

BEYOND THE GRAVES

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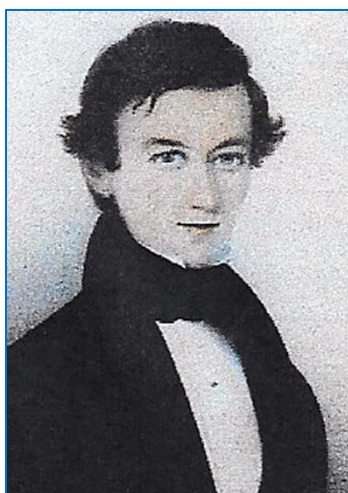
“READ ALL ABOUT IT” ~ Bringing You the News



MESSRS.
W. H. SMITH & SON
BEG TO ANNOUNCE
THEY WILL OPEN
THEIR
**NEW
BOOK
SHOP**
ON
THE ESPLANADE,
ON
MONDAY NEXT,
NOVEMBER 20,
..INSPECTION INVITED..

W.H. Smith had outlets throughout the country to retail newspapers and magazines, but the town of Ryde could boast many newspapers, printers, etc., over the years ~ so read all about them!

Circa 1905 postcard Ryde Esplanade – Ann Barrett
Image of the site in 2011 – Wikimedia Commons
Advert IW Observer 18 November 1911



Portrait of Ebenezer Hartnell courtesy of Pamela Hartnell

Ebenezer Hartnell, born at Ipswich and orphaned at 12 years old, had been apprenticed to a bookseller and printer. Just after coming of age he came to Ryde and set up business in the Arcade before moving to Cross Street. For a few months early in 1840 he published a mix of true and fictional stories in the “*IW Miscellany*”, including one about the last of the witches, Molly Downer of Bembridge.

His book on the ‘*Royal George*’ was bound in wood allegedly from the ship and achieved good sales. He originated the IW Observer in the 1840’s, but could not keep it going due to stamp duty and tax on adverts.

Later he became editor of the IW Mercury and in 1870 he started a small paper ‘The Ventilator’ which did not hold back on local comment. One piece about enclosing the foreshore resulted him being sued for libel by Mr V.A. Webber. When Hartnell lost the case he was so shocked that the worry badly affected his health and he could not eat or sleep properly. He died at 39, Pier Street, 26 August 1880, aged 65.



IW Observer header 30 September 1911

The IW Observer was re-established in 1852. Then it cost 4d, including a penny tax, and each copy carried a red seal stamped by the authorities at Somerset House. The publishers of the first issue had to make an apology "*for the shabby appearance of our first number ... the wrong size paper has been sent us and we have no alternative but to use it.*" Their offices were in the Colonnade, Lind Street.

NEWS FROM THE FIRST ISSUE IW OBSERVER

4 September 1852

Mr Barrow, surgeon, said that during the recent hot weather Oakfield had been in a most unhealthy state. The mud in the brook was impregnated with the impurities of the sewerage, which tended to increase the sickness. He stated this as a reason why the place should be taken under the Local Board. Mr E. Marvin said he had lately taken three acres on the St. John's Estate for building purposes: at present there was no drainage.

LADIES, NEVER DESPAIR!—Married at the Parish Church at Newchurch, on Wednesday, August 25th, by the Rev. A. Cooper, James Jenkins, tailor, to Jane Lacy, both of Ryde. The happy bridegroom is rather deformed, about forty years of age, and the lovely bride a decrepid maiden of seventy-six. After an extensive drive over Ryde to receive the congratulations of friends, they arrived at their future dwelling.

The IW Observer included "*Fashionable Intelligence*" listing names of nobility living or on holiday in the town, but one item was surely guaranteed to amuse the readers of their first issue. [left]

The Isle of Wight Railway advertised their services, especially Special Trains for local events.

STATIONER, BOOKBINDER, & NEWSAGENT.
Note Paper from 9d. to 3s. per five quires; Envelopes from 4d. to 1s. per 100.—London Times and all other Papers sent to any part of the town immediately on arrival.
S. BURDEN, 10, Union-street, Ryde.

