

# PAST TIMES

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## GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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[www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety](http://www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety)



### **FAMILIAR BUILDINGS AROUND THE VILLAGE.**

This photograph of the Galleywood Social Club, which is situated on *The Street*, was kindly taken by John Cummin. However, most Galleywood residents would know it previously as the Headquarters of the Galleywood branch of the Royal British Legion.

The British Legion was formed on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1921 and the first 'Poppy Day Appeal' was launched in November of that year. The British Legion finally gained 'Royal' status in 1971. Originally Galleywood British Legion was just a sub-section of the Chelmsford branch that is until September 1937 when its membership was sufficient to warrant the formation of a separate branch; its members usually met in the Keene Hall or later the Old Grandstand. But by 1960 funds were raised to finance their own headquarters building on the corner of *The Street* and *Watchouse Road*. Many of the members undertook the necessary interior work to reduce the costs. The building was formally opened on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1961. Mrs Lavinia Keene who was always a firm and loyal supporter of the British Legion, was awarded life membership for her outstanding service to the branch.



The formal opening of the British Legion building – 10<sup>th</sup> June 1961.

Extensive alterations to the building were made in 1972 and on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1973 a special Headquarters Room was opened followed by a ceremonial march-past along *The Street* with the standard bearers and members in full regalia, which was witnessed by many Galleywood residents.

On 19<sup>th</sup> September 1987 a Dinner and Dance was held at the Keene Hall to celebrate the Branch's fiftieth anniversary, although by then the membership had fallen to fifty-seven. Five years later a Roll of Honour was unveiled in the Headquarters Room to remember all the local men who had died in the two World Wars. The Branch was awarded a Memorial Trophy for branch efficiency in 1992, 1997 and 2000. The building had now been split to form a Royal British Legion Club and a Residents Club. In 2004 because of a sharp fall in membership the Galleywood branch of the Royal British Legion closed and the building then became known as the Galleywood Social Club. Although this building is just fifty-three years old with no particular architectural merit, it is as much part of the history of the village as the other older and more attractive buildings in the parish.

## **Our Next Meeting**

**Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2014 8pm at Keene Hall:**

**An Illustrated Talk on ‘How Navigation came to Chelmsford.’**

**By Malcolm Stuart.**

Malcolm Stuart really needs no introduction to us; he is a longstanding member of the Society and has previously given us talks on how the roads and railways came to Chelmsford. Tonight his subject is the Chelmer Navigation Canal, which opened for traffic in June 1797 and thus Malcolm will complete his fascinating trilogy of the history of Chelmsford transportation.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

**10<sup>th</sup> September 2014.**

**Ingatestone: A Tudor Village.**

**Speaker – Graham Smith**

**12<sup>th</sup> November 2014.**

**The Home Front: Essex 1914 – 1918.**

**Speaker – William Tyler MBE**

**And, of course, our A.G.M.**

## **WELCOME GERALDINE – OUR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBER.**

Since our A.G.M. Geraldine Willden has come forward and offered to become a member of our Committee, which we greatly welcomed and accepted. Geraldine has lived in Essex for most of her life and in Galleywood since 1983. She has always had a keen interest in history and during her career with E.C.C and for fourteen years she worked in the Essex Record Office. She has also served as the Treasurer of ‘the Friends of Historic Essex’ and is now its Vice-Chairman. Since 2007 Geraldine has been the Treasurer of *The Essex Journal*. With such a wealth of experience, especially in the field of history, Geraldine will be a most valuable addition to our Committee.

## **INDEX TOPAST TIMES.**

Enclosed herewith is an Index of the articles that have been printed in our Newsletter – *Past Times* – from Issue 1 (February 2003) to Issue 44 (November 2013). Our grateful thanks are due to Gillian Parker, who has completed a very fine and painstaking job of compiling this Index and also to Ken Edwards, who has produced and printed the Index in this handy format.

I don’t know how many of our members retain and save their copies of *Past Times*. However, Issues 1 to 38 can be found and read on the Society’s website but should you not have access to the internet, copies of the newsletter can be found in the Heritage Room at the Heritage Centre.

When one reads through the Index, it is most remarkable just how much has been written about the history of our village. Personally I found that the regular feature “*I remember...*” which appeared in several of the early issues to be very interesting. All the contributors to *Past Times* and more especially David Stacy, the Editor from 2003 to 2011, should be commended for providing such a wealth of printed information – a veritable treasure trove of local history – which many other Essex villages must surely envy. As David wrote in Issue No 1 “*We would like to think this modest publication can make a small contribution to pulling together the strings of the Galleywood story.*” Eleven years later it certainly can be said that *Past Times* has done that and much more.

With all these aspects of history and life in the village over the years already in print, I find it increasingly difficult to find a subject that has not already appeared in *Past Times*. Therefore can I repeat my request for any member to contact me, if they believe they have a story about of the village and its past that they think might be of interest to our members? Perhaps we can also revive the “*I remember...*” feature? Graham Smith

### **NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE.**

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30 pm there will be talk by Malcolm Stuart on ‘A Year in the management of the Common’. Then on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> September also at 1.30 pm Chris & Les Whybro will talk on ‘The grave of the unknown warrior – a princely Saxon burial at Broomfield.’ The cost of both of these talks is £3 and refreshments will be available.

As part of the Galleywood Festival our President, Ted Hawkins, will be giving a talk on Galleywood racecourse on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July at 12.30 pm in the Heritage Centre,

A further reminder about The Wall of Remembrance, Wendy Cummin (01245 – 250499) would require the details of any relative, no matter where they came from, who you may wish to appear on the Wall before November.

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### **GALLEYWOOD 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 & Geraldine Willden.

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