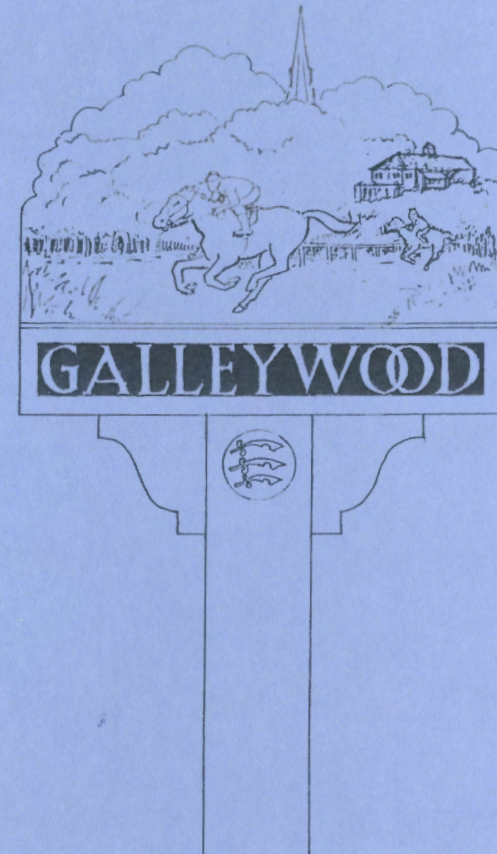




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GLIMPSES OF GALLEYWOOD

THIRD EDITION



VILLAGE SIGN - Galleywood Racecourse in it's heyday

First published 1973

Second Edition 1993

Third Edition 2023



**GLIMPSES
of
GALLEYWOOD
by
Muriel Sanders**

FOREWORD to First Edition

It was obviously an inspired suggestion at a Church Council meeting in 1971 that Miss Muriel Sanders should be asked to compile an account of the first century of Galleywood parish life. With Christian insight and a deep understanding of people, she has given to us not only authentic details of, but a genuine feeling for the life of Galleywood since 1873.

The success of her research and the response of people to her kindly persistence is due in large measure to her well known and enthusiastic interest in Galleywood life, evidenced, among other things, by her membership of our Church School's managing body.

The Parochial Church Council is most grateful to her for the long hours spent in research and recording. Not only in our Centenary Year but for many years to come this little book will be read with interest by the people of Galleywood.

The Vicar, the Rev. A. G. Willett, B.A., B.D. -1973

AUTHOR'S PREFACE to First Edition

As its title hints, this booklet is not a study in depth of Galleywood but rather a miscellany of events and recollections, particularly during the years 1873-1973.

When invited by the Vicar to compile it for the Church's Centenary, I at first demurred, not being a native or even a resident of the parish. However, friendly help was forthcoming in unstinted measure and if there is any merit in the resultant publication it is due to those good people who bore with my incessant questioning and searched their memories at my request. To them and to those who loaned records and photographs or typed my scribbles and to John Parker for his cover design I offer my grateful thanks just as I offer these gleanings to readers, without guarantee but believing them to be accurate and true.

Muriel Sanders -1973



PREFACES to Second Edition

Even a superficial reading of GLIMPSES OF GALLEYWOOD makes it abundantly clear that there have been great changes here since the Church was built in 1873. Those changes are still with us and the Galleywood Parish Council has wisely proposed that we keep this record updated by issuing a second edition.

Whilst we must beware of living in the past or sitting on our laurels, there is an increasing desire today with such mobile populations for people to want to know their roots. It is the past which so often helps us to understand and to appreciate the present and to give added significance to the value of our lives.

If this edition does any of this, it will have been worthwhile; if it records for posterity so many key events within our community it will be doubly worth the effort of the Galleywood Parish Council who have made this edition possible.

The Reverend Roger Wakely

Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels Church - 1993

GLIMPSES OF GALLEYWOOD first published in 1973 has been sought after and read by everyone interested in the history and life of Galleywood. A proposal by the Galleywood Parish Council to publish a second edition of this very popular booklet with an additional chapter 'Galleywood 20 Years On - 1993' was enthusiastically agreed by them and approved by the author, Muriel Sanders, and the Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels Church. The chapter updating the booklet to 1993 compiled by Parish Councillor Ted Hawkins and David Cook, a life trustee of the Keene Hall, has been incorporated in a new section called Part 2 and gives an account of many of the interesting events, activities and developments in Galleywood over the past 20 years.

The Galleywood Parish Council hope that this updated edition of the GLIMPSES OF GALLEYWOOD will be warmly welcomed and widely read.

