

Our Archive Director, **Phil Walters** has given us this account of one aspect of life as it was at the start of the First World War in Great Leighs.

Tuesday 18 August 1914

A brigade of Territorials marched through Great Leighs from Chelmsford. It comprised 6000 men. Hearing that the troops were in movement, I closed the Church School at 9.50am and sent the children in charge of the two mistresses to see the sight. The children had a good place. Two of the regiments were exceedingly footsore. One of the young soldiers explained that the march was an amusement for him, accustomed daily to tramp miles of ground in ordinary farm work, but it was desperate hard for shop-lads and clerks, who for years had never been off pavements, and were in the habit of nothing more than jumping on and off a train.

About 11.30am a regiment of foot came and halted from the bridge to St Anne's. They were very footsore, dirty and tired and glad to lie down on the grass by the roadside. They bought up all the ginger beer and most of the lemonade at St Anne's and the village shop. The cottagers were delighted to chat with them and brought apples and plums which were much appreciated. Mr John Dean, of St Anne's, put his horses to his farm wagons and drove relays of the most footsore to their camping ground of Oaklands.

There was much chaff between the villagers and the men at the halt. One of the men had a woman's head tattooed on his arm; and was told that he was taking his girl's photograph with him to the war. Another man told the folk about him that he was going to bring back half the Kaiser's moustache.'

*The extract above was taken from the book
ECHOES OF THE GREAT WAR*

The Diary of the Reverend Andrew Clark 1914 - 1919.

**The Great War
- Galleywood and Beyond
Exhibition Saturday November 8**



PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 22 JUNE 2008

www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety

Snapshot mystery solved

Our intrepid researcher, Wendy Cummin likes nothing better than tracking down the links in the chain of family history. So when an email from Sally Hartley arrived early in February we knew there could be no-one better to take up the challenge.

Sally wrote: 'I found some old photos in my family's effects. This one is of two sisters outside their mother's store in Galleywood. The family name was Drakeford as the name above the door. Is there anything you can tell me about the store or the family? I will be coming to Galleywood in a few weeks and would like to try find out if Elizabeth Drakeford is buried in Galleywood. If you have any help or suggestions as to where to look for further information about the family I would be very grateful. The daughter of one of the sisters in the photo is coming over from Connecticut USA this summer and I hope to have something to show her of where her grandmother lived.'

This first bit was easy. Many of us would spot the shop in Stock Road which is now Castle House. Wendy replied straight away.

'The shop your great grandmother had was at Cyclists Rest, a beer house/pub, which was previously the Elephant and Castle. It is now a private house, still standing, called Castle House. It stands on the Stock Road in Galleywood, ironically right next door to a small shop called Galleywood Stores! I would be happy to show it to you when you come to Galleywood.'

Sally was overjoyed. 'Thank you so much for offering help with this. I live in Bournemouth and getting to Galleywood to look at the Church Records or graveyard is not something I can do easily. I have quite a lot of information on the family before they moved to Galleywood but I cannot find a date of death or burial place for my Great



GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Chairman David Stacy **Vice Chairman** Colin Baddock
Secretary Sarah Walters **Treasurer** Graham Mundy **Programme Director** Ted Hawkins
Archive Director Philip Walters
Committee Madeleine Howard

Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor
David Stacy at Haldon, The Common, Galleywood, CM2 8JX
email davidstacy@btinternet.com

Our next meeting

The History of Chelmsford Cathedral

A talk by Tony Allen

TONY ALLEN is a retired journalist having been Features Editor of The Star evening paper in Sheffield. He left the profession to act as Assistant Director of Leader Training for the Scout Movement at Gilwell Park in Chingford. Since retiring ten years ago he has been the honorary Press and Publicity Officer for the Cathedral. He is also Pastoral Assistant and a member of the Cathedral Council and Deanery Synod. He has lived with his wife, Judith, a Cathedral Warden, in Galleywood since 1973.



Wednesday 4 June 2008
Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm

DATES for your Diary

2008

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | The Great War - Galleywood and Beyond |
| 17 September | Members talk about stories and incidents from the Great War |
| 8 November | We present our EXHIBITION in the Keene Hall |
| 19 November | HOW THE RAILWAY CAME TO CHELMSFORD and the changes this brought about Talk by Malcolm Stuart |



Grandmother Elizabeth Amy (Weston) Drakeford (date of birth 10/11/1849 in Camberwell). I would like to find when and where she is buried.'

Wendy searched the 1901 census to find there were no Drakefords in Chelmsford at that time and none shown on 1914 Kelly's. 'I will try to arrange a search of burials at Galleywood. . If she is not buried in Galleywood she may be in Great Baddow. I can also look there.

As Elizabeth probably died in 1921 I thought it worthwhile to search the GRO index for 1921 deaths. I

found that she died June Quarter 1921, registered Chelmsford, aged 72. The GRO reference is 4a 513 if you want to get the certificate. I am sure I will find her burial at Moulsham St John. As she made a will it's likely there was enough money for a headstone. Thank you for the details from the 1901 census. I had already looked at this and decided this was the family but had no proof. I wondered why a laundress from Camberwell became a shop-keeper in Galleywood. But employment at Marconi brought many people here. I wonder where Arthur married Maud Salmon and when? If I can find that we know Elizabeth was still alive it narrows the search. I have looked for the birth of Bessie's daughter Elizabeth b.c. 1910 and the only one is in Holborn 1909. That suggests the photo in Galleywood is after 1909. As Bessie emigrated 1921, the photo must be between 1909 and 1921!

Wendy pressed on with her search and eventually traced the burial of Sally's great grandmother at Writtle Road Cemetery on 11th April 1921. She has offered to show Sally the grave and site of the shop when she comes to Galleywood.

The house that lived for only nineteen years

IN 1966 an imposing Georgian style home was built at The Chase on the Stock Road. Named 'Lady Grove' it was commissioned by Group Capt. and Mrs Carfoot to their own design. The house was built with the typical Georgian symmetrical facade with three bedrooms and two bathrooms and a wide balcony over the front door. Group Capt Carfoot was chairman of Allied Breweries and died before the house was compulsorily purchased in 1985 and razed to the ground to facilitate the construction of the A12 bypass.

The adjacent property, now named *The Chase*, survived the road development, with the remnants of the road that led to *Lady Grove* still visible in their driveway.