



# RYDE SOCIAL HERITAGE GROUP

## Beyond the Graves

Volume 17: Number 1: January 2022

### *On The First Day of Christmas My True Love Sent to Me ...*

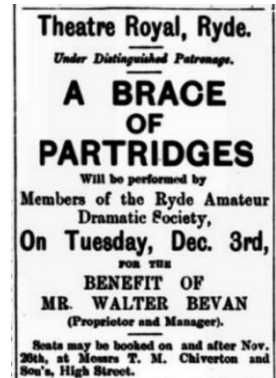
#### *A Partridge in a Pear tree*

The grey partridge is a medium sized bird with a distinctive orange face. It is strictly a ground bird, so never likely to be found in pear trees!

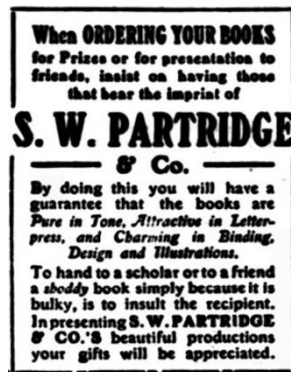


Theatre Royal photograph  
Roy Brinton Collection  
S W Partridge advert  
IW Observer 9 December 1905  
Article from Wartime Garden Work  
IW Observer 26 October 1918

The IW Observer 7 December 1901 reported on Ryde Amateur Dramatic Society's recent performance at the Theatre Royal to a crowded house. *"the histrionic abilities of our townsmen received the enthusiastic recognition they thoroughly deserved."* Mr T W Gudgeon played Lord Wallerton, an impecunious nobleman, while Florence Stainer was Lady Wallerton. The *"Brace of Partridges"*, the quiet and steady Arthur Partridge and his identical fifth cousin, the rackets Alfred Partridge, were played by P T Chiverton. Both were in pursuit of the same girl, the inn keeper's daughter, Peggy Stubbs, acted by Mrs Louis Joseph.



IW Observer 23 November 1901



If a heavy crop of pears on small trees is desired it is best to plant cordon trained or dwarfs or pyramids. Pear trees may be planted during the present month, but it must be remembered that some varieties are unreliable if they are grown on the pear or free stock. In selecting trees it is important to remember that most dessert kinds bake and cook well before they are ripe, so it is hardly necessary to plant stewing pears as well. Pears require plenty of warmth to ripen, and when cold weather comes early in the autumn, as it has done this year, some kinds of stewing pears may not ripen at all.

#### **IW Observer 6 October 1888**

Harvest Festival – At All Saints' Parish Church the pilasters were decorated with dahlias and corn, and the base with marrows, grapes, apples, nuts, potatoes, beet, turnips, and the branch of a pear tree laden with fruit.

**IW Observer 10 October 1908** The recent spell of warm weather had the curious result of bringing a pear tree in Preston Place out into full bloom. The tree bloomed in the spring but bore little or no fruit, so that the second flowering is very extraordinary.

#### *Two Turtle Doves ...*

Turtle Doves symbolize love and faithfulness. They mate for life, working together to build nests and rear young.



**IW Observer 20 February 1869** – Valentine was a Roman bishop or presbyter of the church, beheaded in the year 278. It is said that on this day (February 14) the birds choose their mates, and that from thence came the custom of young people choosing valentines,

**IW Observer 21 March 1863** - On Sunday afternoon last their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales left Osborne and proceeded by a long detour to St. Clare where the Prince and Princess Louis of Hesse had spent their honeymoon. The news of the visit soon got noised about, and many loyal souls trudged off to St. Clare. The young couple looked as happy as turtle doves, and doubtless they were. The royal couple's wedding photograph, left.

The IW Observer, 24 January 1920, reported on the marriage of Miss A Jeffery of High Park, to Mr J Scovell of Pear Tree Farm, Wroxall.





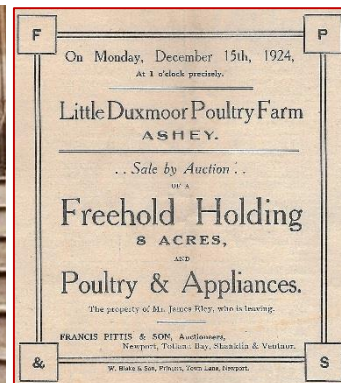
## Three French Hens ...