IW Observer 27 August 1864 and a photograph of the first train from Ryde [Roy Brinton Collection]

THE ISLE OF WIGHT RAILWAY IS NOW OPEN.
TRAINS FROM RYDE every hour, returning from Shanklin, through Sandown and Brading, at every half-hour.
Sandown Regatta, on Wednesday, 31st August.
Royal Victoria Yacht Club Ball.—This Grand Ball will take place at the Club House, Ryde, on Wednesday, the 7th September.
Ryde Royal Regatta.—A SPECIAL TRAIN will leave Ryde after the Grand Display of Fireworks, by Baker and Sons, on Thursday, the 8th of September; leaving Ryde at 10.40 p.m., for Brading, Sandown, and Shanklin.

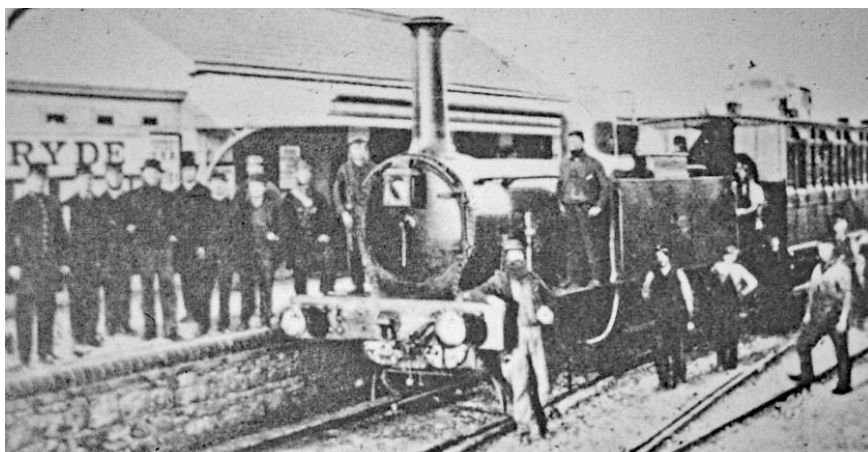
Above - Advert IW Observer 7 November 1868

IW Observer 23 October 1909

Private Greetings Cards – At the "Observer Press", the Colonnade, Lind-street, Ryde, can be seen a series of beautiful designs for private greetings cards.
Price from 2s. 6d. per dozen

IW Observer 21 August 1915

Shortage of Newspaper – Many newspapers are issuing the following notice, and we would ask our readers to assist in the same way. "Owing to the threatened shortage of paper, it behoves newspaper publishers at once to exercise the strictest economy. Readers are earnestly asked, therefore, to assist the newsagents to keep down unsold copies by giving a regular order."





IW Mercury header 14 March 1857

Printed and Published by JAMES BRIDDON, at "THE ISLE OF WIGHT MERCURY" Office, 7 and 8, Cross Street, Ryde, in the Parish of Newchurch, in the County of the Isle of Wight.—Saturday, Feb. 28, 1857.

The "Isle of Wight Mercury" TRADE DIRECTORY

The Public are informed that, as the object of the Proprietor is simply to increase the utility of this Journal the charge for insertion of Advertisements has been made almost nominal:—Non-Subscribers to the "Mercury," Three Lines 10s., inserted weekly for one year. Yearly subscribers to the "Mercury" 5s. per annum.

RYDE.

Examples from the
IW Mercury's Trade
Directory.
7 March 1857.

DEATH OF MR JAMES BRIDDON

The death of Mr James Briddon occurred at Ventnor on the 6th inst. Mr Briddon started in business, between thirty and forty years ago, as a publisher, printer, &c., in Cross Street, Ryde, in the premises now occupied by Mr Mason. He published various works, his "Guide to the Island" was very popular. He also started a local newspaper ... the "Mercury" ... but was not easily satisfied ... and altered its shape many times. After a few years the publication was suspended and Mr Briddon removed to Ventnor ... after a lapse of several years he restarted his paper ... the "IW Mercury".

Extract from Obituary 10 March 1894

Bakers.

COOPER, J.—Fancy Bread and Biscuit Baker. Home-made Genuine Brown Bread. 3, St. James's-street, opposite the Market.

PERKIS, S.—Fancy Bread and Biscuit Baker. Genuine Brown Bread. Bakings carefully attended to. 36, Castle-street.

Berlin Wool Depot.

