



# RYDE SOCIAL HERITAGE GROUP

## Beyond the Graves

Volume 16: Number 2: April 2021

## LET'S CELEBRATE

### From Rearing Feasts to Street Parties & Disco's

Rearing Feasts began in the late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century as a celebratory meal given to workers on completion of a building, a tradition well recorded in Ryde.

**IW Observer 19 January 1856**  
Hospitality — Mr. Sivier entertained all the men engaged in the erection of his new hotel on the beach, at a substantial "rearing feast" on Tuesday evening last. This is one of the few good Old English customs still existent in this locality.



RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT.  
**SIVIER'S FAMILY HOTEL,**  
Directly in front of the Sea, to the right of the Pier, and close to the Royal Victoria Yacht Club House; commanding one uninterrupted view of Spithead and the Soleut, together with the Hampshire and Sussex Coasts. The House is handsomely furnished, and with every attention to comfort. Having a landing for boats, it offers great facilities to Yachting Parties. The charges are strictly moderate.  
**FIRST-RATE POSTING TO ALL PARTS OF THE ISLAND.**  
COACHES AND OMNIBUSES START FROM THE DOOR.  
A NIGHT PORTER ALWAYS IN ATTENDANCE.



Early photograph showing the steps to the sea, Peter Rickard.

Later postcard, with the Western Gardens & the Victorian advert. RSHG

#### Hampshire Telegraph 4 January 1871

Servants — At the Ryde Borough Court, on Monday, Mrs. Sivier, of Sivier's Hotel, Pier-street, was charged with keeping three servants and neglecting to pay duty. The defendant was fined £5 and costs.

Sadly, the same newspaper, 22 February 1871, reported that Mrs Sivier, after a period of 'weakness' one night walked down the steps from 'Siviers' into the sea and was drowned.

**BINSTEAD.]—REARING FEAST.—On Thursday evening last, the whole of the men in the employ of Mr. Hutchings, who have been engaged in the erection of the new mansion known as Quar Hurst, were, on the completion of the roofing, treated by the proprietor, W. Wruy, esq., jun., to a bountiful spread, provided by Mr. Gad Hill, in his usual excellent style. About 30 sat down. The chair was occupied by Mr. James Hutchings, who, by his kind and genial manner, added greatly to the amusements of the evening. After the usual loyal and patriotic toasts had been given and duly honoured, toast and song became the order of the evening. On the whole, a very pleasant evening was passed, tending greatly to establish that good feeling which should ever exist between the employer and employées.**

IW Observer 20 August 1864

**REARING FEAST.—Mr. R. Yelf** liberally treated the workmen of Mr. John Denham, builder, to a first-rate dinner on Thursday last, to celebrate the roof-rearing of a house in course of erection for him by the well-known builder and contractor alluded to above. The dinner was prepared at Yelf's Shades, the caterer being Mr. Nottage, whose "plentiful hospitality" on such occasions is become proverbial. In the course of the evening, after the cloth was removed, several songs were sung and toasts and healths proposed and drunk most heartily, and of course the invocation for the good health of the esteemed giver of the feast was responded to in a bumper with three times three. This old custom of rearing feasts is almost dying out, but we are glad to find that it still exists with the generation that brought it in.

IW Observer 8 March 1862



#### IW Times 10 February 1866

Opening Dinner — On Tuesday evening last a very agreeable party, numbering about 30 persons, assembled at Yelf's hotel tap, to celebrate Mr. Jobling's taking possession of the establishment, and to wish him every success in his new undertaking. [Photo of Yelf's Tap Tony Gale]





The IW Observer, 15 November 1873, reported the 'House Warming' the previous Thursday evening, when 'on the invitation of Mr & Mrs Jas. Buckett of the Terminus Hotel, a goodly number assembled to do honour to a sumptuous dinner' for the opening of the new premises. So named because it was at the, then, end of the railway line from Ventnor, the journey to the pier having to continue by tram. 'All sorts of people, in all sorts of dresses, mechanics, firemen and burgesses' numbering about 60 sat down to a 'first class dinner'. The report ended by expressing surprise at 'so rich a treat flowing from a solitary Buckett'.