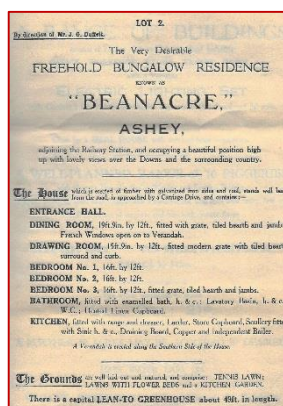
James George Duffett retired from the Lion Brewery in 1921 and farmed at Beanacre for several years. Their catalogue listed conditions of sale – day old chicks were sent by passenger train, any dying in transit would be replaced or refunded; other livestock on three-day approval; crates should be returned to Ashey Station, etc.

1928 Catalogue for Beanacre Farm advertising various breeds of poultry for sale, Wyandotte cockerels illustrated. 1932 Sale Catalogue for Beanacre. Both Roy Brinton Collection.

Mr Duffett at Beanacre [photo contributed by Jo Banks]



The 1924 auction at Duxmoor numbered about 110 lots. No 15 was a 100 egg incubator by Hearson, there were several different sized portable fowl houses, masses of wire netting and various lots of Wyandotte, Leghorns, pullets, cocks and hens. Roy Brinton Collection



**IW Observer 25 June 1904**  
For Sale Egg Incubator;  
Foster Mother with run;  
12 Laying Hens, and  
Portable House with  
runs.  
Brockenhurst  
Argyll Street, Ryde.

## Four Calling Birds ...



RSHG President, Richard Smout, leading the Bird Watch in Ryde Cemetery. May 2015.

A pigeon and a magpie photographed in the cemetery by Tracy Welstead.

### IW Observer 17 March 1866

There is a thrush's nest with five eggs, setting for the last fortnight, in the grounds of Beldornie Tower, the seat of Warren Hastings Anderson, esq.

### IW Observer 2 July 1921

Mr. Yelland informs us that the Marquis of Taverstock has released 5 pairs of Pekin Nightingales in the Binstead district with the hope of propagating this species of bird in the Island. It is hoped that sportsmen will refrain from shooting strange birds they may see in the district.



### IW Times 2 October 1969

Application had been made to fell 60 trees at Woodlands Vale. The Borough Surveyor said "we really don't know enough about this, we should ask for more information. It was unanimously agreed after he added: "After all, when a person becomes mature you don't just cut him down—the same should apply to trees."

### IW Times 11 July 1968

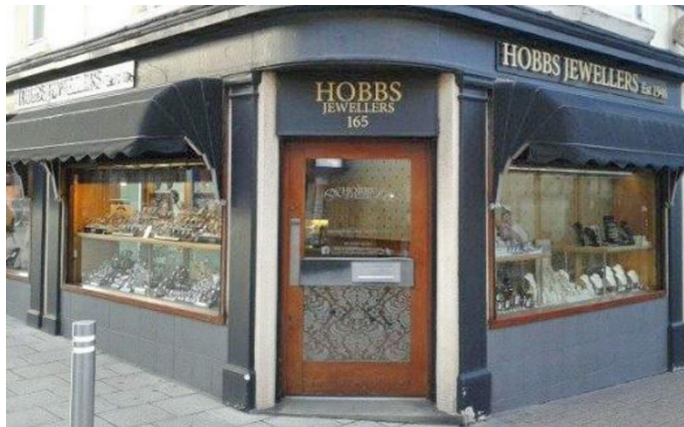
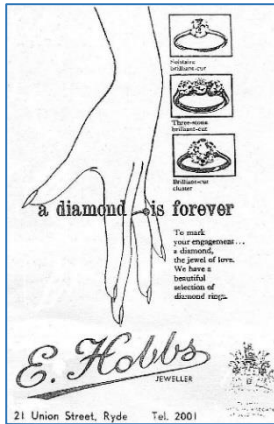
At this time of the year the hedgerows provide a haven for numerous nesting birds. It is also the time when farmers and local authorities embark upon hedge destruction. The R.S.P.C.A. pleads that the hedges should not be disturbed until after the fledglings have left the nest. For all of us birds provide an essential part of the country scene.



## Five Golden Rings ...

### IW Observer 4 January 1919

Weddings – One wonders when there will be another “boom” in war weddings. There were very few such marriages at Xmas; by the time the “boys” come home at Easter the bells may be ringing again.