BRIDDON, Mrs.—Ladies' Fancy Repository. Designs for Embroidery and Braiding Traced. Superior Needlework. Large Stock of Materials for Crochet, Knitting, Netting, Chenille Work, etc., selected from the principal French and German Houses. 7 & 8, Cross-street, Ryde.

Bookseller.

BRIDDON, JAMES.—English and Foreign Circulating Library. Christian Knowledge Society Depot. Stationery, Bookbinding, Engraving, and Printing. Handsome Books for Presents. "Isle of Wight Mercury" Office, 7 and 8, Cross-street, Ryde.

Boot and Shoe Establishment.

COOPER, E. (& Co.)—Have the Largest and Cheapest assortment of French and English Boots and Shoes in the Island. Samples sent to any part of the Town. London House, 13, 14 & 15, Cross-street, Ryde.

Boot and Shoe Manufacturers.

RANDS, G.—Calls the attention of the Public to his cheap and well-assorted stock of French and English Boots and Shoes, &c. 25, Cross-street.

NEWSPAPER CUTTINGS

IW OBSERVER 16 SEPTEMBER 1911 – Under the title of the varied charms of the Isle of Wight the "Lady's Pictorial" publishes a number of views of the Island, and among them a large and excellent photograph of the Western Esplanade at Ryde.

IW TIMES 24 DECEMBER 1914 – In a recent issue of the "Southampton Pictorial" there appears a charming photograph of Miss Innell Jolliffe a well-known Island poet and journalist. Miss Jolliffe was one of the first ladies on the island to take up the cause of the Belgian refugees.

IW OBSERVER 13 MAY 1916 – A soldier's paper called "Blighty" is the newest development of the war. It is to be presented to our fighting men ... produced weekly ... free of charge. It will have no bad news, no dull news, no news of the war, or politics, or crime, or the city, or anything stupid. It will aim to have all the best pictures and tell all the best stories.

IW TIMES 29 NOVEMBER 1964 – An initialled gas lighter was presented to Mr George Perkis, of 70 Well Street, on Saturday by the staff of Messrs. Wyman Marshall Ltd., wholesale newsagents of 22 Union-road, when he retired after six years as a part-time despatcher. Mr Perkis was well-known in the town as a part-time newspaper seller on Ryde Esplanade.



IW Times header 8 February 1912

HENRY WAYLAND,
THE "ISLE OF WIGHT TIMES" OFFICE,
Union-street, Ryde.
PRINTING IN ALL ITS BRANCHES, ON THE
PREMISES, executed with dispatch, by the most
experienced hands, and at LONDON PRICES!
BOOK-WORK AT THE LOWEST CONTRACT
PRICES, Pamphlets, Sermons, &c., Printed in a superior
style, with the most Modern Types, and powerful Machine
Presses.
AUCTIONEERS' BILLS AND CATALOGUES
Printed on the shortest notice.

10 adverts for Union Street businesses and the rest from as far away as London. Items included the Budget, Petty Sessions, Ryde and other Island news.



Advert for Lightbown's Visitor's Guide in the - Ryde & Seaview Guide 1935 [Right]

IW TIMES 29 NOVEMBER 1962

A 105-year-old copy of "The Weekly Times", No 551, Vol. XI, has been unearthed by employees of Mr G.H. Allen, a local builder, whilst modernising the Church Army Holiday House, Spencer-road, Ryde.

Let us lend You one of the Latest Novels
 from our Library. 2d. per vol.

The Times Bookshop

72 UNION STREET,
 RYDE. Tel. 128

PRINTERS & PUBLISHERS

Lightbown's Visitors' Guide

A DAILY PROGRAMME

AMUSEMENTS and EXCURSIONS

For Ryde and the Island
 Each Saturday. Price 1d.

The IW Times launched on 10 April 1862, with premises in Union Street. The proprietor believed there was a need for a mid-week newspaper. Their editorial stated that they entered 'upon our labours without the slightest wish, or intention, to interfere with, or injure any of our contemporaries; we believe there is ample room for all' and they solicited the support of the public.

They had a lot of advertising, although the front page of the first issue had only

They soon had a range of features including fashion, gardening tips, household hints and a children's section.



IW Times advert, 10 April 1862.