The menu from Mayor B. Whittington's banquet at the Pier Hotel, 28 November 1893. Roy Brinton Collection

The courses were all in French. Huîtres [oysters] followed by Potage [two soups, probably oxtail or lentil]. The Fish course was turbot or epilans frits [fried smelts]; Entrées [the choice included veal]; Relevés [probably turkey, ham and lamb]; Rôt [roast – maybe potatoes etc.]; Entremets [seemingly seven different options including pastries]; Dessert and Coffee followed, making ten courses in all.

The Pier Hotel was also the venue for a grand banquet, for 30, in honour of Henry Brady, late district engineer of the LSW Railway Company. He was presented with a piece of plate worth 50 guineas. Mr and Mrs Barnes were complimented on the admirable way they had catered for the happiness of the party. The menu was similar to that of Mayor Whittington's. Entrees included 'Currie Chicken' and 'Salmi Pigeons', Reveles included goose and tongue, an additional game course of pheasants, wild ducks and leveret. Entremets included 'Sir Watkin Wynn Pudding'. The company were entertained by Tollervey's band. From the IW Observer report 15 November 1873.



**SUPPER AT THE WEEKS' HOTEL.**—On Monday evening last, Mr. and Mrs. Denham, of the above hotel, gave an Old English supper, in honour of having obtained a full license. About 60 sat down to a first-rate spread, which was served up in capital style. Mr. William Lake, of the Eagle brewery, occupied the chair, and Mr. William Newman, contractor, the vice-chair. After the removal of the cloth, the usual loyal and patriotic toasts were given and heartily responded to, that of "The Host and Hostess" being received with great applause. Song and sentiment passed merrily round until the "forbidden hours" began to dawn, when the company separated, having spent a most enjoyable and happy evening.

Weeks Hotel report IW Observer 15 November 1873

## IW Observer 5 November 1921

**DINNER AND SMOKER.**—To celebrate the close of his first season as proprietor of the Albany Hotel and Restaurant, Pier-street, Mr. H. Sharp invited his friends to a dinner and smoker on Friday evening, which was held in the dining-room, and proved a very enjoyable function. Mr. L. Tayler presided, supported by Host Sharp, Mr. E. Broome (the "Solent"), Mr. S. Pack ("Commercial," St. John's road), and others. After a substantial and well served repast harmony prevailed in which Mr. Bert Chapman was highly entertaining with his songs and monologues. Songs were also given by Messrs. Walter Rymer ("Bay of Biscay") Salter, Barnet, Nelson, Pack, etc., Mr. Perren, senr., presiding at the piano with his usual efficiency. Several toasts were honoured and Mr. and Mrs. Sharp were heartily thanked for their generous hospitality.



Week's Hotel had opened in 1864 just as a beerhouse. Eventually being taken over by Mew Langton, it finally closed in 1970. Information from Tony Gale

On Thursday evening, the workmen employed in the erection of the new Almshouses, had a "rearing feast" at the Albany Hotel, thanks to the kindness of Miss Brigstocke. About 40 set down altogether, and thoroughly enjoyed the capital dinner which had been provided.

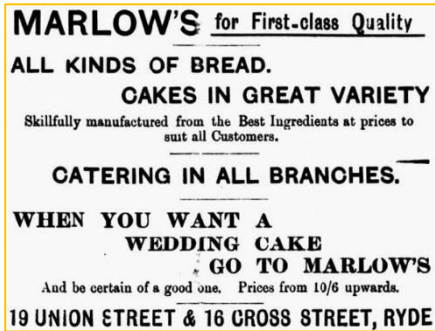
IW Observer  
28 November 1891

Photograph RSHG





IW Times 17 March 1923



IW Observer 5 February 1916

To celebrate VJ Day Mrs Sivell of Quarry Road collected the necessary funds and some 60 children, from Alfred Street and Quarry Road sat down to a liberal spread. Afterwards the children waited on the grown-ups. Music was relayed from one of the houses, singing and games followed. After a visit from the Mayor, Mr Weeks and Mrs Weeks, they all went off in red, white and blue decorated buses around the town. On returning an effigy of Hitler was burnt on a bonfire and celebrations continued until midnight.

