

Galleywood Boundary Stones

John Turkentine shares with us the results of some diligent research

THE ecclesiastical parish of St Michael and All Angels was constituted by Order in Council on 20th October 1874, the eastern boundary being marked by ten individually numbered stones inscribed G.C.St.M.C.C. 1874. The inscription is an abbreviation of "Galleywood Common St Michael's Consolidated Chapelry". From an annotated copy of the 1898 (re-printed 1911) Second Edition Ordnance Survey Essex Sheet LII, loaned to me by the Revd Stephen Bailey, and some research at the Essex Record Office, I have recently found, identified and recorded six original stones and one replica cement plaque.



This is stone No. 2. Standing some 28 inches above ground level, 10" square and fashioned from Oolitic limestone, it probably weighs up to 400lb.

One of the stones, No 9, has however strayed from its original position near the site of Tilekiln Farm and is now in Oaklands Park, adjacent to the Essex Regiment Museum Building. Conversation with Ian Hook and his staff revealed that this stone is not on the museum's accession, as it was found stored in a passageway during some rebuilding work some five years ago, the meaning of the inscription unknown, but was believed to have been deposited there during development of housing in the Firecrest Road area, part of the Tilekiln Estate.

The remaining stones are in various states of repair and being sited variously in the current civil parishes of Great Baddow, Galleywood and West Hanningfield, I am concerned that they will deteriorate further, be damaged or removed. For instance stone No1 has sunk into the soft ground at the junction of B1007 and the Downham Road and has lost about six inches off its top,

including very recent damage, probably from a grass mowing machine.

2004 will be the 130th anniversary of the establishment of our Parish so it would be of some significance to protect all remaining stones from further deterioration and loss. I am continuing my search for the missing stones— part of our village's heritage—and would appreciate any help or suggestions to enable me to conclude the quest.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Ron White **Chairman** David Stacy **Vice Chairman** Colin Baddock
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Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor
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PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Detective Work pays off

When our Parish boundaries were defined over a hundred years ago, ten marker stones were set up and the Vicar described their positions in the church magazine. John Turkentine became convinced that such substantial pieces of masonry could not all have disappeared without trace and set about the task of tracking them down. Torn by brambles and defying the danger of passing cars, he has unearthed more than half of these pieces of history and his account appears on our back page.

Few of us have the skill or tenacity to carry out the sort of research that John has done, but perhaps his work on this project may encourage more of our members to share with us their recollections, documents and photos as some of you have in this newsletter already. Memories of the past are OK but our function as an Historical Society is to bring these to a wider audience and put them on record.

Essex Chronicle
Jan 3rd 1930

AN ENJOYABLE SOCIAL EVENING, arranged by Miss Ada Brazier and Mr A T Bailey was held at the Grand Stand, by permission of the Race Company. The old people of the village were invited, and kindly conveyed to and fro by the National Omnibus Co. per Mr. Banks, in a saloon bus. The gathering opened with a pianoforte solo by Miss Day. Mr J Barton, who is 91, sang in fine style for his age "When the missus gave a sly glance at me". Mr and Miss A Brazier gave "The ole in your bucket". The Misses E Rippon, N Steed, and Linn amused with "Impossibilities".

Songs were also sung by Messrs. A Bird, Weeks and Gooch. Miss A Brazier handed to Mr. G Weeks, the Treasurer of the Scout movement, the sum of £8.5s. being the profits of the evening. Refreshments were kindly given by many friends. Dancing followed until nearly midnight, when "O God our help in ages past" was sung, after which "Old Father Time" with his scythe and flickering lantern passed through the room. When the hour of midnight was heard from Big Ben an electric sign flashed out 1930, and little Miss Day, as 1930, danced into the room, the company singing "Auld lang syne." Mr. A W Hawkes was MC.

Our next meeting

History of the Essex Police

A Talk by Martyn Lockwood

Martyn Lockwood is a retired Police Inspector, currently working with Essex Police as a Contingency Planning Officer. He has been involved with the Essex Police Museum since 1991 and has carried out research and written a number of articles on police history.

He is a member of a number of historical societies

**Wednesday 19 November
2003**

**Keene Hall Watchouse Road
at 8 pm**

The talk will be preceded by the brief formalities of our Annual General Meeting

DATES for your Diary

3 March 2004



The Story of GOLDEN MILLER
The National Champion and his races on Galleywood Common
An illustrated talk by Ted Hawkins
Ted will be showing pictures of the Galleywood Racecourse including a scene from a race with horses galloping across the Margaretting Road at the Eagle crossroads.

9 June 2004

The History of RIDLEY'S BREWERY
A speaker from the brewery will recount the history of this long established Essex firm, now based at Hartford End and owners of the 'Eagle' in Galleywood.

The Memorial Hall that never was

In Past Times No.3 we read how the work on the Hall had come to a halt and of the Committee's growing concern at the continuing absence of the chairman at their meetings. Much discussion must have gone into the wording of the letter to which, fatefully, a reply never came. The minutes record the bare facts of the non-reply. We can only imagine the unrecorded words that must have been aired at the subsequent meeting of the Committee.

Capt. Lindsay-Forbes, M.C.
Floral Hall, Covent Garden, London, W.C.2
16th February 1924

Dear Sir,

You will no doubt be interested to hear that the building Committee of the Memorial Hall at Galleywood, recently held a meeting to discuss matters connected with the building, with a view to its completion at as early a date as practicable, since they feel very anxious to have the Hall completed and handed over to the Parish for the use of the parishioners for recreative purposes.

It is the committee's earnest desire to expedite matters and they feel that you, as their Chairman, also share in their desire. The Committee invariably express regret that you, no doubt through unavoidable causes, have been prevented from being present, but they, at the same time, feel confident that their various decisions in regard to this matter would be acceptable to you. As you have not had the opportunity of being with us at our Meetings, may I, on behalf of the Committee, put before you the following points:-

1. You will remember that, at the initial stages, you very kindly gave us the land on which to erect the Hall and that a Building and Working Committee was consequently formed to carry on the work with a view to the Hall being erected as early as possible and you were duly elected Chairman of the Committee.
2. It will, no doubt, be of considerable interest to you to know that all the material etc. we have has been paid for, with the exception of the £50 odd which you kindly loaned in connexion with the purchase of certain material and a small amount due to Mr Bates, and that we have not expended any money on labour connected with the building. This the Committee consider very gratifying.
3. Substantial sums of money have been given locally towards the building fund, and as a result of this, the Committee feel that it is most necessary and desirable that the building work should be proceeded with at high speed and building operations quickly completed.

With a view to enabling the Committee to resume their work on the building, they have asked me to bring to your notice, the question of the transfer of the land which you have so kindly given to the Parish.

In this connexion therefore, and in view of the information which the Committee have instructed me to forward to you as above, they trust you will be good enough to take the necessary steps to effect the transfer of the ground to the parishioners of Galleywood, and so enable us to complete the work.

It would be the Committee's pleasure to meet you at your earliest convenience, to discuss the steps necessary to take for the appointment of Trustees and the handing over of the deeds.

I should like a reply to this letter before our Committee meeting which will be held on Friday next the 22nd instant at 8.0'clock at 'The Bear' when it is hoped you will be able to be present. Should, however, this date and time be not convenient to you, please let me know so that a date convenient to you may be arranged.

Yours faithfully,

H. Whitcombe Vice Chairman of the Galleywood Memorial Hall Committee.