

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 52 – March 2016 www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety



Photo: John Cummin

STREET NAMES OF GALLEYWOOD.

Just like the Oral History project, I feel that the Society should also be involved in tracing the derivation of the village's street names. Some are obviously named after previous distinguished Galleywood residents like *Keene Way* and *Barnard Road*; but do you know why the street wherein you live is so named? One of our Committee members – Ken Edwards – has already started his research into this very subject and he writes below:-

'My interest was triggered by a posting on the local *'Streetlife'* site about a Chelmsford street name. This prompted me to suggest to John Cummin that if he would photograph the road signs in the village, I would try to find the story behind the names, And so some six months later, where have I got to?

My first action was an article in the *Galleywood Grapevine* asking what people knew. The result was things new and expected plus a few being taken to one side and told – *"well of course everyone knows that..."*. I have recorded these as they can be entertaining whether true or not. I also looked through the existing literature and

asked some key people like Chris Whybro and Wendy Cummin what they knew.

I now feel that I can start researching original records. Initial visits to both the Essex Record Office and Chelmsford Central Library gave me hope that I will be able to check many of the suspected 'facts'; interestingly it seems that the more recent street names may prove the more intractable. The E.R.O? - sadly limited recent information. Who built them? - from personal experience I know this is very difficult. So clearly many wild goose chases and cul-de-sacs await me. Two snippets from work in progress.

Watchouse Road: it is well known that there was a substantial fort built against the threat of a Napoleonic invasion in the early 1800s. Several people have told me that the street used to be known as '**Watchers Road**', although I have nothing yet to support it: so that is one to verify or not.

Grey Ladys, which is off *Well Lane*: I had an eMail: '*My father, John Coward, built the development and it was named after one of my ponies which used to graze on the field before the building, her name was 'Grey Lady'. She was a really wonderful grey Welsh mountain pony I owned and rode for many years.'*

If you have information on local street names do please get in touch at kenedwards2012@btinternet.com or on 01245 474425.'

Ken Edwards

I consider it would be rather appropriate that after all of Ken's research has been completed that the Society should produce a small booklet on '*The Street Names of Galleywood*' rather in the style of '*The Galleywood Diary*' which we published last year.

Our Next Meeting - Wednesday 9th March 2016 at 8pm at Keene Hall.

A Talk to be given by Mr Robert Villa on 'My year as Mayor of Chelmsford: 2014/2015'.

Bob Villa has lived in Galleywood for over 30 years, a retired Chartered Engineer and Company Director. Bob is currently the Chairman of Galleywood Parish Council and also a City Councillor for the Ward of Great Baddow West. He is also a Trustee of the Heritage

Centre and a member of the Common Association. He was elected by his fellow City Councillors to the role of Mayor for 2014/2015. His talk will cover the role of the Mayor of the City of Chelmsford and some of the events he experienced during his year as Mayor.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

25th May. A talk on 'Essex and its Race for the Skies' by Graham Smith.

Please note that this is a special event as the Society's part in the Galleywood Festival, and you should also note that **it will be held in the afternoon at St Michael's and All Angels Church at 2.30 pm.**

On 8th June: A Talk by Mr Elphin Watkin on 'Great Dunmow Maltings'. Keene Hall at 8 pm in the evening, as usual.

Another Meeting I wish to bring to your attention is taking place at **the Galleywood Heritage Centre on 7th April from 6.30 pm to 9 pm. It is the 29th ANNUAL GALLEYWOOD PARISH OPEN FORUM.** The many Clubs and Societies in Galleywood will each have a display table including, of course, the G.H.S, which is being hosted by two of our Committee ladies, Geraldine Willden & Stephanie Troop, so perhaps you can attend to support them and the Society.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.

This Project has moved at quite a pace since we reported it to you at the A.G.M. back in November 2015. In January five Society Committee members were trained in interviewing at the Essex Record Office. The Society has also received a grant from the Parish Council to help with the purchase of the necessary equipment. At the time of writing we have not yet started our interviews but we are in the process of establishing a list of people, whom we wish to interview. Perhaps you might be able to suggest some person that you think should be asked to participate; if so would you kindly get in touch with me (Graham Smith); my contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

GALLEYWOOD GOOD NEIGHBOURS.

The next Coffee Morning will be held at Keene Hall on Friday 11th March and then followed by one on 8th April, each are from 10 am to

Noon. Perhaps you would like to come along and have a tea or coffee and a biscuit and also have 'A Chat'?

'A RECOLLECTION OF GALLEYWOOD AND MY FAMILY LINKS TO THE VILLAGE.'

The Society has recently received a copy of the above (via Geraldine Willden), which has been written by one of our members, Richard Thomas, who now lives in Kirkwall, Orkney - yes he really does. His copy of 'Past Times' is posted all that distance away; I am sure no other local Club or Society can rival that! Richard writes about his many family links with the village and his own memories of living in *Skinners Lane* in the early 1950s - his time at the 'old' School, the Flower Shows, village parties in Keene Hall, bonfire nights and the school plays. His family had links with both the *White Bear* and the *Eagle*. Richard records some remarkable details of the village in those times. It is a far too long account to repeat here in full. However, a copy has been deposited in the Archive Room of the Galleywood Heritage Centre and I would recommend that you read it, as I am sure you would find it a most fascinating account.

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

During March & April there will be Displays in the Heritage Room on 'Notable Residents of Galleywood' and in May & June on 'Local Memories'. There are also several talks due – 5th April 'Marconi in Chelmsford' by Tim Wander, on 19th April 'Farming Heritage' by Chris & Les Whybro, 10th May 'Foreigners in our fields in WW2' by Rosemary Carter and on 24th May 'Jewellery through the ages' by Gordon Bailey. All the talks are held in the Main Hall and begin at about 1.30 pm and cost £3.

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GALLEYWORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President: David Stacy

Chairman: Graham Mundy. Vice Chairman: Graham Smith.

Secretary & Programme Director: Gillian Parker. Treasurer: Geraldine Willden.

Committee: Alex Gilbert, Ken Edwards & Stephanie Troop.

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