One of their fashion sketches, 10 April 1913

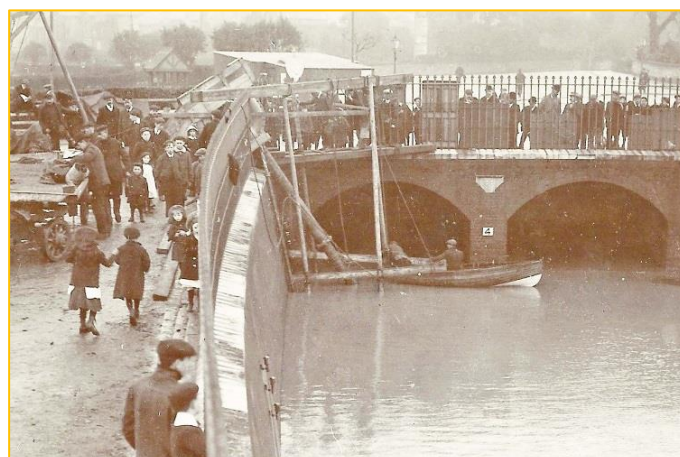
Location of their Union Street office, with the larger square sign. [Postcard detail, Hilary Lloyd]

THE FLOODS IN RYDE TRAINS HELD UP

The exceptional rainfall combined with high tides, has been disastrous. On Tuesday evening the water poured through the Tunnel connecting the Esplanade Station with St John's Road Station at such a rate that the windows of the pumping station were forced in, and the pumps so broken that they ceased working ... passengers and luggage have to be conveyed by bus and cab.

[IW Times 28 October 1909]

Postcard of 1909 - Roy Brinton Collection



IW TIMES 4 FEBRUARY 1965

About 120 representatives of the Island's book and newsagent trades were invited to a reception at the Ponda Rosa, given by the New English Library Ltd., of London. On display were some 3,000 books, mostly novels.



County Press header 29 November 1884

As the title suggests the IW County Press encompassed the whole Island, so it was not strictly a Ryde newspaper. Founded in 1884 by George Brannon and Edwin Fradd, they soon split up and the newspaper was run by a company. [source 'Black on Wight' for further reading on the history of the newspaper]

Ryde residents could collect [or even have delivered] their papers from local newsagents



Two generations ran the newsagent shop on the corner of Simeon Street and Monkton Street. It was established by Henry Ticehurst in 1882, who was also the sub-postmaster. He was succeeded by his son, Eugene Ticehurst, seen in his garden, who was also a photographer.



[Obituary of Eugene Ticehurst IW County Press 25 March 1950]
[Images RSHG Archive]

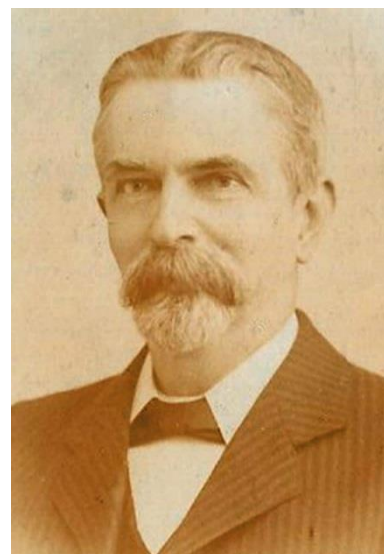


Facia in Ryde High Street revealed during alterations 2017 [Photo RSHG]

DEATH OF MR WILLIAM WATTS

A well known Ryde businessman. It is with deep regret that we have to record the death, at his residence, North View, Spencer-road, Ryde, on Saturday evening of Mr William Watts ... until a few years ago he was the doyen of Union-street tradesmen ... representative of the best type of the old-fashioned bookseller and stationer, now practically extinct ... born in Ealing, near Southampton ... he came to Ryde in 1868 assistant to E. and M.A. Gibbs, booksellers and stations of Union-street ... two years afterwards he started business on his own account at 15 Cross-street ... in 1888 he moved to more commodious premises at 29 Union-street ... Queen Victoria, members of other Royal families and of the aristocracy were among his customers ... he began a long association with the County Press ... building up this paper's present large circulation in Ryde.

Extract from Obituary IW County Press 29 April 1933



William Watts
[detail from a portrait postcard sent to his daughter in 1903 – RSHG]