From a report in the IW County Press 8 September 1945

Quarry Road Street Party  
Photographs Heather Driver

At Elmfield the children's tea took place in the Congregational church for 120. Prizes were given for the best fancy dress. This was followed by a social evening including community singing and a comedy act. The evening ended with Mr Reed Ford of Portsmouth's conjuring and ventriloquism act. *'The happy party concluding with Auld Lang Syne'.*

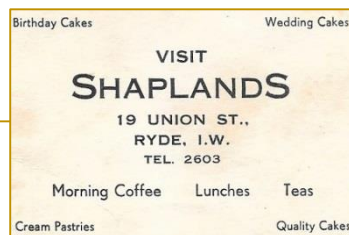
From the IW County Press report  
15 September 1945

#### IW Observer 30 November 1918

Special Constables Dinner – On Thursday evening Mr Capel Morris gave a dinner at Yelf's Hotel, Ryde, to the Special Constables and Regulars of the Borough Police. His Worship the Mayor, was with the company, and the string band of the Royal Marine Artillery attended. Stars were presented to several of the Chief Constables for their length of service.

The IW Observer 22 April 1922 reported the silver wedding celebrations of Mr and Mrs Ugoni of the Ryde Restaurant, near to the Albany. Beti's made the cake, decorated with Italian and Union Jack Flags. Shapland's was another well-known Union Street shop noted for their cakes.

Business card  
Hilary Lloyd



The IW Observer, 24 December 1921, reported on the marriage of Miss Kate Allnutt to Mr F. Smith, at St. John's Church. Her employers, Harvey & Co of Piers Street presented her with a wedding cake and glass tumblers, wine glasses and a set of jugs.



Ryde Guide 1935

#### Kelly's Directory 1951 Quarry Road residents

From 107 St. John's road.

- 1 Matthews Edwd. Willis
- 2 Buckett Miss
- 3 Willmore Mrs. E. M
- 4 Cass Douglas
- 4 Adams Percy J
- 5 Smith Wm
- 6 Baker Geo
- 7 Osborne Geo
- 8 French Chas. Wm
- 9 Clarke Mrs. O. M

..... here is Abingdon rd ...

- 10 Draper Cyril
- 11 Kelly Mrs. C
- 12 Cox Chas. Stanley
- 13 Young Miss C

- 14 Ide Leonard
- 15 Tester Alfd
- 16 Loader Miss

..... here is Well st ...

- 20 Andrews Geo
- 21 Lambert Arth. Rt
- 22 Fulwood Mrs. F. E
- 23 Armstrong Gordon Wm
- 24 Bishop Wm. A
- 25 Savage Harold
- 26 Rowling Miss E
- 27 Carey Mrs. H
- 28 Burridge Rd
- 29 Turner Vincent
- 30 Magill Rt
- 31 Davis Peter
- 32 Eagle Wm. F

..... here is Longmead rd

- 35 Butler Mrs. M
- 36 Butler Regnld
- 37 Cross Mrs. A. B
- 38 Sivell Christie
- 39 Blow Fredk. Wm
- 40 Drake Wilfred
- 41 Few Harry
- 42 Stay Mrs
- 43 Baker Cecil W

..... here is Alfred st ...

- 45 Wyatt Ernest C
- 46 Day Wm. J. S
- 49 Young Alb
- 50 Read Lionel Geo



Book Now For

**Victory Night  
Celebration  
DINNER-DANCE**

at 7.30 on June 8th  
at  
**The Galleon**  
Fully Licensed Restaurant.  
RYDE.