*Councillor Keith Liley
Chairman, Galleywood Parish Council
April - 1993*



PREFACES to Third Edition

Vicar's Preface to Glimpses of Galleywood – Third edition

It is a testimony to the quality of Muriel Sanders' original Glimpses of Galleywood that a third edition is being prepared 50 years on. Like her, I am not a native of the Parish, although I have been pleased to call the Parish my home for the past few years. It is a beautiful place, with great people and a rich history worth celebrating.

The current Church congregation has a keen sense of its history and its place in the village. Regarding its history, the Church celebrates its 150th birthday in 2023, and special events are planned to mark the occasion. As in the past 150 years, the Church still provides spiritual nourishment for the village, practical help for those who are struggling in life, governance for St Michael's Junior School, and a venue for concerts and other community events.

Regarding its place, the Church spire is still visible for miles around, and the bells still ring out on Sunday mornings, for practices on Monday evenings, for weddings, and for special national occasions such as the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The trees surrounding the Church building have grown in recent years, which now provide shelter for the beautiful Churchyard, which is the final resting place of many Galleywood residents.

In the aftermath of the worldwide Covid-19 pandemic, and as economic conditions worsen in the early 2020s, the Church sees itself as a sign of hope for all people, which is signified by the visibility of the spire and the sound of the bells. While one part of the Church's early identity was as a house of prayer against gambling, the Church now sees itself as a place of prayer for all people.

As someone new to the village, I have enjoyed reading the draft for this 3rd edition of Glimpses of Galleywood. It has enabled me to better understand the Parish that I serve, and it will be a fantastic reference work for many years to come. My thanks go to everyone who has given their time and energy to make all three editions possible.

The Reverend David Cattle

Vicar of St Michael and All Angels' Church - 2023

Parish Council Preface to Third Edition

This Third Edition, 50 years on, from the original, shows how much Galleywood has changed, whilst continuing to feel very much the same.

Can I begin with saying thank you to the volunteers who have over time contributed and cared enough to keep the Glimpses of Galleywood insight up to date. As you will know much in Galleywood is very well served by volunteers who do things so well.

Galleywood Parish Council is pleased to see another updated version of Glimpses of Galleywood for all to read, to remember and to reflect on how blessed we are to live in Galleywood. Celebrating life as it was, recognising individuals, acknowledging organisations and memorable events, all weave a rich picture of what has gone before us, which give us an opportunity to pause, review, and perhaps learn from the past as we head into the future.

*Councillor Richard Hyland
Chairman, Galleywood Parish Council - 2023*



Editor's Preface to Third Edition

This Third Edition is intended to preserve as much as possible of the previous two versions with the addition of a more recent chapter, Number 14, written by the late David Stacy bringing the village into the 21st century. David was a much loved member of the village community, a regular worshipper at St Michaels and a founding member and lately President of Galleywood Historical Society. David died on 21st January 2021

This Edition has been published by the Galleywood Historical Society in his memory with publication timed to coincide with St Michael and All Angels' 150th anniversary. This Edition is also dedicated to Graham Smith, former Editor of Past Times and, until his death on 13th December 2022, President and Chairman of Galleywood Historical Society.

The opportunity has also been taken where possible to use the originals of photographs. This has led to some colour and minor layout changes. I have also added to the text in order to provide detail and bring up to date commentary which although correct at the time of writing has been overtaken by subsequent events. This has been achieved both by adding footnotes where possible and in Appendices which contains some more detailed points. Where reference is made to Past Times, this is the quarterly newsletter of Galleywood Historical Society. Past copies and an index can be found on the Society website. My thanks to Anthony McQuiggan who provided a working text of the second edition which was the departure point for this work

I have been unable to trace the original author who people recall moved away from the village some years after the publication of the first edition. She was by then an elderly lady so most unlikely to be alive today. It is a tribute to her work that this booklet continues albeit in updated form.

In undertaking such a task many people have helped and it is right to record my thanks to these here. Particular thanks go to Susan Wilson one of the archivists at Galleywood Heritage Centre on the source of the photographs; Brian and Anne Pepper on items relating to St Michaels plus Rosa (known as Christine or Chris) Moles on the church bells. Adrian Batsford provided material relating to the allotments and David Swann regarding the Royal British Legion. Many others have commented along the way and if I do not list them here my thanks are due all the same.

Inevitably in such a venture there is the risk of errors creeping in and where this has happened I take full responsibility as editor.

In closing I remind the reader of the thoughts of Muriel Sanders in her original author's preface 'this booklet is not a study in depth of Galleywood but rather a miscellany of events and recollections'. This was true in 1973 and remains true in 2023.

