



**THE CASTLE
AUXILIARY
HOSPITAL**

THE CASTLE AUXILIARY HOSPITAL

Date Built and Current Status:

1833 – Still Standing

History:

*Private House
Red Cross Auxiliary Hospital
Local Government Offices
Hotel*

Dates as Hospital:

1915 to April 1919

Address:

Esplanade, Ryde, Isle of Wight



The Castle, Ryde. Historic Ryde

Ryde Castle was built in 1833 for Jonathan Dashwood, brother of Thomas Dashwood, builder of much of Ryde, as a private residence. For sixty years, only the central part of the building existed, and entry was via the impressive gateway still in existence on Dover Street. Just inside this gateway was a complete turning circle for carriages. This was the first building to be erected on what was known as The Duver, an area of sand dunes which stretched along the seafront. At the time, what is now Dover Street was known as Wellington Street. The name was changed from Wellington Street within the next couple of years.

The houses to the East of Ryde Castle were mostly built from 1843 onwards, and Ryde Esplanade was laid out in 1855/56. Although Ryde Castle was purchased in 1843 by Reverend John Orde of Basingstoke, as with many of the large houses in Ryde at the time, the Castle was let for the season to a succession of distinguished visitors. In 1841, Thomas Duffield, esq, MP (for Abingdon) and family, in 1844 the Countess of Craven, followed in 1845 by The Right Honourable Lord and Lady Henniker, MP, (for East Suffolk) and Thomas Chamberlayne and family. Thomas Chamberlayne was an English cricketer and yachtsman, who was High Sheriff for Hampshire in 1833. His yacht, the *Arrow*, took part in the inaugural America's Cup race in 1851. In February, 1848, Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard, Lady Sheppard and establishment, took Ryde Castle for six months. Sadly, Sir Thomas died here, aged 63, on April 5th of that year. The Hampshire Telegraph, of Saturday, April 8th, 1848, records: 'At the Castle, Ryde, Isle of Wight, in the 64th year of his age, Sir Thomas Cotton Sheppard, Baronet of Thornton, Buckinghamshire, and Crakemarsh-Hall, Staffordshire.'

In May, 1849, Lord Rivers took Ryde Castle for three months. Mr and Lady Orde were still the owners of Ryde Castle in 1849, when their son was killed in a riding accident and the property was sold after Lady Orde's death in 1852.

In the 1860s the railway was extended to link Ryde Pier with St John's Station via a tunnel running underneath Ryde Castle; the tunnel is still there.

In 1895, the then owner of Ryde Castle, Colonel Cradock, extended the house to include a large dining room, 30 feet by 20 feet.

The book; *Isle of Wight Hospitals - A Detailed History of the Island's Hospitals - Past and Present* by Dr. Eric Laidlaw has the following information on Ryde Castle's time as a hospital:

In 1915 Kleo Friend, Commandant Voluntary Aid Detachment Hants, wrote to John Oglander, Island Lord Lieutenant, to say that Colonel Hosie considered The Castle, offered by Colonel Cradock, most suitable. It had four Officers Rooms and the War Office Food contribution would be 2 shillings per head, 3 shillings for enteric (*the name for any disease caused by an intestinal infection - Diarrheal disease is one type of enteric illness*). 30 convalescent typhoid cases had already been taken. She also reported that doctors in the town were speaking very highly of the work of her members.

Mabel Gough-Calthorpe also wrote to John Oglander to explain that she had been trying very hard to get Miss Friend started at The Castle. "Lord Kitchener stated he would require 40,000 more beds by the end of March: - here is a house which in a week's time could be ready to receive about 40 wounded men, the house fully equipped as a convalescent hospital with all necessary material and a division of well trained nurses. Our wounded men will be nursed back to health and so in many cases able to return to the front and God knows we want every available man if England is to win in this awful war." The hospital did contain about 40 wounded men a week rising to around 60.

