

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 62 September 2018.

www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety



Courtesy: The Heritage Centre

THE GALLEYWOOD HERITAGE CENTRE.

In purely historical terms the Heritage Centre is quite a newcomer to the village, but nevertheless it has become an important and integral part of the social life of the village all in a matter of just nine years. In many previous issues of *'PastTimes'* we have covered certain events, mainly talks, taking place at the Centre under *'News from the Heritage Centre'*. I now feel that its success deserves far greater coverage.

It was in 2007 that Galleywood Parish Council decided that it needed a building to store all the Council's archives and with that decision in mind, in November of that year the Council obtained the lease of the old Chelmsford Borough Council's depot along *Margaretting Road* and on the Common with the express intention of establishing a Heritage Centre. It was on 14th November 2009, that the Galleywood

Heritage Centre was formally opened by Mr Tony Such, the Mayor of Chelmsford.

The Heritage Centre is in a refurbished 1920s building - the only remains of the Galleywood race course's northern grandstand in the middle of the Common. It comprises the Main Hall, which can seat up to 120 people, along with the kitchen - 'The Horseshoe Tea Room'. Alongside the kitchen is a small office, from where the Centre is administered. The Main Hall now also has a 3 metre drop down screen. Also, off the Main Hall, is the Heritage Room, this has seating for 30 persons. It first opened in 2012 and is now known as The Ted Hawkins Heritage Room. Another smaller building to the immediate right of the entrance to the Centre is called the Common Room it is another refurbished building with its own small car park; it was first used in April 2016.

In the grounds of the Heritage Centre is a large Marquee - 12 metres by 6 metres, which can be hired from mid-March to mid-October. There is now, of course, as has been mentioned in previous *'Past Times'* - the Listening Bench situated in the garden and close to the Centre. The car park to the rear of the Centre can accommodate 45 cars but additional parking is available on the Common with a direct access to the Centre.

The Heritage Centre is a registered Charity (No 1128416) and has eight Trustees at present; they meet regularly and hold an Annual General Meeting, which is open to the public. The Centre relies on a number of volunteers to help with many tasks around the Centre, especially manning the Tea Shop. It should be noted that one may also join The Friends of the Heritage Centre at a cost of £5.00 per year.

The Centre is available for private hire for family parties and so forth; it also stages various exhibitions and displays. It is also well known for the number and wide variety of classes that take place in the Main Hall. During the year there are many talks, which also take place in the Main Hall, normally on Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm. The cost of admission to these talks is £3 per head with light refreshments available. One such talk, which is on Tuesday 18th September at 2 pm

– “*Seductress, Singer, Spy*”: The untold story of Regina Diana’, it will be given by Dr Vivien Newman. It sounds quite fascinating. Besides all the various indoor events, there are also many outdoor events held in the grounds and along the Common.

Since its opening in 2012 the Heritage Room has put on a considerable number of displays of photographs and facts on the history of Galleywood buildings and persons; for example the present display is on ‘The History of Keene Hall’. The Heritage Room is also available for private research into Galleywood’s history, old Galleywood families and notable old residents. The Room has also a wide and extensive collection of old photographs, including the Ron White archive. This Room is open to the public on Tuesday afternoons between 2 to 4pm when a person will be on hand to help with your research.

If you have never attended the Heritage Centre for any event, talk or class, I would humbly suggest that you have a look at its website to see what might well interest you as it has been impossible in the space available to record all the activities that take place there. It is www.galleywoodheritagecentre.org.uk

NEXT MEETING.

Wednesday 12th September 2018 at The Keene Hall at 8 p.m.

A talk on ‘The History of Lodge’s Coaches and the Village of High Easter’ by Robert Lodge.

This family-run business has been operating for 98 years and their coaches are and have been such a familiar sight along the roads in Essex. Robert will also talk on the history of High Easter, which is such a delightful Essex village.

AN IMPORTANT DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.

Wednesday 7th November 2018 at The Keene Hall at 8 p.m.

Lord Petre of Ingatestone Hall will talk on his time and duties as Lord Lieutenant of Essex.

It will also, of course, be the Society’s Annual General Meeting.

SOCIETY NEWS.

There has been no change in the number of Society members since our last report – **87 members (including 7 honorary members)**. At

the present time our funds amount to **£2,198.43**, which is slightly less than 3 months ago.

As you are no doubt well aware that on 28th November the Society celebrates its 20th Anniversary. Your Committee have decided to provide wine, squash and cheese biscuits on the occasion of our A.G.M. and Lord Petre’s talk on 7th November; but if you attend you have to bring your own glass!

Geraldine Willden, our Treasurer, would also like to thank all our members for being so prompt in completing and returning the Data Protection forms.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT.

At the present moment (mid-August) 47 interviews have been successfully conducted and the Project is still on going with other interviews planned; the Project Committee are of the opinion that the Project will be completed at the end of year, which then means there will be an extensive oral history archive of the village available in the Galleywood Heritage Centre and also at the Essex Record Office. There is a plan to arrange a tea/coffee party towards the end of the year for all those people who have been interviewed in the Project.

GALLEYWOOD GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The next Coffee Mornings will be held on Friday 14th September, 12th October, 9th November and 14th December. The Committee will hold their A.G.M. at 11 a.m. on 14th September. Although at the last two coffee mornings in July and August there has been a fall in the numbers attending; it was felt that this was largely due to the recent heatwave and school holidays. Nevertheless all those that did attend commented on how much they enjoy the mornings.

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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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