Ken Edwards, Editor of Third Edition

Postscript - Ken Edwards edited this third edition of Glimpses of Galleywood whilst suffering from ill health, but in typical Ken fashion has once again done a fantastic job. Sadly, Ken succumbed to his illness and passed away on 12th February 2023 before seeing this edition published. This Third edition is also Dedicated to Ken. He will be remembered by many in Galleywood and beyond for his work on many committees and projects such as the Galleywood Village Statement and, more recently, the Galleywood Historical Society where he was Vice-Chairman.



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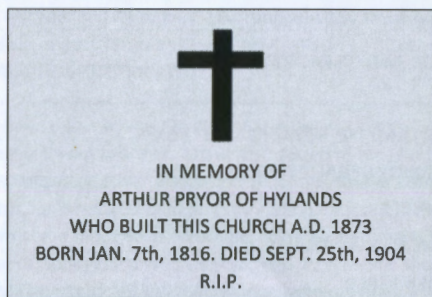
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PART 1 by Muriel Sanders-1973

CHAPTER 1- ARTHUR PRYOR OF HYLANDS

In the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Galleywood Common, Essex, there is a brass tablet on the north wall of the nave which reads: -



"Squire Pryor", as he was known to many, was the third son of Vickris Pryor of Baldock, Herts., and came to Essex many years after his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Sophia Dew, the daughter of his tutor. It would seem that he bought the mansion of Hylands and its park of 596 acres in order to live within easy reach of Liverpool Street Station, near which still stands the brewery of Truman, Hanbury, Buxton & Co¹. He was the first Chairman of the Company and in that capacity had to make frequent journeys to London.

Living happily at Hylands with their nine children, the couple took a great interest in the lives and wellbeing of people in the surrounding district through which they often rode in their horse-drawn carriage. Mrs. Pryor was a deeply religious woman and it was largely at her instigation that in 1862 her wealthy husband financed the erection of the Church of St. Mary, Widford, on the site of an earlier building.

The spiritual needs of the people of Galleywood were at that time being met by services either in the chapel-at-ease in the church school at The Eagle crossroads or in the small Methodist church in Well Lane. Influenced by his wife, Mr. Pryor soon put in hand a scheme to build a church high on Galleywood Common and visible for many miles around. He laid the foundation stone² on 21st June, 1872, and was among 750 people who attended the consecration ceremony on 29th September, 1873. On that occasion a band of ringers from Benington, Herts, where Arthur Pryor's second cousin, John Eade Pryor, was Rector, rang 5060 changes on the new peal of bells³. To do this they made a round journey of some 70 miles in a four-in-hand belonging to their leader, Leonard Proctor, whose enthusiasm for campanology had by then superseded his earlier devotion to foxhunting. As there was no Diocese of

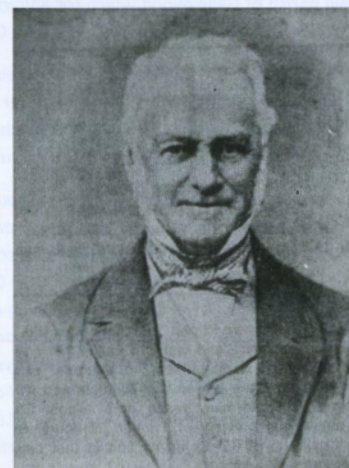
¹ No longer a brewery

² To be found on the outside of the East Wall although the inscription is not all legible

³ See Appendix for more on Church Bells



Chelmsford until 1914, the service was conducted by the Bishop of Rochester and at its close the new Church of St. Michael and All Angels began its task of witnessing for the Christian faith alike to the faithful, the infidel, and those who couldn't care less.



Arthur Pryor 1816 - 1904

Alas, any hopes that Mrs. Pryor cherished of attending Sunday services with her husband and family at Galleywood, as they were accustomed to do at Widford, were quickly abandoned. According to a relative, any such plans were laid aside after the very first Sunday service, before the incumbent had commenced duty. The visiting clergyman⁴ allegedly preached a sermon mildly in favour of purgatory and so horrified Mr. Pryor, to whom "popery" was anathema, that he could never be persuaded to attend another service in the church on which he had spent £6,300!

As the tablet in the church tells us, Arthur Pryor lived to the ripe age of 88 years. His public engagements including laying the foundation stone of the Chelmsford and Essex hospital in 1882. Not many men have used their wealth to build and endow two churches in a district, and maybe a happy blending of humour with piety would have enabled him to smile when his irreverent descendants referred to the buildings as "*Grand-father's Fire Insurance*". He lived a full and useful life and was lately honoured in Galleywood when a road⁵ was named after him. Perhaps he could have no finer tribute to his character and personality than the words his grandson recently wrote :-

*"I've heard throughout my life no hard thing about him;
all my relatives seem to have adored him.
I wish I'd known him".*

⁴ Bishop Thomas Legh Cloughton, Bishop of Rochester

⁵ Pryors Road on the Barnard Road estate



CHAPTER 2 - BIRTH OF A PARISH

Even today (1973) there is no civil parish of Galleywood which for administrative purposes is part of Great Baddow and appoints its representatives on Great Baddow Parish Council⁶.

