

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Eagle Inn at the crossroads.

It seemed a rather appropriate time, considering the recent proposed planning development around *The Eagle*, to consider the history of this inn. With so many village inns closing all over the county, I suppose that we must consider ourselves to be rather lucky in Galleywood to have no less than three other inns – *The Running Mare*, *The Horse & Groom* and *The White Bear*, besides *The Eagle*.

The above B & W postcard, which is thought to date from the 1920s is rather devoid of motor vehicles, quite unlike today!

The first licensee of *The Eagle* in 1870 was a Samuel Sharp and the inn was also clearly shown on the 1874 Ordnance Survey Map of Galleywood. Prior to this the site was part of Galleywood Common. The inn is very well situated alongside

the Chelmsford and Stock road and on the route of the old London to Maldon road via Margarett and, of course, just across the road was the site of the racecourse. So the inn must have been very busy with travellers and more especially racegoers on racing days. In 1890 the licensee is shown as Charles Brown, who was also "a bread and biscuit maker", as indeed was his son, also named Charles. After the Chelmsford Golf Club's nine-hole golf course opened on the Common in May 1893, the members of Chelmsford Golf Club used *The Eagle* as their headquarters until the large shed was erected next to *The Horse and Groom* on the Common. I have been also told by a Galleywood resident that during the Second World War *The Eagle* was frequented by members of The Home Guard, who met and paraded at the nearby Keene Hall.

On 14th June 1975 English Heritage listed *The Eagle* as a Grade 2* building. It was described as "Mid-19th century plastered brick building with slate roof and two storeys." Since then there have been many different licensees and it is now owned by Hawthorn Leisure of Birmingham, just one of the 350 inns they own throughout the country and they describe it as 'a Gastropub'. In more recent times nearby St Micheal's and All Angels Church have held some of their services- 'Beer and Worship' - in *The Eagle* .

OUR NEXT MEETING.

On 8th June: There will be an Illustrated Talk by Mr Elphin Watkin on the 'Great Dunmow Maltings' at Keene Hall at 8 pm in the evening, as usual.

The Great Dunmow Maltings is now a Grade 2* listed building of national importance and it houses the Great Dunmow Town Museum. The building dates from about 1565 and it closed in 1948. Mr Watkin assisted in the campaign to save the building

from demolition and its subsequent restoration. I am sure that Mr Watkin will have a fascinating story to tell us.

SOMEDATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

14th September 'The Past, Present and the Future of Stow Maries Great War aerodrome.' A talk by Roger Smith.

9th November 'The Thames Sailing Barges'. A talk by John Rayment.

This latter talk will be preceded by the Society's short A.G.M.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.

The Society now has all the necessary recording equipment after receiving finance from the Parish Council. The six Society members involved in the project have completed a few practice interviews and we hope that by the time you read this Newsletter, the project will be up and running. We already have a list of people, who have agreed to be interviewed. Nevertheless we are still interested in adding new names to the list. Perhaps you might be able to suggest some person that you might think should be asked to participate; if so would you kindly get in touch with me (Graham Smith); my contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

During June the Heritage Room will be closed on Sunday mornings but open as usual on Tuesday afternoons. During July and August there will be a display on '*A virtual tour of the churchyard*' in The Heritage Room. On Sunday 10th July there will a small exhibition on 'The Battle of the Somme' and entrance is free. During June to August there will be several short history walks of Galleywood – '*Wells & Windmills*'. They will take place on 7th& 21st June, 12th July & 9th August and will be led by Gillian Parker (our Secretary). If you wish to join these walks, please contact Philip Walters on 01245 473191.

Then on Tuesday afternoon 19th July there will be a talk on '*The Human Face of the Great War*' by Bill Fulton. On Tuesday 2nd August,

there will be a talk *'Two scandalous Essex Ladies'* given by Margaret Mills.

Wendy Cummin, who is the archivist of the Heritage Room, is urgently seeking a volunteer to assist her. The Heritage Room is open to the public on Sunday mornings from 11.00am to 1.00pm and on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 to 3.30pm. Wendy, will, of course, show you how the system works, search the computer and card indexes as well as how the archives are stored and catalogued. This seems to be an excellent opportunity for anybody with a love of the history of Galleywood, it would also be a great help to the Heritage Centre. If you would like to find out more information then please contact Wendy on 01245 250499 or wendy.gf@blueyonder.co.uk.

GALLEYWOOD GOOD NEIGHBOURS.

The next Coffee Morning will be held at Keene Hall on Friday 10th June and then followed by another on 8th July, each are from 10 am to Noon. We can also arrange lifts if you have difficulty in getting to Keene Hall; in that case please contact Graham Smith; my telephone number is below. Perhaps you would like to come along and have a tea or coffee and a biscuit and also have 'A Chat'?

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT GALLEYWOOD?

With effect from **1576**, Anne Porter of Mountnessing owned Galleywood Common. Thomas Porter, 'A yeoman of Mountnessing' left his wife, Anne, *"my copyhold in Galleywood Common, Great Baddow towards the performance of my will and payments of my debts."* 'Copyhold' was the ancient right of holding land according to the custom of the manor by copy of the roll.

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GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President David Stacy

Chairman: Graham Mundy. Vice Chairman: Graham Smith.

Secretary & Programme Director: Gillian Parker. Treasurer: Geraldine Willden.

Committee: Alex Gilbert, Ken Edwards & Stephanie Troop.

Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor: Graham Smith
28 Russell Gardens, Chelmsford, CM2 8DB Email: grahamsmith99@hotmail.co.uk or by
Telephone: 01245 358570.

