



RYDE SOCIAL HERITAGE GROUP

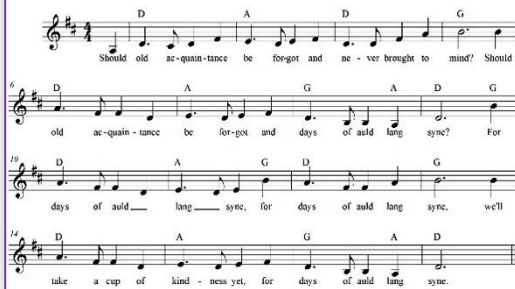
Beyond the Graves

Volume 18: Number 1: January 2023

RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR

Auld Lang Syne

singing-bell.com



THE NEW YEAR.

Another year has flitted by ! fled to return no more :
And in its turn, another comes to lavish out its store,
Fill'd full of varied gifts for all, and blessings to bestow,
As 'mid the light and shade of Time advancing on we go !
To some it brings joy, happiness—to others grief and care,
Health, sickness, weakness, strength imparts—love, hatred,
hope, despair.
How many see its days begin who will not see their close,

A New Year Poem from the IW Observer, 31 December 1881.
Despite the gloomy poem the good folk of Ryde partied on!



Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle

16 January 1886

The Mayor of Ryde gave on Tuesday at his residence, Southfields, a ball, at which about 170 of the elite of the town and neighbourhood were present. Everything was carried out in a most sumptuous manner, and dancing was kept up with unflagging spirit to the strains of Mr J G Jones's excellent band until an early hour the following morning.

Image of Southfield above – Roy Brinton Collection

Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle 1 January 1881

A grand fancy dress ball, in aid of the funds of the Ryde School of Art, took place at the Town Hall on Tuesday evening, and was a very successful affair ... The dresses were very varied, and some were strikingly novel in design. Miss Gordon-Watson, who represented "The Press", wore a dress made of sheets of newspaper sewn together, the most striking: - Miss Cayton, "Snow", Miss Connell, "Dominoes", Miss M Connell, "Money", Miss Denison, "Sous le Directoire", Miss Egan, "Night", Miss Forster, "My Lady Coquette", Miss Freye, "Lady Jane Grey", Mrs Carew Gibson, "Elly O'Connor", Miss Ida Gordon, "Juno", Mrs Hambrough, "Olivia", Mrs A Lees, "Portia", Miss Lees "Pondre", Miss Pinnegar, "Serpolette", Lady Albert Seymour, "Court Dress, Henry VII", Miss Tatnall, "Greek".

The gentlemen greatly affected uniforms, but there were several original dresses amongst them. Altogether the ball was a very pleasing affair, and one to be remembered.



Photo Gwydr House RSHG

HOSPITALITY AT GWYDYR HOUSE.—Mr. Meers, according to his annual custom, also entertained a similar party at his residence, in Spencer-road, on Wednesday evening. Everything passed off admirably, and nothing affords more pleasure to us than to have to notice these instances of reciprocal good feeling between masters and domestics. The occasional intermingling of all classes tends to rub off the rust and excrescences of character, and to banish many a feeling of hostility of class for class.

IW Observer 5 January 1856

Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle 2 January 1886

Dance at Sir H. Daly's – On Thursday a large number of the aristocracy of the Island assembled at Ryde House, the seat of Sir H Daly, KCB, where a ball of some magnitude was held. The old year was danced out and the new one in with great spirit and everything passed off with great joy. The music was provided by Mr J G Jones, being assisted in the orchestra by his son, Mr G J Jones, Bandmaster of the Isle of Wight Battalion of Volunteers.

Front & rear photos of Ryde House - Roy Brinton Collection



Hampshire Telegraph & Sussex Chronicle 3 January 1834

Several friends of the Campanologists of the town, assembled at the long room at Stratton's Hotel Tap, and with a merry peal ushered in the New Year.

