

Ryde Heritage Action Zone throws light on the town's quirkiest gallery



Ryde Heritage Action Zone has thrown some light on the town's quirkiest gallery as part of the on-going project to revitalise the high street.

Funding from Ryde HAZ has paid for lighting in the town's smallest but most perfectly formed gallery space.

Re:Box is Ryde's classic Kiosk No. 6 red phone box on Lind Street and Re:Imagined is the tiny but mighty art gallery which now inhabits the space.

Ryde Town Council purchased the phone box for £1, and then turned it over to creative locals photographer Zoe Barker and writer Anmarie Bowler.

They were determined to give it a new and lasting life. Decommissioned but ripe with potential, the box now hosts compelling visual work by Island artists and community groups.

Thanks to funding from Ryde HAZ worth £2,500 the former phone box is now lit up at Night so residents and visitors can enjoy the spectacle.

Zoe explained: "Re:Box is a positive public beacon that Re:Purposes, Re:Invents and Re:News an unused public utility – Re:Claiming it for the enjoyment of residents and artists alike.

"Kiosk No. 6 (K6) phone boxes, designed by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, were introduced in 1935 in celebration of King George V's Silver Jubilee. The iconic design informs its latest

Re:incarnation as an art gallery. Its shape, silhouette colour and lettering praised and preserved.”

Martin Gibson, Newport High Street Heritage Action Zone Project Manager, said the HAZ was delighted to be able to support the creative re-imagining of the phone box.

“Ryde is such a creative place and it is pleasing to be able to support a project like this that is sure to bring a smile to the faces of those who visit the gallery.

“It’s important for iconic structures such as phone boxes to be preserved and given a second lease of life, while also giving local artists a quirky place to exhibit their work.”

Zoe has been an Island photographer for many years and Anmarie is the founder/editor of Brevity, The Isle of Wight’s Literary Handbill
(<https://www.facebook.com/OnAnIslandPhotography>)
(<https://brevityisland.home.blog>).

Find out more about Re:Box here - <https://www.facebook.com/reboxryde>

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Photo captions

Pic 1 (L to R) Photographer Zoe Barker and writer Anmarie Bowler (corr) have been the driving force behind Re:box

Pic 2 Shine a light - the gallery space has new lighting

Pic 3 A recent exhibition

For more details contact Kate Pearce on 07968 262805.

Note to Editors

In 2019 both Ryde and Newport were accepted into Historic England’s High Street Heritage Action Zones programme following applications from Newport and Carisbrooke Community Council and Ryde Town Council, both supported by Isle of Wight Council.

A range of projects commenced in 2020 to help regenerate the two towns’ historic high streets and the Design Guide is the latest step to making our plans a reality.

About High Streets Heritage Action Zones

The High Streets Heritage Action Zones is a £95 million government-funded programme led by Historic England, designed to secure lasting improvements and

HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE

help breathe new life into our historic high streets for the communities and businesses that use them. Historic England is working with local people and partners to unlock the rich heritage on these high streets, through repair and improvement works as well as arts and cultural programmes, making them more attractive to residents, businesses, tourists and investors. <https://historicengland.org.uk/services-skills/heritage-action-zones/regenerating-historic-high-streets/>

About Historic England

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