Morriss advert,  
St John's Parish Magazine,  
January 1934

Hobbs adverts:

Left IW Times 12 March  
1964 [Union St]

Right 15 May 1972 [High St]

Shop front RSHG



**BERNARD MITCHELL LTD.**  
60 Union street. Tel. Ryde 3247

**BERNARD MITCHELL LTD.**  
ENGAGEMENT & WEDDING RINGS  
THE ISLAND'S LEADING STOCKISTS  
OF HIGH GRADE WATCHES  
HIGHEST PRICES FOR  
OLD GOLD, SILVER,  
DIAMONDS & JEWELLERY

Bull Carlton, 56 Union st  
Hobbs E. 24 High st  
Morriss P. R. 156 High st

The Island Echo, 6 August 2017, reported on the closure one of Ryde's longest trading businesses, Hobbs, the jewellers. Founded in 1946, after 71 years the family decided to close the shutters for good. Robert Hobbs paid tribute to their loyal customers and their fantastic staff, saying “it has been a privilege to serve the town alongside them”.

Bernard Mitchell advert IW Times 1961

1951 Kelly's Directory – Ryde Jewellers

### IW Observer 6 April 1912

Jewellers and the Shop Act – At the meeting held on Wednesday evening those trading in Jewellery in the Town, decided to approach the Town Council with a view to getting a suspension to the early closing order during August and September.

Choose that Special Gift at  
**BERNARD MITCHELL LTD.**  
**The Island Jewellers**  
60 UNION STREET, RYDE Tel. 3247  
\* \* \*

**THE BEST WATCHES**  
Sole Island Agents for OMEGA

**DIAMOND RINGS and JEWELLERY**  
Splendid selection. Many second-hand and investment bargains.

**REAL PEARLS.** CULTIVATED  
An unrivalled choice; all sizes and graduations.  
Prices from £7 7s. 0d. to £125.

**GOLD JEWELLERY**  
Everything a jeweller stocks.

**REAL GEMSTONE** (Rings, Brooches, Earrings, etc.  
in Amethysts, Citrines, Garnets, Turquoise  
etc., in a wide price range.

**Reliable Clocks**  
**Good Marcasite Jewellery**  
**Silver and Plate**

GIFTS WHICH WILL BE LASTING TOKENS OF  
AFFECTION AND REGARD

## Six Geese o' Laying ...

### IW Observer 21 June 1856

Novel Move – Mr. Nelson, the clown in Bridges' circus, brought together an immense crowd upon the Esplanade on Thursday afternoon to witness his aquatic feat of being drawn by four geese in a washing tub from the pier to the end of the Esplanade. He made his appearance in the tub with the geese harnessed to it, but instead of being drawn by them he propelled the whole with a couple of small paddles.

*The following lots, the property of Mr. Thomas A. Cleaver,  
are included by permission.*

LOT					PEN
84	2 young geese	...	...	...	1
85	2 ditto	...	...	...	2
86	2 ditto	...	...	...	3
87	2 ditto	...	...	...	4

Mr Cleaver took advantage of the Duxmore auction in 1924 to put in some lots of his own, including 8 separate lots of 2 young geese.

### IW Observer 8 May 1886

The Dairy Produce Show in the Town Hall, produced some capital exhibits. The eggs made a very good show. The ducks, and geese's eggs were wonderfully fine; one of the latter was said to weigh half a pound.

### IW Observer 23 December 1893

Messrs Hooper and Son, poulterer of Pier Street, gave a splendid show of birds for Christmas. Geese are evidently declining in popularity, but we counted between 50 and 60 monsters.



## Seven Swans o'Swimming ...



Barnett's of Ryde High Street were renowned for their spectacular floats in local carnivals. In 1963 their theme was "Swan Lake Fantasy" which won first prizes in both the Ryde main procession and the illuminated procession.



### IW Observer 2 November 1907

Pleasant Outing – Mr. W. P. Brigstocke's pond in Spencer-road is a delight of children and it is quite a favourite afternoon's occupation to go and see the birds.

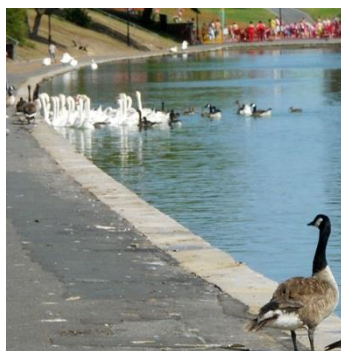
Detail from an F N Broderick postcard of swans in Spencer Road, Paul Kingswell collection.

### IW Observer 7 February 1903

One of our townsmen is said to have suggested that now we have swans on the Canoe Lake a gondola would not be out of place.



Real swans [2011] and swan boats [2013] on Ryde Canoe Lake, photographs RSHG



### IW Observer 13 February 1909

The swans and ducks on the Canoe Lake appeared very much surprised when the lake was drained off for its annual clean up.