FORTHCOMING BALL.—A grand plain and fancy dress (Scotch and naval costume, &c.) ball will take place at the Town-hall on Monday next. Mr. Wood (of South-sea) will conduct it. The refreshments will be supplied from Mc'Kay's. A first-rate quadrille band will be in attendance. Particulars will be found in an advertisement. Considering how many years it is ago since there was a tradesmen's ball in Ryde, we hope this attempt will be successful.

IW Observer 5 January 1856

IW Observer 8 January 1881

Captain Brooke Leeds will give his performance under the title of "Modern Magic, on Monday evening next at the Town Hall. Not merely is the gallant captain accomplished in sleight of Hand, and the entertainment a good one, but the proceeds go to benefit the fund of the Royal Isle of Wight Infirmary.

The Isle of Wight Infirmary opened on 9 November 1849, to the design of Thomas Hellyer who remained the Honorary Architect for four decades. It became the Isle of Wight County Hospital.



Town Hall photograph - RSHG

IW Times 10 January 1907

On Friday evening the annual ball in aid of the Royal Isle of Wight Hospital was held at the Town Hall. The staircase and small hall were decorated as usual. The platform was occupied by the Band of the Royal Marine Light Infantry. Net proceeds were £79.1s.



IW Infirmary photographs
Right - Roy Brinton Collection
Left - RSHG

IW Times 2 January 1964

Hospital - A large gingerbread house made by Pauline Cook and Sandra Hayles, pupils of Ryde County Secondary School, was presented to the Royal IW County Hospital children's ward.

THE VICAR OF SWANMORE'S NEW YEAR'S PARTY.

For a great many years it has been the custom of the Vicar of Swanmore (the Rev Hooker Wix) to entertain some of his friends and a great number of his poorer parishioners early in the New Year. These gatherings were originally held at the Vicarage, but so eager were the members of his flock to witness the sparkling little entertainment provided, that the capacity of the Vicarage was overtaxed, and it became necessary to come to the Town Hall. The New Year's party took place last Thursday evening. A number of the mothers of the children were entertained at tea, and this was followed by the entertainment. The room was literally crammed, and many who were present had to stand the whole of the time. The first part of the entertainment consisted of a dramatic representation of the nursery tale, "Beauty and the Beast."

IW Observer 20 January 1883

IW Observer 12 January 1895

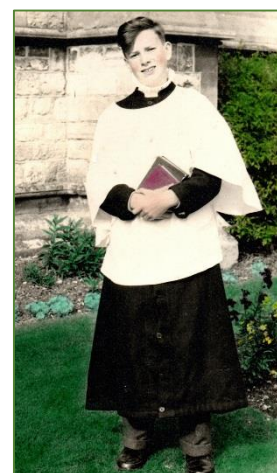
CHOIR BOYS.—There are TWO VACANCIES for boys in the Choir of the Parish Church, of the value of 4s. a quarter. When promoted to the 3rd. division. boys receive 7s. 6d. a quarter; those in the 2nd, 13s.; and those in the first form 17s. 6d. to 25s.—Application should be made to Mr J. G. Luard, Barkstone Ash, Argyll Street, Ryde.

IW Observer 29 December 1894

We have pleasure in announcing that Monsieur du Domaine (Premier Prix du Conservatoire de Bruxelles) will play the violin at the two concerts to be given by the choir boys of the Ryde Parish Church and Mr Luard (the organist), on New Years' Eve, both at 3pm and at 9pm.



Photo of St Michael's, Swanmore, before houses were built in Wray Street
Roy Brinton Collection



Arthur Watson, left, and Wilfred Watson, right, choir boys at St Michael's.
Photograph Derek Warman & Mary Whettingstall
Choir boy Alan Truckel at All Saints Church - Photograph Margaret Truckel



IW County Press 23 January 1965

Silver Chords Club – Some 65 members and friends met on Wednesday week at the Osborne Oasis for their new year party. Mrs. Hind-Yelf (chairman) was supported by Mrs. L. A. Wheeler and other officers. Mrs. Ann Glassey (soprano), accompanied by Mrs. Newsome, contributed songs. Everyone present received a gift of groceries and a prize.

