

# PAST TIMES

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## GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Number 55 – November 2016. [www.essexinfo.galleywoodhistorical.society](http://www.essexinfo.galleywoodhistorical.society)

### A GALLEYWOOD GHOST?

One of our members, **Keith Perryman**, has written a poem about one of the most tragic events in the history of Galleywood; which was the killing of Cecilia Crozier by her husband, Samuel, the publican at the *Admiral Rous Inn* in **June 1899**. He was later found guilty of murder and was executed by hanging at Springfield Gaol on **5<sup>th</sup> December**. I know that Keith is aware that they have been no recorded sightings of “*a fine lady dressed all in white*” but that does not detract from Keith’s delightful poem, which I think deserves to be shared with all our members.

### *Poor Murdered Woman*

If you’re walking abroad through the churchyard at night,  
and you see a fine lady dressed all in white,  
do not be alarmed, sir. I’ll be as quiet as a mouse,  
for I’m a poor murdered woman from the Admiral Rous.

When I first met my Samuel he was nice as can be,  
he said “My sweet child, won’t you please marry me.

I live up in Galleywood in a fair country house,  
it’s an inn on the common called the Admiral Rous”.

Well, I kept the house tidy, with pride and good grace,  
serving nut brown ale with a smile on my face,  
and the gentlemen patrons were kind and polite,  
a good wife was I from morning to night.

But my Samuel changed with each passing day,  
he took to hard drinking, which caused me dismay.

He beat me and hurt me, I endured much pain,  
and I suffered such cruelty, again and again.

Down the stairs I was pushed, and I fell to the floor,  
And my poor broken body could take no more.

The cold hand of providence was laid upon me  
and as blackness descended I felt free.

A verdict of murder on Samuel was passed,  
and at Chelmsford gaol he there breathed his last.

He was hanged before Christmas, one cold drizzly morn  
but no tears were shed, and there was no one to mourn.

And now at St Michael’s my body doth lay  
in an unmarked grave so they say, so they say.

Seasons they change, and folks come and go.  
I see bluebells in springtime, and deep winter snow.

So if you’re walking abroad through the churchyard at night,  
and you see a fine lady dressed all in white,  
do not be alarmed, sir, I’ll be quiet as a mouse.  
for I’m a poor murdered woman from the Admiral Rous.

**Keith Perryman**

### OUR NEXT MEETING.

Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> November 2016 at 8pm at Keene Hall:

‘The Thames Sailing Barges’; A talk by John Rayment.

John Rayment previously worked for Barclays bank for 39 years and when he took early retirement, John became greatly involved in The Thames Sailing Barges and the Trust. He also helps with the

restoration and maintenance work on the Trust's Barges. John's talk will, of course, be preceded by the Society's short A.G.M.

### **DATES FOR YOUR 2017 DIARY**

**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> March 2017.** I (Graham Smith) will be giving a talk entitled '*Essex-by-the-Sea*', which will relate to the rise and development of Essex seaside resorts over the last two centuries or so.

**Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2017.**

***'The Blue Plaques of Chelmsford.'*** A Talk by Nick Wickenden.

All our talks commence at 8 p.m. at The Keene Hall.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORMS.**

I have enclosed the forms herewith; may I remind you that the annual subscription has increased to £10 a year and £18 for a couple as was agreed at the last A.G.M. We have also offered a different method of payment by Standing Order; also you can also choose to have your copy of '*Past Times*' by email. It would greatly help our Treasurer, Geraldine, if you can complete the enclosed forms and bring them to our next meeting.

On the matter of finance, I feel that you should be made aware that the Society will receive £1,000 in a legacy from our late President, Ted Hawkins' Estate. It is probably needless to say that we greatly appreciate this legacy; it will, of course, make quite an appreciable difference to our financial situation.

### **THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.**

There is not really much new to report, except, of course that the Oral History Interviews are continuing. Because two Committee members are present at each Interview and the Interviewee, it is not that easy to arrange a date and time that it is suitable for the three people taking part. Still this is quite a minor problem.

### **GALLEYWOOD GOOD NEIGHBOURS.**

At the last Coffee Morning – **9<sup>th</sup> September** – the Committee also held their Annual General Meeting. The Accounts were circulated to all those present. The Committee are hoping to become self-sufficient

in the New Year. However, The Keene Hall has been booked right through to the end of **2017**. It was also agreed at the Meeting that the Committee would apply to the Parish Council for a further grant of £300 to help finance the Coffee Mornings. The result of this application will probably not be known until **January 2017**. The nine members of the Committee were given vote of thanks; five of the Committee members are G.H.S. members, so the Society is well represented. The Next Coffee Morning will take place on **11<sup>th</sup> November** (in conjunction with the Remembrance Day event), followed by one on **2<sup>nd</sup> December**, this is a week earlier than normal due to the advent of Christmas. All the Coffee Mornings are held on the second Friday in the month from 10 a.m. to Noon at The Keene Hall. The dates to note for **2017** are **13<sup>th</sup> January, 10<sup>th</sup> February and 10<sup>th</sup> March.**

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

I would just like to mention the Exhibition '**Remembering 1916**', which is being held at the Centre of **Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> November from 10 am to 4 pm**. Admission to the exhibition is free. Some members of the Western Front Association are expected to be present.

### **DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT GALLEYWOOD?**

**In November 1975** Thriftwood School, which is on the corner of *Slades Lane*, opened for "*for pupils with moderate learning difficulties and additional complex needs*". So some forty-one years later it is still an important part of the village. I have a plan to feature Thriftwood School in detail in one of our 2017 issues.

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### **GALLEYWOOD 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.

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

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