22 March 1917 - *"The Castle Hospital, the hospital is still full up. Mrs Latter, assistant Matron inspected the hospital and expressed herself pleased with it. The whist drive at Trinity Hall, to which the patients were invited by the Trinity Canteen helpers, proved a great success. Mrs Grant, Miss Young and Mr Hackshaw sent illustrated papers; the Rev T J Puckle, Mrs Richards, Miss Cocks, and Mrs Forsythe, eggs; Mr Carter, rabbits; Col and Mrs Cradock, daily papers; Misses Morris, a home-made cake; Miss Lawson, arum lilies; and Miss Mehan, cigarettes."* (The Isle of Wight Times)

It was reported in the Isle of Wight Observer on 12 April 1919 that *"The Castle Hospital would be closing shortly. The patients will be transferred to Parkhurst Military Hospital and hospitals that are available near their homes."*

THE CASTLE HOSPITAL. — All the patients recently left for Parkhurst. The Committee sends condolence and sympathy to Mrs. and Miss Brewis acknowledging deep gratitude to the late treasurer, Mr. J. Robinson has accepted the vacant post. The committee have thanked Col. Cradock for the loan of The Castle from September 1914, Messrs. Beaver and Barret for the loan of Palmer House, as an annexe for two years, Mrs. Lee-White for a loan of a large hut, and undeviating financial support, Miss Clifford for generous financial support from the opening of the hospital. In a letter to Miss Friend, Lieut.-Gen. Sir H. Sclater, of the South Command, wrote: "I hear that the Castle Auxiliary Hospital, which you have organised and managed for so long, has been closed, and I am writing to express to you and to the medical and nursing staff on behalf of the Army, our very best thanks for the generosity and kindness which have been extended for so long to our sick and wounded soldiers. I can assure you that the work has been highly appreciated, and will be most gratefully remembered as a noble example of devotion and charity."

Isle of Wight Observer - Saturday 10 May 1919

On June 1920 William Henry Porter of PORTER Bros. Outfitters in Portsmouth had moved into The Castle he was appointed as a magistrate in 1922. It is not known when he left The Castle but William died in 1932 and around 1930 Ryde Castle became a hotel.

During WW2 it was an army headquarters and was also commandeered by the Civil Defence Committee for use as temporary offices and headquarters for the Council.

The Rolling Stones stayed at Ryde Castle in March 1964, when they played two gigs at Ryde Pavilion and the name was changed to The Ship and Castle but changed its name back to its original in the 1980s.

At about 10pm on Saturday 17 March 2012 a firework display set off by staff from the roof of the hotel as part of the celebrations for the wedding reception of Robert and Alex Ballard from Gosport started a fire. Everyone was evacuated from the building and around 50 fire fighters from the Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service tackled the blaze.



They stayed through the night to control and put out the fire but they were withdrawn at one point when it was realised that the central part of the building was going to collapse. When it finally collapsed luckily no one was injured.

Photographs: Ryde Castle fire 17 March 2012; Isle of Wight County Press.

Left: Peter Boam / Robin Crossley.

Below: Dave Russell, Wight Media Services



INFERNO AT RYDE CASTLE

My longest minute

New fire chief recalls the moment the roof collapsed and, for a terrible few seconds, he wasn't sure all the firefighters had got out

CHIEF fire officer Steve Apter experienced the most nerve-racking moment of his career when part of Ryde Castle Hotel collapsed.

Mr Apter led the operation to tackle the fire, which tore through the hotel late on Saturday night and throughout the early part of Sunday morning.

At the height of the fire, more than 60 crew members were on the scene and at one point there were firefighters fighting the blaze from inside the building.

Part of the hotel's roof then collapsed and Mr Apter did not

By Matt White

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immediately know if they had got out.

He said: "It was the longest minute of my life and the most nerve-racking moment of my career."

"I was relieved and delighted they got out just in time but it was thanks to their professionalism they knew part of the building was about to collapse."

Mr Apter confirmed fire-works were the cause of the blaze and said he would be liaising with fire officers on the

mainland, as there was a collective concern about such displays.

The fire at Ryde Castle Hotel was the second major blaze in Mr Apter's first four months as the Island's chief fire officer. It followed December's fire at the former Savoy Hotel, Sandown, which firefighters battled for 20 hours.

Mr Apter said: "The difference this time was there were residents in the hotel, so making sure everyone was out was the first concern."

"But it was one of the largest fires I have ever been involved in and it required an exceptionally professional demonstration of firefighting by the team."