However, with the erection of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, steps were taken for the formation of an ecclesiastical parish which was duly constituted by Order in Council on October 20th, 1874 and is four square miles in area. Realising that some of his parishioners were not quite clear about the boundaries, a former vicar gave in the Parish Magazine a useful summary, thus:-

"Our present parish was formed in 1874 of parts of four others - Moulsham, Great Baddow, West Hanningfield and Orsett Hamlet. Its boundaries are as follows :- Starting from where the railway crosses the River Wid opposite Hylands, the boundary line goes south following the river to a little past White's Bridge, skirting Molehill Common and taking in Crondon Hall; from thence it follows the road to Cockshill Wood where it turns east and taking in Crondon Park goes to the old gravel pit on the Stock road. From this point the boundary is marked by a series of ten stones which bear the letters G.C.St.M.C.C⁷. and are numbered consecutively. Stone 1 stands at Calves Common from which an almost straight line runs through Temple Farm to Hill Farm, thus taking in "The Ship" and the cottages near and also the whole of Bakers Lane. Stones Nos. 2 and 3 are just behind "The Ship" and No 4 at Hill Farm. Here the line goes north to Great Seabrights taking in Galley End where Stones Nos.5, 6 and 7 may be seen. From Great Seabrights the boundary runs along Deadman's Lane (Stone No. 8) and across Beehive Lane to Tile kiln Farm (No. 9) - which, however, it does not include - and thence past the Pumping Station (No. 10) and across the fields to the bridge from which we started".

White's Bridge, to which reference is made, was built over the River Wid in 1770 and it should be borne in mind that the Great Baddow - Margaretting Road over the bridge was once a main stage-coach route to London. Today the bridge faces a sterner engineering test from the surprisingly heavy traffic frequently passing over it.

Probably Galleywood gets its name⁸ from Saxon days when "gavol" or rent was paid for the wood around the settlement, as this form of tax was usual. A less likely suggested derivation is Gallows in the wood. It is interesting to compare the different spelling of the place name through the centuries:-

1250	GAVELWODE	
1307	GAWELWOD	
1419	GAWELLWOD(E)	GAWLEWOD(E)
1450	GALLEWOODHETH	GALLWODHETH
1612	GAVELWOOD COMMON	GALLWOOD COMMON
1662	GALLOW COMMON	
1777	GALLYWOOD COMMON	
1839	GALLY WOOD	

⁶ See Chapter 13. Galleywood Parish Council was established on 1st April 1987

⁷ The lettering on the boundary stones is an abbreviation of "Galleywood Common St. Michael's Consolidated Chapelry".

⁸ See Appendix 2 Name derivation for sources



The population at the formation of the ecclesiastical parish is not stated, but in 1882 it was 817. By 1901 it had dropped to 774 and rose to 861 in 1911. The figure for 1921 was 1,010 which increased to 1,072 in 1931. Today (1973) it is over 7,000⁹.

⁹ The 2011 census gives a figure for the civil parish of 5,738 population in 2,428 households. The 2001 census figure was broadly similar at 5,901 in 2,436 households. It is not clear where the 7,000 figure came from as the larger ecclesiastical parish adds mainly rural, unpopulated land to the civil parish.

CHAPTER 3 - THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS¹⁰

The beautiful church in brick and stone which Arthur Pryor gave to Galleywood was designed in the Early Decorated style of architecture by Piers St. Aubyn, born 1815, who in his lifetime rebuilt or restored many churches in Devon and Cornwall. Messrs. Putnam and Fotheringham of London were the builders and the work was completed in 364 days. It would seem likely that the site was given by the Lord of the Manor and that building materials were conveyed by rail to the now disused siding in Private Road¹¹.

Erected on a site which is 277 feet above sea level and given a tower and spire with a combined height of 131 feet, the church dominates the surrounding countryside, as its donor no doubt intended. Inside there is an atmosphere of space and height, due to Piers St. Aubyn's skill in design and the absence of any clutter of tombs or memorials or, indeed, overmuch stained glass. The edifice consists of a chancel, nave, three aisles, two transepts, a south porch and a pinnacled square tower containing eight bells, surmounted by an octagonal spire in Douling Stone (from Somerset).

The following dimensions may be of interest:-

Chancel	34 feet long	17 feet wide	30 feet high
Nave	64 feet long	18 feet wide	34 feet high
Side aisles	64 feet long	11 feet wide	34 feet high
South porch	10 feet square		
Tower	18 feet square	57 feet high	
Spire	74 feet high		

Originally there was provision for 400 sittings but today there remains a space from which two front pews were removed in November 1940. This was done to give standing room for coffins on the sad occasion of the funeral service for victims of a wartime bombing incident in Skinners Lane when five people died, including a little girl¹².