Admission by Ticket only  
**12/6d.**

**"THE GALLEON HALL"**  
adjoining the present Restaurant  
will be open for this date.

**"If it's at  
The Galleon  
it's Good."**  
Tel. Ryde 2980.

**The Galleon**  
Fully Licensed Restaurant.  
RYDE

Where the only aim is to add to Patrons  
enjoyment for:—  
"The World is full to-day of pundits  
babbling about Calories. It is not  
Calories but the enjoyment of delicious  
Food, courteously served, with choice  
Wines, that does one 'good.'—Anon

The Restaurant is open 10 a.m. to  
10.30 p.m. daily. Sundays, noon to  
10 p.m. Dancing Saturdays 8 p.m.  
to Midnight to Harry Carter's  
Band.

To Book Tables. 'Phone Ryde 2980.

Advert for 'The Galleon' in Union Street.

**IW Times 24 March 1966** advertised The Unity Stompers Buffet Dance at the Galleon Restaurant on Friday March 25<sup>th</sup>, 8 – 11 pm. Tickets [including buffet] 5/- available at the door or phone 2980

Ryde & Seaview Guide 1954

LICENSED HOTELS			
Appley Hotel, Ryde .....	60	Royal Esplanade Hotel, Ryde .....	62
Brook House Hotel, Binstead .....	81	Royal Squadron Hotel, Ryde .....	44
Crown Hotel, Ryde .....	68	Royal York Hotel, Ryde .....	49
High Salterns Hotel, Seaview .....	92	Seaview Hotel, Seaview .....	68
Hotel Ryde Castle, Ryde .....	34	Spencers Inn, Ryde .....	54
London Hotel, Ryde .....	62	The Lake Superior, Ryde .....	85
Northbank Hotel, Seaview .....	94	The Vine Hotel, St. Helens .....	83
Osborne Hotel, Ryde .....	35	Westfield Park Hotel, Ryde .....	40-41
Pier Hotel, Seaview .....	91	Yelfs Hotel, Ryde .....	73

Reported in the IW Observer 4 March 1922

A Fancy Dress Dance to celebrate the marriage of Princess Mary to Viscount Lascelles was given by Mrs Rolph at her Salon in the Royal Victoria Arcade. She herself was got up in a novel manner her headdress being the 'Isle of Wight Times'. Miss Lambert's ladies' orchestra provided the music for about 100 dancers. Mrs Payne generously gave a two-tier wedding cake with bells etc., to be distributed half way through the evening.



Coronation celebrations in Arthur Street  
Photo Derek Tomlinson

About 30 children participated in a street party for Oakfield and Mayfield Roads. It was unfortunate that the after tea sports programme had to be cancelled because of rain, but it held off until all the children had finished their tea. Coronation tumblers were presented to all the children and arrangements were made to deliver souvenirs to those who were absent. In addition to the tea, the youngsters were given sweets and fruit and participated in a "lucky dip." The success of the party was due to the whole-hearted and generous support given by all householders of the two roads.

Articles from IW County Press 6 June 1953

**SOLENT COURT HOTEL**  
The Esplanade.  
Ryde 63873

WHERE ELSE CAN YOU ENJOY A 5-COURSE  
DINNER FOR £2.95 INCLUSIVE — AND  
DANCE 7 NIGHTS A WEEK

Please let us quote for your function or wedding  
— our speciality.

