

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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EARLY GALLEYWOOD MOTORING - II

I briefly mentioned Harry Charles Waskett in a recent *Past Times*. He was the chauffeur to the Keene family but this photograph shows him outside his garage in *Stock Road* Galleywood serving petrol to a motor-cyclist sometime in the early 1930s. This, of course, was the only garage in the village.



Harry Waskett was born in Stock in May 1887 and christened Henry Charles; his parents Charles and Esther lived near the Ship Inn. In early 1911 he married Rosetta Johnson at Great Dunmow and later in the year he and Rosetta, along with his brother, Clifford, were living at *Well Lane*, Galleywood; in the 1911 Census both brothers were shown as 'milk carriers'.

It is not known precisely when Harry became chauffeur to the Keene family, who had moved into Carlton House in 1901. On being appointed chauffeur he and Rosetta would have moved into Carlton Lodge, which went with the position in order that he could be close at hand for his chauffeuring duties.

John Keene died in September 1931 and it is possible that Harry then took over the garage in *Stock Road* but he and Rosetta were still living in Carlton Lodge. When Lavinia Keene died in July 1949 she left Harry £300 in her will, wherein he was still shown as 'chauffeur'. So he apparently still acted as chauffeur to Mrs Keene whilst also managing his garage. He and Rosetta remained in Carlton Lodge well after Mrs Keene's death and they were certainly living there in 1955. Rosetta died in 1967 aged eighty-two years and Harry died four years later (1971) at the age of eighty-four years. For sixty years he had been a familiar and popular figure in Galleywood and it is perhaps a little sad that we do not have more information on Henry (Harry) Charles Waskett.



This is a more familiar photograph of the garage, which dates from the 1950s and shows it on the same site as the present Chelmerbridge – a used car dealer and showroom. From the late 1960s onwards it was more familiarly known to Galleywood residents when it was owned by Helix Garage Ltd

before the Company moved to its present site closer to Chelmsford along *Galleywood Road*.

Our Next Meeting

Wednesday, 12th March 2014 8pm at Keene Hall:

An Illustrated Talk on The History of Byron Hall and a short account of Admiral Byron, grandfather on Lord Byron, who resided there sometime between 1764 and 1784.

By John Churchyard.

John Churchyard, who was born and brought up in Essex, has lived at Byron Hall since 1980, having previously lived in Stock. He is now retired after working for 49 years in the City in Shipping and Insurance and is now mainly engaged in property development.

Byron Hall was formerly known as Brick House and Brick House is shown on the Chapman & Andre map of 1777, it was situated on the eastern edge of Galleywood Racecourse on the lower part of Galleywood Common. It was an excellent location for watching the racehorses galloping by. A nearby water jump was constructed in 1890 when steeplechasing took over from flat racing.

I must confess that I was totally unaware of a Byron Hall in Galleywood so I look forward to John Churchyard's talk and learning something new about the history of the village. It sounds to be a most fascinating subject.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

4th June 2014.

How Navigation came to Chelmsford.

Speaker – Malcolm Stuart.

10th September 2014.

Ingatstone: A Tudor Village.

Speaker – Graham Smith

WELCOME ALEX – OUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER.

Those of you who attended our Annual General Meeting in November back in November 2013 will be aware that Alex Gilbert was voted as a new Committee member. Alex who lives in *Ponds Road* is the Transport Officer for Galleywood Voluntary Community Car Association, which amongst other things arranges transport for old and infirm patients to hospital. He is a most welcome addition to the Committee and we are looking forward to him joining us.

YOUR COUNTRY (Well Galleywood village) NEEDS YOU.

I am sure that I don't need to remind you that 2014 marks the centenary of the outbreak of World War One. To commemorate this historic event Galleywood Parish Council has sponsored a two day exhibition at the Galleywood Heritage Centre. This will take place on **November 8th& 9th**. The trustees of GHC have asked the Archive Group at the Centre to mount this exhibition on their own and the Parish Council's behalf.

A major feature of the exhibition will be **THE WALL OF REMEMBRANCE**; if you live in the parish of Galleywood then we would like to hear from **YOU**. If you have a relative, **no matter wherethey came from**, who died in the First World War and you would like them to be commemorated on this Wall, then please contact:

Wendy Cummin. Phone: 01245 250499.

Email: wendy.gf@blueyonder.co.uk

Whilst on the subject of World War One, as part of the Essex Book Festival Louise Miller, author of *A Fine Brother: The Life of Captain Flores Sandes*, will be giving a talk at the Essex Record Office on Monday 24th March at 6.30 for 7p.m. Flora Sandes was the only woman to serve as a soldier in the First World War. She became a hero and media sensation when she served in the Serbian army, although she was an Englishwoman.

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

There will be a Model Railway Club Exhibition on Saturday 15th March from 10am to 4pm - £2.50 for adults and £1 for children. Then on Sunday 18th April there will be an 'Easter Bunny Hunt' on the Common. On Tuesday 25th March Antony McQuiggan will be giving a talk on 'Hill Farm and aerial views of Galleywood' and on Tuesday 29th April I will be giving a talk – 'In Praise of Essex'. Both talks are from 1.30pm and there will be a £3 charge.

Another Community Day will take place on Tuesday afternoon 20th May from 1.30pm, local lifts can be arranged. The theme on this occasion will be 'Local postcards and sketches'.

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GALLEYWORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Ted Hawkins

Chairman: Graham Mundy. Vice Chairman: Graham Smith.

Secretary: Gillian Parker. Treasurer: Ken Edwards.

Programme Director: Ted Hawkins. Committee: Alex Gilbert.

Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor: Graham Smith
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