

RYDE MAYOR'S REPORT – 1 NOVEMBER 2021

Remembrance in Ryde this November 2021

The Poppy launch for the Isle of Wight was launched this year in Ryde on Thursday 28th October and there will be services on Remembrance Sunday at All Saints Church and Lind St. This is very special every year but particularly this year as last year's services were cancelled due to Covid restrictions and lockdowns. I recently met a veteran (aged 96) of D-Day in a Ryde residential home who had recently moved to Ryde to be near his daughter. Ryde veterans are planning to rent a shop on the High Street as a Support Hub for local veterans. They have also converted a van as a mobile support HUB to go around the Island. Hovertravel held a celebration event with Ryde British Legion to celebrate the BL's 100th birthday. I attended and Hovertravel are working with Ryde BL in raising funds for the Poppy Appeal.

Covid Pandemic still with us!

The winter is coming and many including myself will be getting our third (booster) vaccination along with our flu jab. The reality is Covid is very much still with us and please take care of yourself this winter. During September and October, many residents experienced Covid and the number of cases has risen although vaccinations have reduced numbers of possible hospitalisations there would be without jabs. Ryde Town Council is continuing to work with Aspire this winter along with other agencies to make sure all Ryde residents get support if needed. Please ring 01983-71620 or 811105 and you will be directed to the right person to help you or email info@aspire.org.uk I know some Councillors have questioned whether Aspire have volunteers in place and I have checked this and they do. Cllr Richard May and I are meeting up with Aspire at Lisa, to make sure a Ryde Winter Plan is in place.

Harp on the Wight and Ryde events

There have been only two regular Ryde events that have managed this year to be held fully and these are the Classic Car Extravaganza and Harp on the Wight. These events happened due to the dedication of individuals and I wish to thank Vic for an excellent Car event this year and Anna of Michelangelo's for the superb Harp festival. Hopefully, next year Ryde will see a full programme of events including new ones. Ryde will in September 2022 be the host start of the IW leg of the Tour de UK cycling race which finishes in Freshwater.

Pack Building on Cross Street and Shademakers!

Shademakers is a real Ryde success story as they are a local Ryde community company which is internationally well-known and exclaimed for making props for carnivals across the world. In 2022, Shademakers will be leading the Queen's Jubilee Parade in London. They are now based in the old Packs building on Cross Street and have submitted a million pound plus application to the Arts Council with support from Ryde Town Council, IW Council and Ryde Arts. The building will be renamed the Department and will be a major new Ryde arts venue

Mental Well-Being Listening Tour started in Ryde at St. John's Church Hall!

I am the new IW Mental Health Champion and I have joined up with IW Health Watch to visit IW resident groups across the Island to listen on their views on how they feel after living so long with the threat of Covid. Our mental-wellbeing is so important and I felt it was important to go out and listen to people. I started in October and had a great cup of tea with an anxiety support group at St. John's Church Hall.

Ryde District Cup and Desmond Murphy

I was invited to the Ryde District (Football Cup) by the Treasurer of the Ryde District Cup committee, Desmond Murphy, to present the 2021 Ryde District Cup at Brading Town Football Club. I watched Oakfield Reserves win against Vectis Reserves. Desmond, who as a Doctor at St. Mary's, was the founder of the Mountbatten Hospice, is still going strong in retirement and has supported football in Ryde for decades and to me a real local hidden hero and I wish to thank Desmond as a Ryde resident from the bottom of my heart. He has touched so many lives and still does.

Pickle & Dill, Crepe Lovers and so many great Ryde businesses needing a Thank you!

I attended the 1st birthday of Pickle & Dill and the opening on the new Creperie next to WH Smith's, Crepe Lovers. Ryde has a steady growth of new businesses opening on High and Union Streets and I try and make sure RTC is supportive and thanks new and existing businesses in our Town for their entrepreneurship through Covid. Similar to last year, I plan to work with Network Ryde in running an XMAS/Thank you Card design competition in local schools and then delivering to organisations across the Town. This was very successful last year.

Bus Museum and Vectis 100th Anniversary

I officiated at the Bus Museum's Vectis Bus 100th Anniversary in October and highlight what a great project this is and well worth a visit.

Thank You day, visiting Ryde Schools, Grant Recipients and Projects

The 11th September was RTC's Thank You event to individuals and organisations as part of Island-Wide event to thank residents and organisations who supported the most vulnerable during Covid19 pandemic. Over 50 individuals and organisations attended. Since then I attended an assembly at St. Mary's RC School to present their award. I have also visited Tidal Family Support and Ryde Cricket Club.

Mayor's Xmas Charity Appeal 2021

I am planning to launch an Xmas appeal to support voluntary sector organisations that support vulnerable residents through this winter and looking to local businesses and organisation to support me. I am initially targeting Southern Water to quick the fund off. I have also approached Hover Travel.

Please take care this winter and join me in remembering and celebrating of the past and current lives of local people who make up the soul and spirit of Ryde.

Cllr Michael Lilley – Councillor for Ryde Appley & Elmfield and Mayor of Ryde.