IW Times 16 January 1969

Hoteliers' Party – About 125 members and guests were present at the Osborne Oasis on Saturday evening when the Ryde and Seaview Hotel, Guest House and Catering Association held a candlelit New Year party. Mr. Ronald Cawdell, C.C., chairman, presided at dinner.

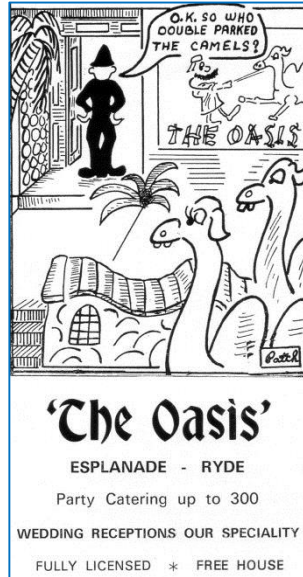


The Osborne Court Hotel and the 'Oasis' were destroyed by fire on 11 April 1992, when it was empty and up for sale. It was thought squatters may have caused the fire.



Postcard Hilary Lloyd

Photographs
Roy Brinton Collection



Municipal Social Club. — About 106 members and friends attended the annual dinner and dance at the Osborne Oasis, the guests including Mr. J. D. Groom, deputy mayor, and Mrs. Groom, and Mr. M. Occomore, borough surveyor, and Mrs. Occomore. The Del Mondo trio played for dancing, and a cabaret included magic by Randini and a comedy trio by Ryde Buccaneers. A collection taken by club members raised £7 for the Guide Dogs for the Blind funds. Alderman and Mrs. J. Langdon, mayor and mayoress, attended the municipal employees' children's party the following day.

IW County Press 22 January 1972

'Oasis' advert – Islander Magazine 1971



IW Observer 6 January 1900

The watchnight services were held in many of the churches in Ryde on New Year's Eve, and the bells of the Parish Church sounded extremely well as they rang in the New Year.

IW Times 31 December 1908

All Saints' Parish Church – The tower contains a fine peal of bells, and should the visitor happen to "fall in love," remember, that the bells may be rung in the event of a certain thing happening. From the tower a splendid view can be obtained and we would advise no stranger to miss the opportunity of ascending the steps necessary.

IW Observer 5 January 1861

Ringin the Old Year Out and the New One in – On Monday night, and quarter to 12, the bells of St. Marie's struck out a merry peal and continued "ringin the changes" until quarter-past.

IW Observer 7 January 1860

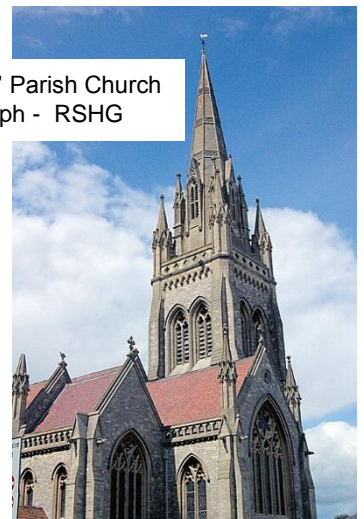
On New Year's Eve the bells of St Marie's (Catholic) church rang out a merry peal, which had a very pleasing effect.

Above an image of 1848 showing St Mary's Church and the Swan Inn on the left. Roy Brinton Collection

Postcard of the same view, right – Tony Gale



All Saints' Parish Church
photograph - RSHG



PANTOMIMES? Oh! Yes! There Were ...

By January 1966 the Young Vectis Players had already staged four pantomimes and that year presented 'Red Riding Hood'. 'Jack and the Beanstalk' was chosen for January 1967. The next year, 1968, it was 'Puss in Boots'. Their production of 'Aladdin' in 1969 was their most successful, playing to packed houses. It seems that 'Aladdin' could have been a long-time favourite of Ryde audiences.



The Young Vectis Players
present
Robinson Crusoe
at ESPLANADE PAVILION, RYDE, on
SAT. DEC. 30th and FRI. and SAT. JAN. 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th,
at 7.30 p.m.
Matinees on Sat. Dec. 30th, Jan. 6th and 13th at 2.30 p.m.
Prices 35p, 30p, 25p all bookable
Reduced prices for children, senior citizens and parties.
TICKETS ON SALE at 131 High Street, Ryde (near traffic lights).
FROM 10 a.m. to 12 noon, then 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.
All day Saturdays.