Many find inspiration in the large stained-glass East Window, recently cleaned and restored after vandalism. It is the only window of coloured glass in the church and was designed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell in three panels featuring, left to right, The Annunciation, Christ seated in glory, Peter's deliverance from prison. Immediately below, the reredos, designed by Burrow, depicts Christ and ministering angels, four on each side.

Flanking the east window are two attractive circular gold panels with capitals signifying JESUS CHRIST, although their meaning may well have puzzled all but Greek scholars.

¹⁰ During 2015 a major rearrangement of the interior was undertaken which also made it more suitable for the modern 'Messy Church' form of worship that now takes place. This involved re-siting of the organ and replacement of pews with modern moveable chairs.

¹¹ The siding is no longer there

¹² A German plane dropped a bomb on Rosedale, Skinners Lane on 30 October 1940 killing Nellie Owers, Elijah Saveall and George & Alice Smith, plus their adopted daughter Nellie Lodge age 13 the following day in St John's hospital.



With the passage of time, various improvements have been made and many were facilitated by the generosity of well-wishers, particularly Mrs. J. H. Keene. It was she who in 1933 arranged for the old acetylene lighting plant, installed in 1908, to be replaced by electric light. In 1966 the church was re-wired and fluorescent tubes and tungsten spot lamps installed at a cost of £540.

A tower screen was added in 1955 in memory of Miss Helen Godwin. The pulpit-handrail was replaced in 1944 by the Vicar in memory of his first wife, Evangeline, and after his death a clergy stall in light oak was given by his widow, Mrs. Hilda Roughton, to commemorate his long ministry. Other gifts included churchwarden's staves, oak seats for the churchyard, silk bookmarkers, a piano, flower vases and stands, a lectern bible and the Communion Table book rests, linen and cloth, and, in 1972, additional chalice and paten. In 1956, oak church gates were erected and dedicated as a token of gratitude to Mrs. Keene and are notable for the delightfully carved little owls sitting solemnly upon them.

The original heating apparatus had to be replaced in 1914 and was in turn superseded by an oil heating system in 1957. It is interesting to recall that in the early days of the church there was a fireplace in the vestry!

The organ, now valued at over £9,000 (1973), was formerly in Slough Parish Church and was bought in 1924 for £100. Mr. A. Mead of Chelmsford, who was organist at the time, made several improvements to the instrument which had 23 stops, including a 16 ft. violone on the pedal. In 1953, it was rebuilt and the console re-sited through the generosity of Mrs. Keene's sister, Mrs. Adams, thus enabling it to give continuing pleasure and inspiration to the congregation.

Little has so far been said about the belfry and the ring of eight bells which formed part of Mr. Pryor's gift. For the purpose of campanology, Galleywood ranks as a Major tower in which most methods can be rung and a memorable peal was on Saturday, 27th May, 1882, when there were 5,040 changes in 2 hours 50 minutes. Holts Ten Part Peal of Grandsire Triples¹³.

In 1926 the bells were rehung on ball bearings, the ball frame strengthened and sallie guides put in the belfry at a cost of £147. At the subsequent service for the rehang of the bells about 50 ringers attended from all parts of the Chelmsford diocese, including Mr. C. H. Howard, Master of the Essex Association of Change Ringers. In an interesting address, he recalled the time when Galleywood was the centre of change ringing in the district and said the bells were still recognised as some of the most musical in the county. They weigh from six to 14 hundredweights. By 1962 it was found essential to replace the bell frame with a steel one and to reposition and retune the bells. The work cost £1,000.

Many bellringers, young and old, male and female, have been trained at Galleywood under the respective Masters of the Tower, not least of whom was Mr. W. Barrett from 1945-70. They have given dedicated service and doubtless had many a tale to tell of their experiences. Rumour has it that an earlier Vicar, in conflict with his bellringers, took personal and drastic steps to put the bells out of action but this tantalizing story remains uncorroborated. On another occasion the bells were joyfully peal-ringing for a Harvest Thanksgiving service when the stay of the 7th bell broke, allowing the bell to go over. The rope was wrenched out of the ringer's hands and flew out of the belfry to lash furiously around the decorated font, whereupon the remaining ringers quickly set their bells and left with their luckless companion, whose bell had to ring itself down.

¹³ See also Appendix - Church Bells



More than once volunteers had to clear the belfry of straw, sticks and other rubbish brought in by jackdaws or pigeons and fix wire netting to make further intrusion more difficult. The church itself was at one time invaded by bats.