### IW Observer 1 March 1919

I would humbly persuade Ryde to finish cutting the hedge away at the Canoe Lake altogether and leave the place open, when a pretty view of the swans and boating would be obtained the entire length of the Eastern Esplanade

## Eight Maids o'Milking ...

### IW Observer 15 September 1866

Advert – To be Sold, an old established Milk Walk. Apply at the "Observer" Office, Ryde.

### IW Observer 23 May 1908

The wane of the milkmaid is more apparent than ever. Scarcely one girl in fifty accepting a situation in a farmhouse will undertake the duties of milking.

### IW Times 3 January 1963

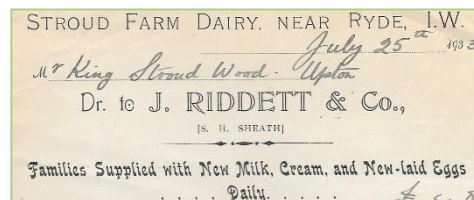
Isle of Wight Creameries Ltd. have appealed to householders to return milk bottles as soon as they are emptied because of a threatened shortage.

### IW Times 8 August 1968

Dairies in the Isle of Wight have finished with half measures. The cost of manufacturing these small bottles is so expensive that the manufacturers are giving it up. One of the reasons which have forced this decision is the large number of milk bottles which disappear every week.



Charlie Cass bottling milk at Stainer's dairy and Mavis in their shop on their last day. Photographs Brian Young  
Rear of Stainer's dairy in Edward Street, demolished 1982 – IW Record Office  
Half-pint milk bottle – Hilary Lloyd



Invoice Roy Brinton Collection





## Nine Ladies Dancing ...



Dance medal  
Ann Barrett



Detail from an F N Broderick postcard, the Children's Gala, 1908.

Ian Murray Collection

Oasis Advert IW Times 14 November 1963

**DANCING**  
This Saturday  
UNDER THE PALM TREES  
at the  
*Oasis*  
to THE BEDOUINS  
**FREE HOUSE ★ FULLY LICENSED**  
**MODERATE PRICES**  
No Admission Charges  
♦ ♦ ♦  
Fancy spending Christmas in the Sahara? We cannot guarantee the sun but we can assure you of a warm welcome, so book your table now  
**Christmas Luncheon 1 gn.**  
**Christmas Dinner and Dance 27/6**  
Christmas Day full festivities. Something to suit all tastes, exclusive of afternoon tea (Children's Party, 5 to 6.30 p.m., in separate room)  
**ALL IN CHARGE £2 10s. 0d.**



Ladies dancing on the lawn at Brookfield.

Roy Brinton Collection

Van Firth advert IW Times 13 April 1967 and their pupils in competition at Hammersmith Palais

**The Van Firth School of Dancing**  
All Branches, Classes and Private Lessons for Babies, Children and Adults in **BALLROOM, BALLET, etc.** Ballroom "Medal Classes"  
IN RYDE, COWES, YARMOUTH and FRESHWATER  
Pupils coached for Examinations: **LSTD., Ballroom, R.A.D., Ballet**  
FULL PARTICULARS: 40 MELVILLE STREET, RYDE. Phone: Ryde 3712

## Ten Lords o'Leaping ...

Mr Bridge's advert IW Observer 31 May 1856.

It went on to list admission prices –

1<sup>st</sup> class 2s; 2<sup>nd</sup> class 1s; 3<sup>rd</sup> class 6d.

**BAKER'S LEAPING HORSES.**—This now well-known attraction is again in the town, and is nightly thronged with old and young. Mr Baker, in accordance with his usual custom, intends on Thursday next to devote the whole of the money taken on the horses for the benefit of the Royal I.W. County Hospital. Last year it will be remembered quite a large sum was in this way realised. Mr Baker has added a number of additional attractions to his show since his last visit to the town, including a cinematograph with all the latest films, and he will no doubt reap his reward in increased patronage and popularity.

This Island, August 1948, reported on the All Island Athletic Championships "where youth had a spring" especially the boy hurdlers, with this photograph. There were 516 entries and 2,000 spectators. J Meaning, one of the 8 girls in the Newport Service Cadet team won the high jump.

They also reported that records fell at the Ryde County Secondary Modern School's annual sports. Maureen Anderson broke her own record in the long jump and won the hurdles.