IW County Press 30 December 1972



GIVE THE KIDS A NEW YEAR'S DAY TREAT
TAKE THEM TO A PANTOMIME AT
**ESPLANADE PAVILION
RYDE**
where
The Young Vectis Players present
**The
Queen of Hearts**
by John Crocker and Eric Guder,
on NEW YEAR'S DAY, at 2.30 and
7.30 p.m.
ALSO on SAT. JAN. 4th, FRI. 10th, SAT. 11th, FRI. 17th,
SAT. 18th, 1974, at 7.30 p.m.
Matinees: SAT. JAN. 4th, SAT. 11th, SAT. 18th, 1974
at 2.30 p.m.
Tickets 50p, 45p, 35p
Available from Bernards Shoes, 28 High Street, Ryde, until
Dec. 31st, then from Pavilion Box Office, Ryde 2581.
Patrons Car Park. Licensed Bar.

IW County Press
28 December 1974



The usual venue for the
Young Vectis Player's
pantomimes was Ryde
Pavilion. Postcard date
stamped 1975, Ann Barrett

Photographs of the Young
Vectis Players, including the
cast of a production of
'Aladdin'.
Stephen Belcher

IW Observer 11 January 1913

Theatre - The pantomime "Aladdin" at the Theatre Royal, has been deservedly extremely well patronised by the public, not only of Ryde, but of other towns in the Island. The new lessee, Mr H Terry Wood, is reviving the reputation the Theatre used to have years ago, to never putting an indifferent production before the public.

IW Times 12 January 1933

A very enjoyable Pantomime Ball was held on Thursday evening at the Eastern Pavilion. After the show at the Theatre Royal all the members of Mr. Fred Beck's "Aladdin" Company came down, and there was an attendance of about 150. Spot prizes were given for the Paul Jones. Drayson Marsh's Band provided the music. Mrs. Percy Biggs was in charge of refreshments.

Islander Magazine January 1972 (Around and About)

Island Panto - Fond of pantomimes? We are still young enough in heart to enjoy them so why not try "Sleeping Beauty" performed by the Young Vectis Players at the Esplanade Pavilion, Ryde on January 1st, 7th and 8th. Tickets from Trendy Fabrics, 59 High Street, Ryde, or at the door.

Cast of 68 in school's production

IN KEEPING with their tradition of staging a pantomime in addition to their customary plays, Ryde High School students presented Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at the school.

The principal aims were the involvement of as many pupils as possible and the provision of an enjoyable evening's entertainment for parents with young children.

No less than 68 actors were involved, and nearly 100 pupils altogether.

Each performance played to a packed audience of over three hundred, including a matinee for junior and middle schools, and senior citizens.



Ryde Academy [formerly Ryde High School] photographed by Dave Bushell, 2018



IW Observer 1 January 1859

House-warming several friends of "mine host" of the snug little inn, called the Falcon, met together on Wednesday evening, and partook of a most comfortable dinner; after which the merry song and complimentary toast, varied by racy tales, was the order on the occasion.

The IW County Press, 21 December 1974, reported on the refurbishment at a cost of £20,000, and official opening of one of the oldest public houses in the Weeks area, the Falcon. Derek and Olive Harley had been tenants for seven years. He said work had started the previous January and included an extension into the old neighbouring greengrocers shop.

IW Observer 2 January 1909

Children's Treat – The Officers and members of the Salvation Army entertained 160 children to tea in the Army Hall in Green Street on Thursday afternoon, the money for which was subscribed by a number of charitably disposed people in the town.



La Babalu Club
Fully Licensed till 2 a.m. Mon.-Sat. Midnight - Sundays
Ryde 3309
RYDE AIRPORT

Tonight December 28
The fabulous "OHIO"

Tuesday, December 31st —
NEW YEAR'S EVE TRAMPS BALL
Lots of prizes.