## MAYOR AT STREET PARTIES

On Coronation Day a number of street parties were organised. On account of the cold weather the Arthur Street event was held at the St. John Ambulance Hall and the Argyll Street party in the A.T.C. Hall. Both events were attended by the Mayor and Mayoress, who were warmly welcomed. There were also similar parties in the Haylands and St. John's areas. At Mr. Thorne's field in Elmfield about 230 children from Harding and Great Preston Roads and Preston Close were entertained with sports and tea at which the Rev. A. J. Pearman (vicar of St. John's) presided. The Ryde Buccaneers added greatly to the enjoyment of practically every street party in the borough when they arrived and distributed ice-cream to the children. Their visits were all the more appreciated because they came as a complete surprise. Their tour was organised by Messrs. A. V. Kervill (captain) and J. Charloe (vice captain)

Advert IW County Press 12 August 1978

**IW Times 8 December 1966** About 150 people attended the third annual Christmas party of the Railway Retirement Association at the Oasis on Tuesday afternoon. Among those present were representatives of similar associations at Havant and Bognor. [The Oasis was at the Solent Court Hotel]





Exterior photograph RSHG  
Black & white advert  
IW County Press 17 October  
1970  
Colour advert The Islander  
August 1970  
Jimmy Rivers entertaining at  
a function [Ann Barrett]

**Ponda-Rosa**  
ASHEY, RYDE - Tel. Ryde 2265  
★ THE ISLAND'S FINEST NIGHT SPOT ★

FULLY LICENSED  
FREE HOUSE  
•  
LOUNGE BARS licensed until 1 a.m.  
•  
LARGE RESTAURANT  
DINNER DANCE EVERY EVENING  
Capacity 250

★ WEST END CABARET ★  
EVERY EVENING  
(Except Monday and Saturday)  
7s. 6d. Admission  
DANCING EVERY EVENING  
to Resident Band

**SUPER SNACK BAR**  
ORDERS FOR DINING  
UP TO 11.45 p.m.  
CAR PARK FOR 200 CARS



#### IW County Press 13 June 1970

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Stroud, of Oak Lodge, Weeks Road, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last week with a dinner party at the Ponda Rosa. Mrs. Constance Stroud is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jolliffe, of Coppid Hall Farm, Havenstreet.

**Ponda-Rosa**  
FULLY LICENSED ASHEY, RYDE, I.W.  
Telephone: Ryde 2265

★ INTIMATE DINING  
Every Evening

★ DINNER DANCE  
Every Saturday  
TO THE NEW  
**PONDA ROSA TRIO**  
featuring 'MIKE OLIVER'  
(The Wizard at the Organ)

★ SUNDAY LUNCH (Olde English Fayre)

★ BANQUETING  
BE SURE OF SUCCESS  
BOOK YOUR DINNER DANCE  
(Capacity 250)  
BUFFET DANCE  
(Capacity 400)  
WITH THE SPECIALIST

**Banqueting is our Business**

★ 3 DINING ROOMS  
★ 3 BARS  
★ CAR PARK 200 CARS

#### IW Times 6 February 1969

Motor Coach Owners' Association – At the annual dinner held at the Ponda Rosa, Ashey, Mr. Shotter, voiced concern about the sweeping alterations planned for Ryde Esplanade, in connection with a new western relief road. "We hope the interests of the coach operators will not be lost sight of as this work progresses," he said.

The Ponda Rosa was a favourite venue for large dinner functions. When extra staff were needed head waitress Jean Ball could call on a bank of freelance waitresses.



#### IW Times 4 June 1964

A cheque for £250 was presented to Oakfield Football Club on Friday at the Hotel Ryde Castle by Oakfield F.C. Supporters' Club who entertained the footballers and their wives and friends to a dinner and dance.

#### Old Rydeians' Dinner And Presentation

More than 150 old boys, parents, staff and friends attended Old Rydeians' annual dinner and ball at the Hotel Ryde Castle on Friday evening, including the Mayor and Mayoress, Ald. and Mrs. William Ramage.

The Mayor proposed a toast to the hosts, and in reply, Mr. Anthony Gale referred to the growing number of old boys joining the organisation.

Capt. G. B. O. Bowyer, chairman, proposed "The Guests" and Mr. V. G. Symonds, guest of honour, responded.


