

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Horse and Groom circa 1890

It has not been that often that Galleywood has featured in the local newspapers but it certainly did on 16th April 1948 when the 'Essex Newsman' reported about 'THE PUB IN THE MIDDLE OF ZBOROWSKI HUNT' – the pub in question was 'The Horse and Groom' on Galleywood Common.

The newspaper reported: 'No one will be more pleased at this morning's news of the capture of Zborowski than Mr William Day, who keeps the 'Horse and Groom' half a mile from the main road and in the centre of Galleywood Common.

For while Mr Day, his daughter, Mrs Elsie Lodge, and her three children slept on Wednesday night, Zborowski and 'Dragon Man' Joseph Panton passed along a track a few yards away and went into hiding. None of them realised the danger that had passed so near when they woke up.

Nine-year-old Alan and his sister Margaret, aged six years, went to school as usual, while four-year old Maureen helped her mother.'

"The first I knew of the escape was when three policemen came in for a cup of tea" said Mr Day. "When they told us what had happened I asked them to help me if anything went wrong."

Squads of policemen searched the Common for most of the day.'Also according to the newspaper report 'Margaret and Maureen (who had their photographs taken for inclusion in the newspaper) thought the whole thing was rather fun.'!

The two 'dangerous' prisoners had, of course, escaped earlier from Springfield Gaol. In retrospect the story seems rather like 'making a mountain out of a molehill'?

Our Next Meeting

Wednesday, 11th March 2015 8pm at Keene Hall: LIFE AND TIMES OF CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL. A talk by Tony Tuckwell.

Tony Tuckwell, M.A. (Oxon), MBA and DipEd, really does not need any introduction to the Society as he has previously given two talks to the Society on New Hall. He is the Governor of New Hall School Trust and has a recently published book on the Cathedral – '*Coming of Age: the Life and Times of Chelmsford Cathedral, 1914 – 2014*'.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Although we enclosed a leaflet with the last *Past Times* on the forthcoming talks planned for 2015, I thought that another reminder might be in order.

10th June. A talk on 'Hugh de Badewe. 14th century Great Baddow and Galleywood by Gloria Harris.

9th September. A talk on 'Ingatstone: A Tudor village.' By Graham Smith.

11th November. A talk on The Agricultural Depression of the 19th century including Galleywood and Great Baddow by Neil Wiffen.

You may be interested to know that the Society now has one hundred members – another century scored!

"WHAT ESSEX HISTORY MEANS TO ME" by GERALDINE WILLDEN.

As you are no doubt aware Geraldine is our latest Committee member and because of her wealth of experience with the Essex Record Office and more latterly with the 'Essex Journal', I asked her what did Essex History mean to her and also would she like to share her thoughts with our Society members and she kindly readily agreed to do so; her thoughts are below.

"I have always had an interest in history which was ignited by a school visit to Ingatestone Hall when I was about 12 years old. I remember being fascinated by the house itself, the deep-set leaded light windows, the stone floor and the wood panelled walls with their folded linen pattern. It was the oldest house that I had ever been inside.

My interest in Essex History was re-kindled when I joined the Essex Record Office in 1986. Working with archivists and other staff who were knowledgeable about all aspects of history was most enlightening. It was wonderful to have access to all manner of historical documents, maps, photographs and books.

I love the fact that history is all around us and that you never stop learning. I grew up in Ilford – it was recorded in the *Little Domesday Book* of 1086 as 'Ilefort', which means '*ford over the Hyle*'. The Hyle is the old name for the river Roding. My grandparents lived near Southend (Prittlewell) and my sister and I spent many summer holidays with them. I now know that Prittlewell was the original village and Southend was so named because it was the '*south end*' of Prittlewell.

I love the fact that Essex is such a diverse county with one of the longest coastlines of any English county. The boundaries were defined by rivers: the Lea or Lee to the west with the Stour as the northern boundary and the Thames to the south. These rivers played an important role in the prosperity of the county. Manure from the many horses in London – 'London muck' – was transported by barges down the Thames and spread on the Essex fields as a fertilizer. In turn the produce from the fields was sent up to the London markets via the river; that was surely re-cycling at its most natural?

The Roman town of Caesaromagnus or 'Caesar's market place' was established in AD43 in the *Moulsham Street* area. It is not known why this small town was honoured with this Imperial prefix, it was in fact the only such one in Roman Britain to have the prefix.

The shape of the *High Street* has not changed much since it was mapped by John Walker in 1591. The Sessions House can be seen at the top of the *High Street* with buildings in '*Middle Row*' which is the current site of Lloyds Bank.

The most prosperous time for the town was in the Georgian era and this was when the Shire Hall was built to replace the Sessions House. The Shire Hall was completed in 1791 and did not have a clock on the pediment but had the three seaxes of Essex instead. In 1887 Sparrow's Bank offered to combine Queen Victoria's Jubilee with the Bank's Jubilee by presenting the

town with a clock to be mounted on the Shire Hall. It was unveiled in honour of both Jubilees at Noon on 21st July 1887.

As a relative newcomer to Gallywood (some 30 years) I am still learning about its history. Galleywood may be a small parish but it has a wealth of interesting history, such as the early brick-built houses that were made from bricks made in the kilns on the Common and I cannot walk past 'Rosthel Cottage' in *The Street* without remembering that it was once the old Post Office..."

Geraldine Willden.

GALLEYWOOD GOOD NEIGHBOURS.

The first coffee morning under this new initiative to identify and help lonely people in the village was held in The Keene Hall on Friday morning 13th February and it was well attended. The Committee are especially seeking people and ideas. Do you know of any lonely people in the village or are you prepared to help those less fortunate than you? If so perhaps you might like to attend one of the next two coffee mornings to share your thoughts with members of the Committee. They will be held on **Friday 13th March and Friday 10th April at The Keene Hall between 10.00 – 12.00 am.**

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

On **Saturday 21st March** there will be a Model Railway Exhibition held at the Centre from 10 am to 4pm. Then on **24th March** at 1.30 pm Christine and Les Whybro will be giving a talk on '**Temple Farm**'.

During March and April the Heritage Room will have displays on '**Then & Now in Galleywood**' and '**Did You Know This?**'. The Heritage Room is open on Tuesdays from 1.30 to 3.30 pm and also on Sundays from 11 am to 1 pm. The Centre is planning a celebration of the 70th anniversary of '**Victory in Europe**' (VE) and '**Victory in Japan**' (VJ) during 2015. They are collecting photos, memories relating to these events and they do not have to relate solely to Galleywood. Please contact Wendy on 01245 250499 or wendy.gf@blueyonder.co.uk.

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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.

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