Thursday, January 2nd —
GO-GO NITE

Friday and Saturday, January 3rd and 4th —
LIVE GROUPS
Disco Go-Go girls

WINTER MEMBERSHIP 75p (Sept.-May)

Reduced entry fees B.F. 10 p.m.

MAN IT'S COOL at the BABALU
BE CASUAL BE SMART
Tel. Ryde 3309 for details of membership.

Photograph of Ryde Airport - RSHG



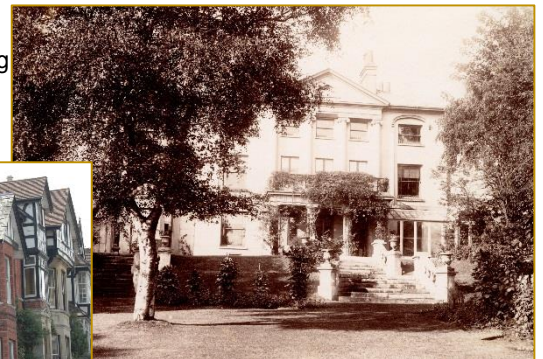
IW County Press 28 December 1972 – Left
IW County Press December 1972 - Below

LA BABALU CLUB
Young ladies required for part-time evening work.
Phone Ryde 3309. Mr. Martin.

Beechlands photograph
Roy Brinton Collection
Present day site in Dover Street,
2013 - RSHG



Photograph of the Salvation Army building in Green Street – Roy Brinton Collection
Present day site - RSHG



The New Year largesse at Beechlands was probably legendary, as shown in these newspaper reports. The IW Observer, 5 January 1856 carried a lengthy report [right] – though quite what the 'maids' thought was not recorded.

IW Observer 7 January 1860

Mr James Caldwell hospitably entertained a large number of tradesmen and others at his residence, Beechlands, on Wednesday evening, placing a noble suite of rooms at their disposal. The musical department was conducted by Mr Austin and Mr Salter, and dancing was kept up till an early hour. The health of the venerable General, Mrs Sullivan, and other branches of the family, was drunk with honours. It was a first rate affair.

HOSPITALITY AT BEACHLANDS.—General Sir James Caldwell, G.C.B., with his usual hospitality, entertained many of the leading tradesmen, his domestics, and others, at his residence at Beachlands on Wednesday evening. A splendid suite of rooms was thrown open to the guests for dancing and refreshments, while the conservatory afforded a cool and grateful promenade. Dancing was literally plunged into at half-past nine, when the venerable and gallant General paid the room a visit, and he seemed highly pleased with the hilarity around him. We are sure every one who was present will reciprocate the sentiment which we are going to utter, "May Sir James live to see many happy returns of the day!" again to witness these annual merry-makings. At twelve the party retired to the refreshment room, which was supplied with all things needful. After supper, the mistletoe was hoisted, and many an unwilling-willing maid was brought to "the scratch;" dancing was then resumed to an early hour, when the party separated highly pleased.

NEW YEAR'S DAY ~ a day of changes?

It wasn't just about making New Year's Resolutions, but often with changes in the law, or a convenient date to introduce something unpleasant.

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS.

If all the fifty-two weeks of the year were like the first one, it would be a better world than it is. It is the week when good resolutions are new, and most of us have doubtless determined that 1909 shall see some little improvement in our ways, some little failings put aside, and some good habits put in their place. It is only when the New Year begins to fade that the real struggle to keep these good resolutions begins. Many, we know, are destined to be broken, but it is something gained to have set ourselves a higher ideal of conduct which so many of us do in the hope that we may succeed in bringing these good resolutions to fruition.

IW Times 31 December 1908



New Year Car Registrations - Between 1963 and 1965 councils began to issue "suffix" registration marks - three letter/three numbers and a year suffix. The registration year ran from 1 January - 31 December until 1967, when the suffix change was moved to 1 August.