#### IW Times 2 December 1965



Tudor Catering Room and  
Ballroom Hotel Ryde Castle  
Brian Young  
Postcard of the exterior RSHG



**SPENCER'S INN, 30/31 Union St., RYDE**  
A.A. TELEPHONE 3301 R.A.C.  
A Fully Licensed Free House with Several Cheerful Bars, Two Restaurants and a dozen Comfortable Bedrooms.  
Open all the year. Innkeeper: George Spencer.



LUNCHEON, DINNER OR SUPPER EVERY DAY INCLUDING SUNDAYS  
A la Carte Specialities include: Fresh Scampi, Lobsters, Prawns & Crabs, Fresh Salmon, English Rump and Fillet Steak with Mushrooms, Young Ducks & Chickens. DINNER DANCE NIGHTLY with Supper Licence.  
HOTEL TARIFF :-Room, Breakfast, 25/- includes Early Tea & Newspaper.  
★ MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT SPENCER'S—The Island's Favourite Inn

Advert 1960



*Spencer's*  
**DISCOTHEQUE**  
UNION STREET  
**RYDE**  
NEXT TO POST OFFICE  
**OPEN EVERY NIGHT**  
EXCEPT MONDAYS  
**9.P.M. — 2.A.M.**  
**RYDE'S NIGHT SPOT**

Interior postcard view and Poster  
Hilary Lloyd



SPENCER'S INN AT RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT

**GRAND OPENING NIGHT**  
FEBRUARY 10, 1979 UNDER ENTIRELY NEW OWNERSHIP  
Jean and Mick Brown and Richard and Mary Hayter invite all their friends, old and new, to their opening night  
Licensed until 1 am with Super Selective Buffet  
Feel free to come along and see what Spencer's Inn now has to offer — **FOUR BARS — NIGHT CLUB** and a **SUPERB A La CARTE RESTAURANT** which opens on February 14, 1979  
A Ticket for a free bottle of wine with your first meal in the restaurant will be given to all attending

IW County Press 10 February 1979

**IW County Press 20 December 1980**

About 40 representatives of Island WRVS sections attended a luncheon party at Spencer's Inn, Ryde to say farewell to Mrs. Ena Crossley, who had retired as county organiser.

**The Prince Consort**  
St. Thomas's Street, Ryde (2240 and 3270).  
**THE RESTAURANT**  
Open for luncheon and dinner every day except Sunday evening. Dinner-Dance every Saturday.  
• **THE PUB**  
Fully licensed Free House.  
Bar snacks — Games Room — Children's Room  
**THE DISCO**  
Open Saturdays from 8 p.m.-2 a.m.  
Available for private parties.

IW County Press 7 June 1975



Interior view of the Prince Consort  
Brian Young

**ROYAL YORK HOTEL**  
**RYDE**  
The popular rendezvous for a night of gaiety in top class company.  
Now appearing nightly in the Public Bar Lounge that superb artiste  
**DOLLY BALL**  
on the fabulous Gulbrandsen organ.  
Follow the crowd.  
**ALL ROADS LEAD TO THE**  
**ROYAL YORK HOTEL**  
**RYDE**

IW County Press 3 May 1975

**IW County Press 1 October 1966**

Silver Jubilee Garden Show — During the visit of Earl Mountbatten, he was the guest of honour at a luncheon at the Royal York Hotel attended by the Mayor Mr. J. B. W. Brownsdon. Mr. Dibbens presided over an attendance of about 44 guests.



**IW Times 7 July 1966** The famous former Royal Victoria Yacht Club began a new career last night as the "Prince Consort"... following the completion of the first stage of a £25,000 to convert the premises into a "luxury pub and private club".



**IW County Press 7 May 1960**

About 300 people attended the annual Island Police Ball at the Royal York Hotel, Ryde, on Friday week. Over £100 was raised for police and various Island charities. Bert Osborne's band provided the music. Mr. Osborne being M.C.

Interior photographs of the Royal York  
Ann Barrett