

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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society.

STREET NAMES OF GALLEYWOOD

As you are no doubt aware one of our Committee members, Ken Edwards, is engaged in discovering the derivations of street names in the village, which I consider is an important aspect of the history of the village. Ken's last report appeared in *Past Times* 52 of March 2016. It was thought high time to ask him how his research was progressing and below is his latest report:

*"I reported on **Grey Ladys** back March 2016. Well if charity begins at home, I should start by looking at my own road – **Vale End**. This turns out to be a simple one in that it relates to Vale Cottage, which stood on the corner of **Arnold Way** which is the entrance road to the **Galleydene Estate**. So that begs a question – **Arnold Way?** – which is not so simple.*

*Two possible sources have come to light so far. Firstly Benedict Arnold, whom in 1779 was an U.S. citizen and in May of that year started to negotiate with the British, and committed treason against the United States. He was forced to escape by a ship, called the Vulture. The family moved to England, then Canada and back to England, where he and his wife Peggy settled in exile with their five children. There is a record of a letter written by Peggy to his sons advising them of his death, which begins '**Galleywood near Chelmsford, July 1, 1801**' – giving the link with the village. (my thanks to GHS member, Anthony McQuiggan for the underlying research here).*

But there is an alternative possibility raised by another GHS member. Marilyn Byford, who recalls – 'I lived in Rignals Lane as a child and a very nice gentleman called Arnold Waites (I think that is the spelling) also lived in Rignals Lane and owned the orchards there, I believe his

land extended on to some of that estate so it may have some significance.' Indeed it may.

So **Arnold Way** could be named after either a notorious U.S. citizen or traitor, albeit in favour of the British, or perhaps a more benign gentleman, who held orchards on some of the land on which the estate was built.

All modern road names have to be agreed with the local authority and one might think therefore you just need to ask them – oh if only it was that simple! It seems that the records of such matters just do not exist and often the construction companies are long gone – merged or gone bust - even if they had such records of why a particular name was chosen. With the more recent roads, it may come down to someone who was there at the time and knows – so could that be you? Do please let me know if it is! My phone number is **01245 474425**".

Ken Edwards.

Ken has also been working on the derivations of the Pyne Gate Estate, off **Ponds Road**, with its four Chases – **Rous, Avila, Colvin and Milligans**. In due course he hopes to put the results of his research in a future edition of 'Galleywood Grapevine'.

I have received an article by one of our members entitled '**Tragedy at the Chelmsford City Dance.**', which I thought I should share with you.

"On Saturday 27th August 1938, the newly formed Chelmsford City Football Club played their first ever competitive match, playing host to Bristol Rovers Reserves in the Southern League. A crowd of 8,000 saw an entertaining match, which ended in a draw at 3 – 3.

To commemorate this historic match, the Chelmsford City Supporters Club had organised a dance that same night at the Shire Hall. It was well supported, a big band played all the popular tunes of the day, and at 12.00 midnight the celebrations came to an end. The party goers went down to the cloakrooms to collect their coats. There was a bit of a crush and two young people – Phyllis Newcombe and her fiancé, Henry McAusland – decided to wait in the ballroom until things had quietened down. Only then did they begin to walk down the stairs. Henry was a few steps ahead of Phyllis, when he suddenly

heard her scream. He looked back to see that her long white dress had burst into flames, and he saw her stagger back into the ballroom and collapse.

Some of the Chelmsford players and a club Director, Hector Jewell, heard her screams and rushed back upstairs to see what was wrong. They were horrified to see the poor girl prostrate and engulfed in flames, and they began furiously to beat the flames by throwing their jackets and coats over her body. An ambulance took her to The Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, but sadly two weeks later Phyllis Newcombe died from her injuries. She was just twenty-two years old. At the inquest the Coroner recorded a verdict of accidental death; but nearly eighty years later Phyllis Newcombe's death still remains a mystery. The most likely cause of her death would appear to be a lighted cigarette-end on the stairs, which somehow ignited the bottom of her dress.

The Phyllis Newcombe story has almost been lost in the mists of time, and we may never know why this pretty young shop assistant died in such an awful and tragic way."

Keith Perryman.

OUR NEXT MEETING.

Wednesday, 13th September 2017, 8 p.m. at Keene Hall.

A talk to be given on '29th October 1940 - One Day in the Battle of Britain' by Neil Whiffen M.A.

Our speaker, on this evening, lives in Broomfield and he has worked in the Essex Record Office since 2000; Neil is also the editor on the 'Essex Journal'. He also gave a talk to the Society in November 2015.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

8th November.

A talk by Malcolm Stuart, who is one of our members, on 'Well Lane'. It will also be our Annual General Meeting.

7th March 2018.

A talk by Adrian Wright on 'Essex Railways in Victorian Times'.

SOCIETY NEWS.

Our membership now numbers – **eighty-nine** members which include **nine** honorary members - it is a 10% increase on the June figures. The Society’s financial position is still very healthy and stands at **£1,748**. The Society has been approached by the Parish Council to consider whether it and its members can consider helping with an update of the small booklet - ***‘Glimpses of Galleywood’***- which was originally written by Muriel Sanders in 1973 and updated by Ted Hawkins and David Cook in 1993. Your Committee will discuss this subject at their next meeting and will report their findings at our next meeting on 13th September.

THE ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.

At the present time the team has completed **sixteen** interviews with **forty-three** persons on their list to be interviewed. With the holiday season now largely past, it should enable the team to be able to arrange more interviews. I should also mention here that The Listening Bench at The Heritage Centre was unveiled on 1st July and there are six small audio clips of our interviews to be heard.

GALLEYWOOD GOOD NEIGHBOURS.

The next Coffee Mornings will be held on 8th September, 13th October, 10th November and finally for 2017, on 8th December. The Coffee Morning on 8th September will also be the Annual General Meeting. As you are aware they all take place at The Keene Hall on the second Friday in the month. The Committee are still keen to encourage more people to come to **‘It’s Time to Chat’**.

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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.

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

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