As for the churchyard, surely many a visitor has drawn inspiration and comfort from its beautiful surroundings of trees, meadows, and the Common, sometimes ablaze with gorse and resounding with the jubilate of the birds. This, too, was part of Mr. Pryor's gift.

Patronage of the benefice was originally his and passed to later owners of Hylands, Sir Daniel Gooch and Mr. C. E. Ridley. The latter had it conveyed to the Church Pastoral Aid Society, the present owners, in 1917¹⁴.

Worship at St. Michael's continues in the evangelical tradition¹⁵. Emphasis is on Bible truth, simplicity of expression and maximum participation by the congregation. While Christian truth never changes, social customs, attitudes and thought forms do and so a changing pattern of worship to suit all age groups is developing.

¹⁴ The 'benefice' is the right to present a new incumbent for an institution to the living and here since 1917 belongs to CPAS (Church Pastoral Aid Society) a charity. For appointment, the successful candidate needs the support of the Diocesan Bishop who grants the license and institutes the person to officially minister. The third party is the congregation who have the right to endorse or veto the person presented.

¹⁵ This is still true although the form of services has changed over time.



CHAPTER 4 - VICARS OF GALLEYWOOD

During the first century of its existence the Church of St. Michael and All Angels has had six Vicars, of whom two each stayed for over thirty years. There are one or two people in the village today who have known all in turn and who have searched their memories to describe the earlier incumbents, included in the following list¹⁶, viz :-

Rev. H. G. de Lisle,	1873-1907
Rev. E. N. Dew,	1907-1917
Rev. J. H. Keen,	1917-1921
Rev. F. A. Roughton,	1921-1958
Rev. E. C. Lendon,	1958-1968
Rev. A. G. Willett,	1968-

All lived in the rambling vicarage in Stock Road which is being replaced by a modern purpose-built house near the Vicarage Hall and obviously the demands upon them grew with the expanding population and the increasing pace of life.

Mr. de Lisle has been described as "a tall, benign man with kindly eyes, an abundance of hair and a long beard". He and his wife had a daughter and three sons, two of whom were tragically drowned in rough seas at Broadstairs and were buried at Galleywood. This sad event is recorded on a tablet placed on the south wall of the chancel years later by Miss de Lisle in memory of her parents and brothers. Her father died in Guernsey in 1911, aged 76.

The second Vicar, Mr. Dew, was High Church in outlook, used incense in the church and heard confessions. His congregation dwindled and towards the end of his incumbency he wrote sadly in the parish magazine - "*Bad customs die hard and one of the bad customs of this place is the neglect of Sunday and Sunday worship. My predecessor found it the same*". Supported by his wife, he nevertheless tried to serve his parishioners by organising various social activities but eventually announced his resignation of the living.

Mr. Keen, an elderly clergyman of short stature, was the next incumbent and he visited every house in the parish once in three months, often accompanied by his wife. His journeys were frequently made on a tricycle. As he was a lover and student of nature, the vicarage garden became a sort of wildlife sanctuary during his stay. He retired to live in Tunbridge Wells and died at the great age of 98.

It is said of Mr. Roughton, the fourth Vicar, that in times of great sorrow and bereavement, no one could bring more comfort. He was a man of deep faith and conviction who preached many fierce and fearless sermons and his uncompromising attitude towards certain local activities undoubtedly challenged some but alienated other parishioners. A few years after the death of his wife, he made a happy second marriage to a popular member of his choir, Miss Hilda Lendon, who gave him great support throughout the remainder of his long and conscientious ministry. He died in Galleywood shortly after his resignation and is the only Vicar to be buried there¹⁷.

¹⁶ An updated list is in the Appendix - Vicars of Galleywood

¹⁷ This is still true



Mr. Lendon came to the parish with his wife and a young family of four, bringing the enthusiasm generated by their company and a naturally warm personality. His wartime service in the Royal Air Force made him a popular chaplain of the local branch of the British Legion and he was also markedly successful in his efforts to revive church activities among children and young people generally. On him fell much of the responsibility for organising the building of St. Michael's Junior Church School before he resigned the living to become Vicar of Dagenham.

When Mr. Willett came from Bristol to Galleywood he amused the then Bishop of Chelmsford by tolling the church bell 21 times at his induction, thereby possibly creating a record. Like his predecessor, he served in the Armed Forces during the war, in a Field Ambulance of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and he, too, has undertaken the chaplaincy of the Royal British Legion's local branch. A married man with a small son and daughter, he has the background of a happy home life to support him in the various challenges of a fast-growing parish, and it is he, the sixth Vicar, with the help of the parish's first curate, the Rev. Richard Sutton, who has the honour of presiding over the centenary celebrations of Arthur Pryor's church.

