

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CARLTON COTTAGE

Russell Travers, who is one of our Society members, has kindly written 'the life story' of his lovely cottage and chapel in *Beehive Lane*.

'Carlton cottage began its life around the year 1500AD – the end farthest from the road with the low sloped roof and it was probably a cattle shed at first. The timbers used were mostly recycled – including the top of a mullioned window found in the roof.

In 1602 the building was extended; a very basic timber house, probably for farm workers, no glass windows, just animal skins stretched over a wooden frame to keep the elements out, a fire would be lit in the centre of a dirt floor, the smoke rising to a hole in the roof. Later, probably in the 1700/1800s the first floor was installed, built around a large central chimney with four fireplaces, two on each floor – we found the fourth, unused when we broke through the roof space at the oldest far end of the house. The bricks probably came from the local brickworks although some are Roman, probably scavenged from the remains of buildings in the town.

The house was recorded in the Great Census of 1838 when a Henry Mickleburgh, a farm worker, lived there with his wife. It is believed that his

son was killed at the age of fourteen years in the Napoleonic War. It was during this time that Gallywood Common was being used as a training ground for soldiers before they went to war. The Common was again used as a training ground during the Great War; our chickens dug up a cap badge of the Royal Artillery regiment as well as lots of old lead toys.

In 1910 Mr John Keene owned the cottage (then divided into two cottages) and his gardener, Mr Cook, lived here, eventually dying in the lounge. His son, David, was born in the house in 1923. Gas and mains water were installed around 1932 and electricity in 1936 with mains drainage around 1955, the same year that the house was extended towards the road. The Cook family remained until 1983 and they still live in the village.

I moved into the cottage in 1988 just after the gales had torn down a large part of the oak tree behind the house and they had flattened the wooden outside privy; the cottage had only lost a few tiles. In 2000 when Seabright's Barn was being renovated I bought the remains of the small barn alongside the road and took the oak beams to Carlton Cottage.

We had planning permission for a two-storey extension to the back of the house and with much assistance from an expert, who had helped to renovate Kentwall Hall in Suffolk, we built the extension with its exposed beams throughout it looks as though it has always been there.

In 2008 we decided it was time to replace the wooden garden building, which we had built in the 90s, with something far more substantial and our inspiration was the ruins in the Abbey Gardens in Bury St Edmunds. We went to architectural auctions, salvage and reclaim yards until we had stockpiled enough materials to begin and with the help of two local bricklayers we started. Foundations were laid and we began to assemble the stones, bricks and rocks that we had accumulated, we had no plans other than window and door sizes. We just assembled what we had until the building was finished.

In September 2008 our good friend, the Dean of Suffolk, blessed the building, which is now known as 'the Chapel' and Ruth and I were married by the Dean in the Chapel.'

Russell Travers

As editor, if I may, I would like to add my personal view of this lovely cottage and the beautiful Chapel in the garden. I have been fortunate to attend several Christmas Carol Concerts organised by Ruth (who is now a Professor of Music) in this quite remarkable building; they were certainly musical experiences to richly treasure.

Our Next Meeting

Wednesday, 10th June 2015 8pm at Keene Hall: A talk on 'The Life and Times of Sir Hugh de Badewe. Fourteenth Century Great Baddow and Galleywood by Gloria Harris.

Sir Hugh de Badewe (1315 – 1380) was a prominent Essex knight. The talk will cover Sir Hugh's family, the estate, his military experiences, his networks and his prominent role in the system of justice and administration in the county of Essex. It sounds a fascinating subject and a journey back in time to the 14th century.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

9th September. A talk on 'Ingatestone: 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.

The GEORGE DUNCAN STORY: A Famous Galleywood Character.

Keith Perryman, one of our newer members of the Society has kindly supplied this story.

'George Duncan was quite a celebrity in Essex in the 1960s, as a footballer with Southend United and Chelmsford City, but sadly he may be remembered in years to come for the untimely death of his wife, and his own death a few months later.

He was born in Glasgow in 1937, and as a young man he signed for Rangers. A speedy right winger. George made his debut for the Rangers in a home match at Ibrox Park against Glasgow rivals Queens Park. Rangers won 5-1 and by the end of that 1957-58 season George had made ten appearances and scored three goals. A cutting from one Glasgow newspaper said "*Rangers have found another young star*".

But over the next two seasons his appearances became quite limited because at that time Glasgow Rangers had another right winger – Alex Scott – who was a Scottish international payer, and he was preferred to George Duncan.

Realising that his future did not lie with Rangers. George moved south and made his debut for Southend United on Boxing Day 1960, scoring twice in a 2-2 draw with Halifax Town at Roots Hall. In 1965 George moved to Chelmsford City, where he made seventy-six appearances and scored four goals, before being released at the end of the 1966-7 season.



A young George Duncan in his Rangers days.

George would later become the player-manager with Braintree Town, Heybridge Swifts and Maldon Town. In later years he was a well-known local referee in Essex, as well as the football coach at Ingatestone School, where he affectionately known as 'Mr D'.

In August 2011 George and his wife, Janette, were attacked by a swarm of wasps as they strolled near their home in Galleywood. Neighbours were alerted and paramedics arrived to treat them. They were airlifted to Broomfield Hosiptal where Janette died, possibly of a heart attack. George had suffered stings to his face and neck but he was later released and allowed to return home. Heart Broken, sadly he survived his wife by just six months, and he died from a brian tumor in February 2012, aged 75 years.'

Keith Perryman

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

During June there will be a display in the Heritage Room on 'Moulsham & the Mildmay Family'. In July the display will commerorate 'the Bi-centenary of the Battle of Waterloo and the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain'. Then on Tuesday 11th August from 1.30 – 3.30pm there will be an 'Old School Reunion'. The Heritage Room is open on Tuesday afternoons from 1.30 – 3.30pm and on Sunday mornings from 11am – 1pm.

On Tuesday 30th June Christine & Les Whybro will be giving a talk on 'RAF Casualties of WWII' and on Tuesday 7th July Reg Wells will give a talk on 'A soldier of the East Essex Regiment'. Each talk commences at 1.30pm.

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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 & Geraldine Willden.

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