

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 63 November 2018.

www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety

TWENTY YEARS ON AND STILL FLOURISHING.

Over the last twenty years the Historical Society has become an integral part to the social life of the village, as well as providing valuable information on the history of Galleywood and its neighbouring villages.

The Inaugural Meeting of the Society was held on **Thursday 26th November 1998** at The Keene Hall at 8.00 pm. Its object was to adopt a Constitution and elect Officers along with a Committee.

Ted Hawkins, who was then the Chairman of the Parish Council, made an introductory speech:

"Good evening and a very warm welcome...it is good to see such a large attendance and I am sure we are in for a very interesting and enjoyable evening..."

Galleywood has a very historic past and has seen some dramatic changes especially in the last 50 years. It has evolved from a rural hamlet to the fairly well populated village that we have today. Galleywood Common has always played a central part in the life of Galleywood over many hundreds of years.

"...I have much pleasure in handing you over to David Stacy, our Galleywood Local History Recorder, who has kindly agreed to act as Chairman..."

On The Society's first poster David Stacy wrote *"Come along and enjoy what is sure to be a very interesting evening!"*

The first talk that evening was given by Christine Whybro on 'The Napoleonic Defences on Galleywood Common'.

Over the next four years there were fourteen meetings along with fourteen talks, as well as three cheese and wine evenings in December 2000 to 2002. As it is now the A.G.M. was held on each November meeting. The following year brought a major landmark for the Society with the issue of the first - **"A Newsletter for our members "- 'Past Times' Number 1 – Feb 2003'**. The editor was David Stacy, who was then still the Chairman. David was responsible for the format of 'Past Times' as we know it is today. He not only wrote and edited it but also printed it and distributed the copies to members. As David wrote *"Since we formed our Society over three years ago, the attendance at our meetings has confirmed a considerable interest in things historical. Our village has no manor house or ancient castle with secret tunnels and, as churches go, ours is a comparative youngster. Nevertheless we do have a history, and there seems to be an insatiable desire to be part of it."*

One item, which appeared in the first issue, was a poem by Jack Shelley, who later became known as 'The Galleywood Poet'.

"Nostalgia.

*Yes, I remember Galleywood,
A long gone misty scene.*

*The Sliding Pond, The Village Pump,
that stood there on the Green.*

*The Wooden Stile, the Swinging Tree,
The Meadow, Sewell's Farm,*

*The Apple Tree in Clarry's Hedge,
The Wash and Seabright's Farm.*

*Now the years press wide the gap,
And future years portend.*

I still can hear the children shout at play in Galley End."

Jack Shelley, who lived in Brook Lane, died in 2000 aged ninety-two.

In March 2006 the Society went online, which meant that all the copies of *'Past Times'*, old and new can be read online at our website, there are also the details of the many and various talks given to the Society over the years.

After nearly nine years and thirty-three issues of *Past Times*, produced by David Stacy, in June 2011 David decided it was time to retire and that is when I was asked to take over.

During the last seven years, I have written many leading articles on Galleywood, for instance - The new Library, The Keene Hall, St Michael's and All Angels' Church, the Methodist Chapel, Early Motoring in Galleywood in two parts, the Sporting Heritage of Galleywood, Carlton Cottage and so forth...all these can be found on our website. Also because the Society's remit is not just Galleywood but also the surrounding area, so far I have also covered – Widford, Great Baddow, Stock, Margarett and Ingatestone.

Up to the present day eighty talks have been given to the Society on a very wide range of subjects and places, certainly not solely devoted to Galleywood subjects. They have invariably been well attended, to give an example the talk in June of this year by Robert Lodge on Lodge's Coaches brought an attendance of 65 people – 35 members and 30 guests, which at £3 per head, brought a nice extra £90 to add to our funds.

NEXT MEETING.

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

Lord Petre of Ingatestone Hall will talk on his life and duties as Lord Lieutenant of Essex,

I do not think that Lord Petre needs any introduction from me; he previously spoke to the Society back in November 2006 on 'Ingatestone & Thorndon Halls and the history of the Petre Family'.

DATE FOR YOUR 2019 DIARY

13th March: Railways from 1901: A talk by Adrian Wright.

SOCIETY NEWS.

At the present time the membership stands at **88**, which includes **7** honorary members. At end of September our funds amounted to **£2,191** and a full report and balance sheet will be available at the **A.G.M.** November is the date for renewal of membership. The present fee is £10.00 and renewal forms have been enclosed, which can you kindly complete and bring the forms, with cash or cheques along to the **A.G.M.**, or post them to Geraldine Willden, our Treasurer. Those of you who pay by standing order will have your membership automatically renewed.

As to the **A.G.M.** the Committee will be providing wine or squash and refreshments, but please bring your own glass! Also there will be a free copy of the updated *'The Galleywood Diary'* for all members.

As for **the Oral History Project**, it draws to a close at the end of the year when over **50+** interviews might have then been completed. The Project team have booked The Keene Hall on **16th May 2019** for a tea and coffee get together for all those people, who kindly put themselves forward to be interviewed.

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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