**Bridges and Co.'s Cirque Napoleon,**  
*From Francani's, Paris,*  
**WILL OPEN IN RYDE ON THE STRAND,**  
FOR A SHORT SEASON,  
**ON MONDAY, JUNE 2nd, 1856.**  
**NOTICE ESPECIAL.**—The Manager begs leave in the most respectful manner to inform the Nobility, Gentry, and Public, that he has fitted up a Spacious and Elegant CIRCUS, or Equestrian Arena, in which will be brought forward all the Classical, Chaste, and Beautiful Olympic Games, Gymnastic Exploits, after the manner of the Cirque National and Hippodrome, of Paris. The company consists of the first English, French, and German Equestrians, Vaulters, Gymnastic Clowns, and Acrobat Professors.

**THE HIPPODROME,**  
RINK ROAD, RYDE.  
Proprietor & Manager **GEO. BAKER**  
**Leaping Horses and Flying Cockerels**

Baker Article IW Observer  
22 June 1901 and his advert  
IW Observer 21 October 1903



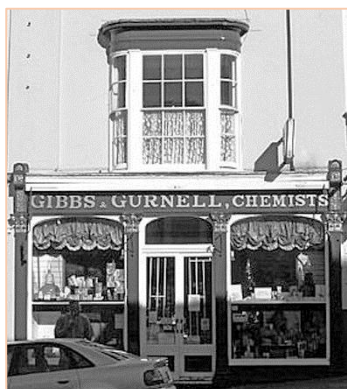


## Eleven Pipers Piping ...



For the Ryde event marking Queen Victoria's Jubilee in July 1887 Highlanders in full costume were stationed on ledges either side of the second floor windows at the establishments of Gibbs & Gurnell and Colenutt's opposite in Union Street. They played patriotic Scotch airs on the bagpipes as she passed by.

Two photographs of Gibbs & Gurnell, Chemist, Union Street. RSHG



Ryde Carnival, September 1950, featured the Dagenham Girl Pipers. They were one of many bands in the Grand Parade, from Ryde Canoe Lake, around the streets as far as Swanmore and back. The procession of tableaux, trade entries, foot competitors, etc., stretched for over a mile.

**OPEN AIR ATTRACTIONS**  
SIMEON STREET RECREATION GROUND  
**ROYAL AIR FORCE POLICE DOGS**  
(BY PERMISSION OF AIR COUNCIL)  
Band of 1st Battalion the Parachute Regiment  
(By kind permission of Lt-Col. C. G. REINHOLD, M.C., O.C.)  
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE PHYSICAL TRAINING TOURING DISPLAY TEAM  
(By permission of Air Council)  
The Rose and Thistle Pipe Band  
Isle of Wight Fire Service Display

IW County Press 30 August 1958

IW County Press 1959 Ryde Carnival  
Interspersed throughout the procession were the other four bands, the Duke of Edinburgh's Royal Regt., the Rose and Thistle Pipe Band, the band of the Corps of Drums of the Junior Leaders' Battalion R.A.O.C., and the 1024 (East Wight) A.T.C. Squadron Silver Band.

### IW County Press 31 March 1951

ATC – Air Commodore B. C. H. Drew, presented a mace to Drum Major E. Bartrum, and appealed for public support for the band's summer series of concerts. The first parade of the new corps of drums would take place at Whitsun.



1950 Ryde Carnival Sea Cadets in Swanmore Road  
Photo David Harris

1977 Sea Cadets Colour Ceremony in Lind Street  
Photo Ann Barrett



Did these two advertisers ever meet?

## Twelve Drummers Drumming ...

### IW Times 20 March 1919

An extremely sad death has taken place at the Castle, Ryde, in the passing away of Drummer Boy Joseph Grayson, of the Royal Field Artillery, who was only 15½ years of age. A bright, cheery lad, he soon made himself popular amongst the wounded "Tommies" and the staff when he came as a patient with nephritis, from Hillsea Barracks. He was only dangerously ill for a few days, before his death. "He was a very good lad" remarked the Commandant. Young Grayson appeared to be cut out for the Army, and after leaving a military school in Ireland was attached to the Regulars. He was a native of Leeds, and his mother visited him in the hospital about a week before his death.

The funeral took place in the Roman Catholic portion of the Cemetery, on Wednesday, 12th inst. The authorities at Parkhurst arranged for military honours, and in place of a gun carriage which was not available, the coffin was conveyed in a hearse, men of the R.F.A. acting as bearers. Great respect was shown as the procession passed through the streets on the way to the cemetery where a good number of people assembled. Volleys were fired over the grave, and the "Last Post" was sounded.

### IW County Press 18 March 1978

Advert – Have drums, will travel, professional drummer/vocalist available, good gigs and season.

### IW County Press 18 March 1978

Advert – Experienced drummer required to join established quartet 5-6 nights during season, ballroom, pop.