Each erudite incumbent in his day naturally experienced different needs, pressures, opportunities and achievements, but an over-riding demand on all was summarised by St. Paul in words which appear with a fine relevance on the memorial window to a conscientious old priest in a village church not far from Galleywood¹⁸ :-

"It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful".

¹⁸ Taken from Corinthians 4.2. I have been unable to track down this 'village church not far from Galleywood'.



CHAPTER 5 - DAY SCHOOLS

There has been a Church Day School in Galleywood ever since early in the nineteenth century when the Vicar of Great Baddow arranged for a small group of children to be taught "*reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic and religion*" in a cottage room. Later a house was built on the Common and let to the parish for use as a school at a rent of four guineas yearly; records reveal that in 1831 a Mrs. Dunwoody was teaching 41 children there for an annual salary of £16. In 1938 a school for 90 children was erected on land given by the Lord of the Manor at the Eagle crossroads, at a cost of £772.0.5½d, which was raised by public subscription. It served as a chapel-at-ease on Sundays when its bell tolled before the services just as it had summoned the children on weekdays. Miss S. Grutchfield was its first Head Teacher and lived in the small house erected in the grounds and interestingly described on the Tithe Map as "Sarah Grutchfield's garden".

Under the Education Act of 1870, the building was recognised as a "National School" whereby ratepayers became responsible for maintenance charges and the trustees had to maintain the building.

Not surprising, H.M. Inspector of Schools directed in 1908 that a water supply should be provided, and a well was sunk. Better window arrangements were also demanded, and the total cost was £32 which was initially met by the Vicar as no school funds existed. After repeated appeals in the Parish Magazine, the money was raised and one such appeal sadly reminds us of the difference between the lives of many children of that generation and those of today:-

"Childhood only comes once and we should do all in our power to make the surroundings of our children bright and happy. Boys and girls are nowadays withdrawn from school and sent to work at 13. They have acquired but a smattering of knowledge and many of them are unfit for manual labour. If their schooldays must be short, let them at any rate be able to look back at them with pleasure, perhaps gratitude, as the happiest period of their lives".

By 1912 substantial alterations to the school were necessary to bring it up to standard and for a time it seemed that the cost of £175 would never be raised. However, the generosity of Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch of Hylands saved the school as they met the deficit of £30. Accommodation was then available for 155 children and Miss E. Taylor was Headmistress.

In 1928 the deeds of the school were transferred from Great Baddow to the Vicar and churchwardens of Galleywood and in the same year Mr. J. W. Smith began his eminently successful service of 26 years as Headmaster, to be succeeded in that capacity by Mr. A. F. Sprange, the present Headmaster of the Junior School.

Galleywood's Lady Bountiful, Mrs. Keene, met the full cost of two classrooms which were added in 1935 and numbers gradually rose even though senior children had been transferred in 1946 to local Secondary Schools, so that in 1950 the Managers were glad to accept the permission of the Parish Council for the school to use the Keene Hall. Oil heating was installed in the school in 1957 and the following year new lavatory accommodation including hot water was added at a cost of £2,240. Ever rising numbers necessitated the erection of two demountable classrooms in 1963 and the imperative need for new premises was finally demonstrated when in 1965 one class had to be taught in the Vicarage Hall which had been acquired by the Parochial Church Council in second-hand condition shortly before.



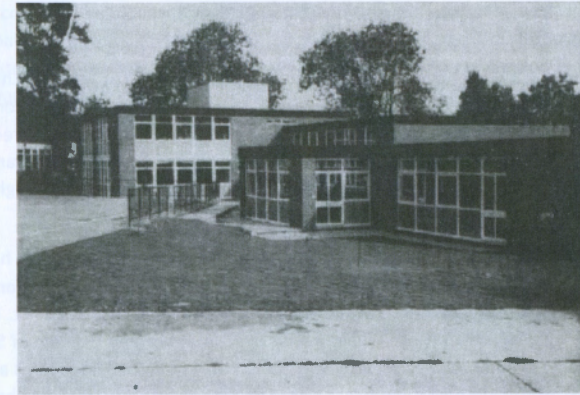
As early as 1961 plans had been discussed to meet the impact of a growing population upon local schools and it had been decided to replace both Baddow and Galleywood Church Schools by two new buildings in Barnard Road, Galleywood, one to be a Church Junior School for 320 and used as a place of worship on Sundays, and the other a County Infants' School for 240. The Infants' School opened in September 1966¹⁹, and the Junior School²⁰ a year later. In each, children are being taught well beyond the four Rs. by qualified and enthusiastic staff, some of whom supervise College of Education students. Already there is pressure on the accommodation at both schools as more and more houses are built, and demountable classrooms are being added.

