Street. He later held the same office at the Oakfield Chapel. A cake was given to them by members of the Ryde church in celebration of their anniversary.

Mr and Mrs Thomas Brading, of Marlborough Road, Ryde, celebrated their diamond anniversary at a special service at St John's Church, Ryde. 36 descendants of the couple attended and afterwards luncheon, tea and supper was served in St John's Parish Hall. They were entertained with a whist drive and dancing. "Mr and Mrs Brading were recipients of many congratulations and good wishes for a continuance of the years in which they have run together so long and amicably in double harness."

Thomas Brading was well-known for he had been the verger at St John's Church for many years, only resigning due to advancing age and loss of hearing. He was succeeded by his son, Mr W Brading.

Source: Isle of Wight Observer 30 December 1922

## CONGRATULATIONS TO A DIAMOND COUPLE!



Two of the RSHG's longest serving members celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary in September.

Fred and Maisie Kitching were married at St Helens Church on 22 September 1950. Fred was 28 and Maisie 18 years old. They spent the first part of their marriage living in St Helens where they brought up three children: David who is head teacher of Shanklin Primary School; Michael who is a self employed electrician living and working in Paris and Janette who works for Southern Water and is currently Chairman of RSHG.

This year on 22 September the couple had an Open House at their home in Dover Street, Ryde and many friends and family members visited to share a glass of champagne and a piece of cake and to congratulate the happy couple. Then on Saturday 25 September they celebrated with a meal at Liberty's, Union Street where they were joined by their three children and their spouses and three of their four grandchildren – Amy, Sophie and Alex. Tom Kitching, the fourth grandchild was unable to join the party in person as he was working in Germany at the time, but nevertheless did speak to his grandparents by telephone during the course of the evening.

Congratulations to Fred and Maisie on reaching your 60th wedding anniversary and we wish you many more happy and healthy years together.

## WEDDING GIFT ANSWERS

1. Lucky charm given to the bride and groom for good luck on their marriage.
2. Macassar oil was used by men in Victorian and Edwardian times as a conditioner to style the hair. As the oil would transfer from a gentleman's hair to the back of the chair he was sitting on, the antimacassar was developed - a small crocheted cloth placed over the back of a chair.
3. Nielli is an amalgam of blackened silver, copper and lead used decoratively to fill in intricate designs on ornately crafted metal objects.
4. This is a way of inlaying pieces of marble together to make pictures, similar to mosaics but seamless. Often used on items of furniture such as tables or on other items like trays.
5. A writing desk.
6. A large table centrepiece consisting of a frame with extended arms or branches supporting holders, as for flowers, fruit, or sweetmeats.
7. A silver spoon with holes in to sift the lumps out from sugar.
8. Parian ware is a type of bisque porcelain, a lower cost alternative to carved marble.
9. Ormolu is gilt bronze.
10. Earrings with almandine settings (dark red precious stone similar in colour to garnets).
11. A book by Mrs Jane Cook depicting heroes and heroines of nursery rhymes in white cut out paper against a black background to use with light in a similar way to cameos.
12. An engagement ring which belonged to Louis XVI, or was created during his reign, or designed on the same pattern as the one which Louis XVI owned.

