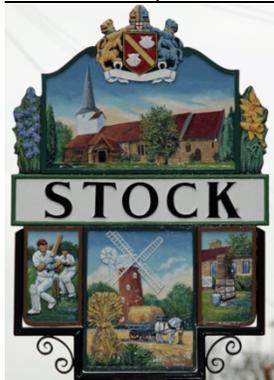


PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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In previous issues of *Past Times*, we had looked at two of our neighbouring villages – Widford and Margaretting – so I thought that we might direct our attention to Stock or Stock Harvard. The latter name appears to derive from the Saxon ‘*Stoke Hereward*’- a place within another district. ‘*Hereward*’ was the Saxon word for ‘*Steward*’. Hence it means ‘the place of the Steward’; Stock was then merely a hamlet in the parish of Buttsbury, as was most of the village until the last century.

In 1942, Arthur Mee in his book ‘*The King’s England: Essex*’ described Stock as “*On the hills between Chelmsford and Billericay, it has a pleasant green made brighter by the vivid red of a row of almshouses and it has one of the most delightful timber spires in Essex..*” Some seventy years later that description of the village has not really changed.

Of course Mee was referring to the remarkable timber spire of All Saints Church, which stands behind a small green at one end

of the village. It is believed that there has been a church on the site since 1232. I would venture to say that All Saints Church, a Grade 1 listed building, is ‘the crowning glory’ of Stock, and rightly deserves to be prominently featured on the Village Sign. It is very similar in design to the churches at Blackmore and Margaretting. In the large Churchyard is a Garden of Remembrance on the very spot where a land mine exploded in December 1940, causing considerable damage to the Church and nearby property. There are two other churches in Stock – the Roman Catholic Our Lady and St Joseph in *Mill Road*, and Christ Church, a Free Church.

Another of the village’s notable landmarks is its tower Windmill, which is along *Mill Lane*. It was built in 1816 and was in use until 1937. During the 1990s it was completely restored and is now a Grade II* listed building. It is open to the public on the 2nd Saturday in the month from April and September.

Like Galleywood Stock has four inns; *The Bear* alongside *The Square*, *The Hoop*, which is on the green in *High Street*, is noted for its annual Festivals of Beer. Then there is *The Baker’s Arms*, which was originally called *The Jolly Miller*, and it is in *Common Road*. Recently the ancient *The Cock Inn* on *The Square* has been extensively restored and renovated and has been given a rather appropriate new name – *The Harvard Inn*.

The Stock & Buttsbury Heritage Centre is sited in a small building in *Swan Lane* and is managed by The Stock and Buttsbury Heritage Society. In the 1920s the building was the village’s first telephone exchange and later its library, then reputed to be the smallest one in Essex. The Heritage Society holds its monthly meetings in the Village Hall, which is in *Common Road*. The present Hall dates from 2000 but there have been two previous Halls on the same site since 1926. Prior to 1947 *Common Road* was named *Workhouse Lane*, but the

Parish Council thought that *Common Road* was more appropriate!

Almost opposite *Common Road* on the B1007 road is Greenwoods Hotel & Spa, a fine 17th century Grade II listed manor house. I suspect that many people go to Greenwoods to use their Spa facilities, which are open for non-residents and rarely venture into the village; which probably also applies to many other motorists who merely pass through Stock en route to Billericay; so sadly they are missing all the attractions of this rather delightful village.

With the space available I have only been able to highlightsome of the buildings of the village. Of the two other images that appear on the Village Sign – Cricketers and the Village Pump. The village's large cricket ground is also alongside *Common Road*. The Village Pump was situated on the Green along the *High Street* until 1936 when it was removed.

OUR NEXT MEETING.

14th September:

***'Stow Maries Aerodrome, its place in History,'* A talk by Roger Smith.**

Roger Smith is a volunteer at Stow Maries Aerodrome, and he specialises in research and giving talks. Stow Maries was one of the many Landing Grounds in Essex during World War 1. I am sure that Roger has a fascinating story to recount to us. Personally I am looking forward to this talk.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

9th November ***'The Thames Sailing Barges'***. A talk by John Rayment.

This talk will be preceded by the Society's short **A.G.M.**

8th March 2017. I will be giving a talk ***'Essex-by-the-Sea'***, which relates to the rise and development of Essex seaside resorts over the last two centuries.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.

Good news to report at last; at the time of writing the Oral History Team of six GHS members have finally completed their first two interviews. It is interesting to note that the interviewees and interviewers both enjoyed the experience; so we are obviously creating a good and friendly atmosphere. By the end of August the Team hope to have completed another four interviews. It is also expected that by the New Year the interviews can be accessed at The Heritage Centre.

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE.

During September and October there will be a display in The Heritage Room on ***'The History of the Parish Council'***. Then on 13th September there will be a guided walk from The Heritage Centre - ***'Wells and Windmills'***. The cost of this walk is £2 and if you wish to join this walk, please contact Philip Walters on 01245 473191,

On Tuesday, 27th September Christine & Les Whybro will be giving a talk on ***'Prehistoric Galleywood and Great Baddow'***. A week later - 4th October - they will also be giving a talk on ***'The oldest house in Galleywood'***. On Tuesday afternoon, 18th October I (Graham Smith) will be giving a talk entitled ***'I Never Knew that about Essex'***.

GALLEYWOOD GOOD NEIGHBOURS.

The next Coffee Morning will be held at Keene Hall on Friday 9th September and then followed by one on Friday 14th October, each are from 10 am to Noon. St Michael's & All Angels Church have initiated a new project - ***'Love Your Neighbour, Galleywood'*** - it has been endorsed by the Parish Council. We will provide further details of this new project at our next Coffee Morning.

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GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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