IW fire chief Steve Apter can smile, knowing the professionalism of his men carried them through the danger. FILE

Isle of Wight County Press; 23 March 2012

Blaze hotel re-opening today after major refit

RYDE Castle Hotel opens for business today (Friday), a year-and-a-half after it was gutted by fire.

Two of the original members of staff have been employed, alongside 48 other Islanders.

The business unit director, Peter Hebblethwaite, declined to say how much the refurbishment has cost but admitted it has been a major project revamping the listed building.

He said: "We have worked closely with English Heritage. The team have done an amazing job, it is quite something."

Ryde Castle is part of the Old English Group, owned by Greene King.

Peter is keen to emphasize the importance of the hotel as a community asset.

A side entrance has been opened up, giving direct access to the restaurant and bar.

The hotel has 18 rooms and has an improved stage, dance floor and

By Matthew Mckew

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bar in the Castle function suite.

It also has greater disability access.

Manager David Edwards said he had watched the project come to life over the last 12 weeks and was looking forward to welcoming the first guests.

The hotel has 650 people booked in for the Christmas period, including 50 for Christmas Day.

Ryde deputy mayor, Cllr David Knowles, said: "What a spectacular building it looks now, after Greene King has invested so heavily in this focal point of the seafront. They have certainly set the standard."

Ryde mayor, Cllr Wayne Whittle, will present a letter of congratulations to the company when he performs the official opening today.

There will be an invitation-only grand opening on October 30.

"The team have done an amazing job, it is quite something."



Ryde Castle Hotel manager, David Edwards, outside the refurbished listed building. 0013-68447

Isle of Wight County Press; 18 October 2013

List of Volunteers at The Castle Auxiliary Hospital

Name	Duties
Bradbury, Wilfred	Orderly
Brebner, James Erskine	Bringing Wounded & Orderly
Bull, Hylda Christiania	Nurse
Bull, Hylda Christina	Nurse
Burton, Effie Winifred	Assistant Maid & Head Cook
Carey, Norah Madeline Alice	Nurse
Cheverton, C	Orderly
Clarke, R Sutton	Orderly & Quartermaster
Coffin, Harold	Orderly
Collins, Lillian Jessie M	Ward Maid, Hall Porter & Nurse
Cooper, Ethel Elaine	Ward Maid, Kitchen Maid & Nurse
Cooper, Kathleen	Ward Maid & Cook
Cooper, Percy	Orderly
Crisp, Edward Herbert	Orderly
Day, Mildred Fanny	General Service
Denness, Rosalie	Nurse
Denton, Percy	Orderly
Derham, Lena	Cook & Nurse
Friend, Elizabeth Mary (Kleo)	Commandant
Hill, Arthur Douglas	Orderly
Howse, Thomas Charles	Bringing Wounded & Orderly
Hudson, Helen Maud	Quartermaster
Hunt, William Henry	Orderly
Jackson, Thomas George	Orderly
Knight, Ruth Margaret Coldham	General Service
Marriott, Nora	Ward Maid & Nurse
Morant, Frank (Frederick) W	Bringing Wounded & Orderly
Morris, Anne	Nurse
Morris, Charlotte	Nurse
Plummer, Ralph P	Orderly
Porter, Blanche Geraldine	Nurse
Porter, Dorothy Eva	Nurse
Pring, Kate	Cook
Stanfield, Edward Herbert	Section Leader
Tallent, Ellen Killworth Cooper	Ward Maid & dispenser
Turner Esq., M.D., M.R.C.S., O.B.E, Philip Dymock	Medical Officer
Waud, Mabel E	Ward Maid, Nurse & Quartermaster
Webb, Nelly	Laundry Assistant
Welch, Charles H	Orderly & Patrol Work
Whyte, Eleanor Beatrice	Cook
Wightman, Reuben Stanley	Bringing Wounded & Orderly
Wise, Amelia	Cook

The Castle Hospital,



A Merry Christmas,

1918.







Painted by Seymour Lucas, R A

MISS AUDREY RIDSDALE

Assistant-Commandant of the Castle Hospital, Ryde, a beautiful house lent by Colonel Craddock, is a cousin of the Kut hero, General Sir Charles Townshend.



Miss Black-Barnes; Matron and Kleo Friend; Commandant

