

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD  HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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where there's a Will. . .

WHEN Prehistoric Man lay dying in his cave, he would no doubt have called his sons to his bedside and passed over ownership of his battle scarred weapons, his best flint axe and maybe even the cave itself. Today, we no longer concern ourselves too much with the minutiae of household effects, but some of the Wills of the middle ages make for fascinating reading. Here are some extracts from the Will of a man of our Parish (Great Baddow) who died in 1564

To Joan my wife for her life, a croft of land called Brome Croft (4 acres) abutting the lord's ground of this manor west and the lane against Sandon Park east, holden by free deed; after her decease, to John my son if he live to 21; if not to Richard my son. To Ralph my son the rood meadow holden by free deed on Baddow Common Mead. To my wife for her life, a parcel of free land called Bakers (12 acres) the way thereof lead going by Baddow Park Corner paying my children's legacies after her decease. To Richard and Ralph each to buy him household (stuff) 26s. 8d. To John a bedstead, a trundlebed, a featherbed and the hangings in the bedchamber at the lower end of the house next the street, after his mother's decease. To my daughter Agness £3. 6s 8d and Maults Springfylde £4 13s 4d To Ralph and John my sons my occupying of smith's tools belonging to my occupation in the shop equally divided; John to take his choice. If any of my sons at any time vex their mother he to have no legacy. To my godchildren 12d apiece at marriage. To my son John the new cupboard in the hall, £3 a year for 7 years and at the end of 7 years he shall have £10, my two cloaks, a satin doublet sleeved with taffeta, a white kersey and a black unmade being in my chest, a fine canvas doublet, two pair of hoses 2 of my best shirts, half of the pewter plattes and dishes which is 24 pieces in all, 3 kettles, a scummer, 3 trammels, 2 trivets, 2 spits, a mustard quern, a pair of pothooks and my best firefork.

Note the salutary warning to the sons that their legacy will disappear if, at any time, they are found to have 'vexed their mother'

I remember ...

When we first came to Galleywood, there were fields and ponds down Watchouse Road and all the houses had cess pits. Then they built Keene Way and Pyms Road and the Barnard Road estate. I remember the big house, Galley Hall that was pulled down for more houses. I used to work for Peter Horsnell, the builder, and on race days we would have to get up early and set up the Tote on the Common. We then spent the rest of the day at the races. Before the war there was a firing range by the old brickworks that I helped to build. The foreman was Harry Dennis and his son, Barrie was very friendly with my son. During the war I was in the army and we went round South Africa by boat, across to India and then up to Iraq and then back to Egypt. Then I was in the invasion of Sicily and Italy.



Albert Hazel

Albert is now living in a residential home at Hatfield Peverel. He was married at Margaretting and has a two daughters and a son. His wife Eve, died 14 years ago.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Our next
meeting

The History of The Essex Regiment



An illustrated talk by
Ian Hook

*Keeper of the Essex Regiment Museum
at Oaklands Park Chelmsford*

Ian Hook was educated at KEGS in Chelmsford
read Economics and Social History at Hull University
and has worked for the National Army Museum
at the Royal Military academy at Sandhurst.

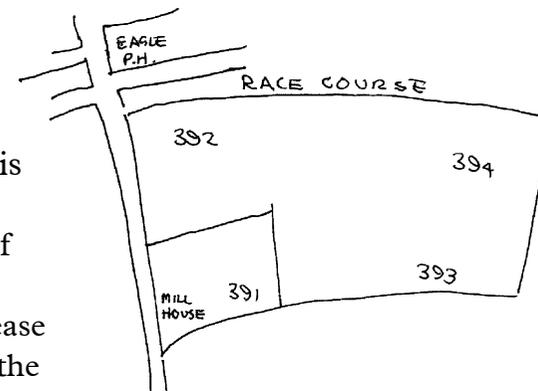
Wednesday 9 March 2005
Keene Hall Watchhouse Road at 8 pm

DATES for your Diary

- 8 June** THE STORY OF 16TH CENTURY GALLEY HALL
An Elizabethan Farmhouse in Ponds Road
demolished in 1975
and the Galleywood Paddock Housing Development
Talk by Ted Hawkins
- 22 Sept** THE HISTORY OF GALLEYWOOD CARNIVAL
Talk by Keith Lilley
Chairman Galleywood Parish Council 1987 – 1995
- 17 Nov** ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD AND THE
GALLEYWOOD BOUNDARY STONES
Talk by John Turkentine
Chairman Galleywood Parish Council

Allotments in Galleywood

A hundred years ago the growing of food for the household was more of a necessity than the hobby it is today. In the middle of the nineteenth century a section of Galleywood Common was enclosed for this purpose. A lease dated 29 September 1896 by the Rev R Bartlett and Rev W Bartlett gave the Parish



Council the use of the land for allotment gardens at an annual rent of £7. Around 60 plots were marked out and rented to local tenants. The lease was for 14 years. Subsequently ownership of the land appears to have passed to Frederick Burrell and James Jarvis who granted a two year extension of the lease with the reservation that *'the landlord is allowed to enter... for the purpose of planting trees and to make test holes for the extraction of gravel'*. Despite the landlords promising to pay for disturbance to crops etc. the Council refused to agree to these terms. Jarvis, seemingly annoyed by this rebuff, promptly refused to extend the lease.

The Council considered applying to the government Food Department for permission to compulsorily purchase the land for food production but withdrew the application. In 1920, they bought another piece of land in what became Chaplin Close from Walter Slipper, a partner in the Chelmsford firm of auctioneers in Duke Street. They held a public meeting in the School room so that parishioners wanting to take up allotments could register their wishes. Incidentally they found themselves writing to the school in these terms... *With regard to the charge for the use of the school, have you not overlooked Section 14 of the Local Government Act which allows the free use of the school room for holding meetings convened by the chairman of the parish council as to allotments. Any out of pocket expenses of course the council will be glad to pay.*