Some New Year Resolution suggestions from the IW County Press
2 January 1981:

- Wear a vest** – to save on the heating bill.
- Smoke less, eat less** – forget eating chocolates & fattening sweets.
- Be sensible about time** – time is money – probably aimed at the ladies, they suggest making sensible shopping lists and making just one visit to the supermarket.
- Know your limitations** – forget romantic ideas of making elegant clothes at a quarter of the price of a bought item.
- Be tidier – Dry up the dishes – Finish jobs and finally be a nicer person**

Some News from the IW Times 9 January 1969

Economics? – Considerable criticism in Parliament Press and from the public followed the announcement of the 20 per cent increase in the TV licence fee. The National Viewers' and Listeners Association feel that the public has a right to know what economies the B.B.C. intend to make before being asked to pay more.

Book Review – "Living with the Pill" is likely to be one of the most remarkable bestsellers of 1969. Paperback rights are now being negotiated throughout the world.

Bus Fares – An application for bus fare increases due to come before the South-Eastern Area Traffic Commissioners at Ryde Town Hall yesterday, was withdrawn by the S.V.O.C. It followed closely the lines of an application the company intended to make in September, but also withdrew.

Seat Belts – Investigations carried out by the Road Research Laboratory emphasise the importance of wearing seat belts which double your chance. Ejections in car accidents, based on investigations into some 800 accidents during the 10-year period, 1955 to 1965, it is shown that the chances of being killed are doubled if you are thrown out of a car in an accident.



Or, just getting married?

On the 1st inst., at the Independent Chapel, George-street, Ryde, by the Rev. G. A. Coltart, in the presence of Mr. A. Tutte, registrar, Mr. G. Occomore to Miss JANE MARIA WHEELER, both of Ashey, near Ryde.

Marriage notice IW Observer
8 January 1870
and it lasted
Golden Wedding notice
IW Observer 3 January 1920

OCCOMORE—WHEELER.—January 1st, 1870 at the Congregational Church, George-street, Ryde, by the Rev. — Coltart, George Occomore to Jane Maria Wheeler (both of Ashey). Now residing at Hill Grove Cottage, S. Helen's.

IW Observer 3 January 1920

MARRIAGE OF MR. E. C. GOBLE.—A quiet but interesting wedding took place at Holy Trinity Church on New Year's Day, when Mr. E. C. Goble, of Monkton Street, and a churchwarden, was married to Mrs. Wearing, daughter of Mr. W. Bartlett, Nelson Place, and a lady well-known in musical circles. The bride was given away by her father, and Miss May Goble (the bridegroom's sister) was bridesmaid. Mr. W. Young, Comby Manor Farm, acted as best man. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Norman Grey.

Whatever the weather ...

IW Observer 6 January 1900

New Year Gratuity – The Ryde Gas Light Company have distributed amongst the necessitous of Ryde 800 tickets – 400 entitling the recipient to ½ cwt. of coal, and 400 to ½ cwt. of coke.

IW County Press 20 January 1979

Snow clearance and road gritting operations, following the blizzards of the New Year Bank Holiday weekend, cost the county council £89,000. The figure was given at Tuesday's meeting of the county's Transportation Committee.

Meteorological Observations from the IW Observer 8 January 1881

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS									
Taken close to and about fifteen feet above the level of the sea at Ryde. Time 9 a.m.									
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 5, 1881.									
Date.	Barometer.	Thermometers in shade.			Humidity of the air.	Rain in 24 hours.	Wind.		
1880.		9 a.m.	Max.	Min.	9 a.m.				
Dec. 30	29.404	43	43	40	84	0.184	N.W.		
" 31	30.116	39	39	35	84	..	N.W.		
Jan. 1 1881 ..	30.416	40	40	34	84	..	N.W.		
" 2	30.420	45	45	37	86	..	Variable		
" 3	30.398	44	45	43	86	..	N.E.		
" 4	30.288	39	43	35	84	..	N.E.		
" 5	30.224	42	44	37	84	..	N.E.		
WEATHER.—December 30th and 31st. Blue sky, cloudy.—January 1st, 3rd and 4th. Blue sky, cloudy, squally. 2nd and 5th. Blue sky, cloudy.									
Opposite the Pier, Ryde.								T. S. FLOWER.	