

# *PAST TIMES*

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## **GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

Number 65 June 2019 [www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety](http://www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety)

### **ON GALLEYWOOD COMMON.**

**By Artin Cornish.**

On Galleywood Common you can ride or walk  
With your dog or meet friends and talk  
On paths through trees of oak and birch  
And see the spire of St Michael's Church.

Here you can sketch and paint  
A landscape or a cottage quaint  
Or the Racecourse with the Church upon the hill  
With brush, pencil or feathered quill.

Here beneath azure skies  
See mottled moths and speckled butterflies  
Hear blackbirds and warblers in the trees  
And in the heather busy buzzing bumble bees.

And down in the woods by the pond edge  
The moorhen stalks through rush and sedge  
Black and white her tail she flicks  
And cries a warning to her straying chicks.

And on the water the Mallard quack and splash  
Whilst across the surface their ducklings dash  
Chasing water mites and other tiny things  
And dragonflies hover on transparent wings.

**On Galleywood Common there are Napoleonic defences  
Built to repel Bonaparte's offences  
These were never needed  
As our enemies conceded  
When Nelson with his British fleet  
Did at Trafalgar the French defeat.**

**Here we have our own Heritage Centre  
With a warm welcome for all that enter  
Here the village history for all to see  
And sit and chat with cake and tea  
Or stroll across to the Horse & Groom  
To eat and drink in a logged fire room  
Where you can celebrate – as we all should  
The wonders of our Common of Galleywood.**

This poem is reproduced by the kind permission of Artin Cornish, who is a member of the Society; he was also interviewed in the Oral History Project. Artin is, also, a member of St Michael's and All Angels Church choir.

#### **THE GALLEYWOOD FESTIVAL.**

For those members, who do not live in Galleywood, you may be unaware that Galleywood Festival will take place from **Friday 7<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**. This seventh Festival is arranged by the Parish Council, which as they say it is "*Celebrating Life in Our Village*".

There are several events taking place, for example, on the evening of the **7th** there will be the usual Festival Concert at St Michael's & All Angels Church and on **Saturday** the Church is also holding an Open Day from 10 am to 4 pm and refreshments will be available all day.

However, in my opinion the unveiling of five commemorative Blue Plaques on buildings around the village is of the greatest interest certainly in historical terms. It takes place on **Saturday morning 8<sup>th</sup>**. The Parish Council have recognised them as *“being important to the history and development of Galleywood.”* the Plaques are sited at – **The Members Grandstand at The Heritage Centre, Rous Cottage (once the Admiral Rous Inn), Essex Youth Centre (previously the Chapel of Ease and later the Old School), The Keene Hall and finally The Horse and Groom Inn.**

There will be a free guided walk led by Galleywood Historical Society, which will start from The Heritage Centre at **10.30 am on Saturday morning**. It is suggested that you arrive at **9.30 am** when tea and refreshments will be available. The walk will finish outside The Horse and Groom Inn at around **12.30 pm**.

**NEXT MEETING.**

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June: “Essex Country Houses, including Audley End”: talk by Margaret Mills.**

Margaret has a BA (Hons) in Humanities and History. She has taught at various schools etc. As well as being an accomplished speaker on history and literature subjects, she is also a writer. Her stated preference is for the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries,

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY.**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September: “Tales from Galleywood Orchards” : A talk by Christine & Les Whybro**

**SOCIETY NEWS.**

At mid-May the membership stands at **87**, including **8 honorary members**, which is **three** more than the membership, was in March. Our funds amount to a healthy **£2,372** almost the same as last March's figure.

**A FOND FAREWELL FROM YOUR EDITOR.**

This Issue of *‘Past Times’* will be the last one that I will write and edit, because after eight years as editor and no less than 34 issues I have

decided to resign, as I felt it was high time for a new person to take over the reins and bring a new and fresh attitude and outlook to our newsletter.

During my time as Editor I have researched so many aspects of Galleywood's history, buildings and people and also some of the surrounding villages; in the process I discovered many historical facts that I had previously been unaware of.

Of all the leading articles I have written over these last eight years, it difficult to decide which one is my favourite. I enjoyed researching and writing '*Early Motoring in Galleywood – Parts 1 and 2.*' (43 August 2013 & 45 March 2014) and '*19<sup>th</sup> Century Crime in Galleywood*' (36 – November 2011). But on reflection I consider that '*The Sporting Heritage of Galleywood*' (38 May 2012) is indeed my favourite. I found it fascinating to discover all about the racing on The Common, the first Chelmsford Golf Club, and the development of Chelmer Park and so forth, all of these articles can be viewed on our website.

Ken Edwards, our present Vice-Chairman, has kindly agreed to become the new Editor. Thank you very much Ken, We all wish you well. Ken will become only the third Editor in our twenty years!

#### **THE ORAL HISTORY CELEBRATION TEA**

.At the time of writing (early May) I cannot report on the outcome of the occasion as it is being held in The Keene Hall on **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May between 2.00 – 4.00 pm**. So far we are aware that **72 people (including guests)** are attending. As well as providing a variety of refreshments, there will also be a free prize raffle.

#### **GALLEYWORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

President: David Stacy.

Chairman: Graham Smith. Vice-Chairman: Ken Edwards.

Secretary & Programme Director Gillian Parker.

Treasurer: Geraldine Willden.

Committee: Alex Gilbert & Stephanie Troop.

Editor for the last time: Graham Smith.