It should not be forgotten that but for the foresight and faith of the church authorities in undertaking to be responsible for a Junior School, the old and outworn premises at the Eagle crossroads might still be in use for children aged 7 to 11. The County Education Committee had no plans to build for juniors at the same time as they erected the Infants' School nor indeed for some time ahead. A considerable amount of money had to be borrowed by the Church for the Junior School building, but generous giving and enthusiastic fund-raising efforts by parishioners and church people brought the repayment of the debt in sight. The Parochial Church Council has decided to clear the debt by realising £2,500 of its invested assets.

It is interesting to speculate about the children who attended the old school before the turn of the century and whose lives differed so greatly from those of children today. They walked to and from school on rough tracks and roads in black stockings and stout black boots tipped with iron "blakey's" to give longer wear and the older ones might sometimes help the tinies along with pick-a-back rides. The girls' dresses were long, thick and invariably of a dark colour which would not "show the dirt" and over them they wore pinafores and perhaps sported a ribbon in their hair. Boys had large white celluloid collars over their thick dark jackets with small bow ties and the trousers of older boys were fastened just below the knee. Both boys and girls sometimes wore warm navy blue guernseys. All children carried their food to school, and in fact the first mention of school dinners at Galleywood was not until the summer of 1942. Games could be played on the daily walks if a number of children journeyed together and in good weather they were often occasions of fun and laughter. Crowded conditions and strict discipline prevailed in the classroom when the children arrived but there was often a warm relationship between the youngsters and "Teacher" even though the latter wielded the cane without inhibitions about such a commonplace practice.

¹⁹ Galleywood Infants School had a capacity of 180 pupils and was full (2021-22 academic year)

²⁰ St Michael's Church of England Voluntary Aided School had a capacity of 240 pupils with 236 registered at the start of academic year 2021-22



St. Michael's C.E. Junior School

The twentieth century saw a gradual improvement in conditions generally although there were for some time frequent exclusions of children from school because of dirty heads, impetigo or measles and school nurses visited many times a term. Today it is rare for a child to be excluded for any purpose whatsoever.

Records reveal a widening of the school's curriculum by successive references to lessons at one centre or another on such subjects as cooking, gardening, handicraft, metalwork, woodwork, laundering and swimming and in 1930 the first organised school visit took place to St. Paul's Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament. In 1925 there is proud comment on the award of Jasper Jeffery scholarships to two girls for Chelmsford County High School and in 1936 two boys were the first to qualify from Galleywood School for admission to the Mid-Essex Technical College Junior School. One of them, David Cook, later became a much-respected school manager and churchwarden and thus was able to make his own contribution to plans for the excellent Junior Church School which stands alongside the equally successful County Infants' School in Barnard Road today.



CHAPTER 6 - THE COMMON AND ITS RACECOURSE

Galleywood Common is 175 pleasant acres in extent and in 1942 it was conveyed to Chelmsford Rural District Council for £2,000 when the Council covenanted to maintain it in perpetuity for the benefit of the inhabitants of the surrounding locality. It is an area of natural beauty with its trees of oak, elm, ash, hornbeam and copper beech, its bracken and gorse and the intriguing hollows and sandpits for children's diversions provided they are alert to the proximity of adders. A colourful sight to this day is when a meet of the Essex Union Hunt is held on the Common²¹.

For centuries its main claim to fame was the racecourse, but it has seen many other happenings. On April 24th, 1806, a duel with pistols was fought close by the windmill then standing on the Common between Lt. Torrens' and Surgeon Fisher of the 6th Regiment of Foot, resulting in Lt. Torren's death the following day. Another untimely death occurred at a later date when the wife of Samuel Crozier of the Admiral Rous inn on the Common was murdered by being pushed downstairs and was buried in the churchyard. Subsequent rumours led to the disinterment of her body and the arrest of her husband who was tried, convicted of her murder and executed at Chelmsford Prison on 5th December 1899.

Many varieties of birds and animals make the Common their habitat and at one time local boys collected and sold the eggs of pheasants and partridges. Unfortunately, news of this birds' paradise spread further afield and until the practice was stopped men came from Whitechapel to catch linnets and goldfinches with nets and decoy birds, for subsequent sale in East London. Another reprehensible use of the Common was to turn unwanted cats and dogs loose upon it, with scant regard for their sufferings. In happier vein, a resident has spoken of his boyhood when he and others tended cows on the Common from nearby farms and earned about 3/6d. a week for their labours from dawn to the hottest part of the day when the cows were driven home.

Some years after the First World War, on the afternoon of Easter Sunday when a stiff wind was blowing, fire broke out on the Common near to the Church. Fortunately, its course was blown away from the building towards London Hill but flames sometimes thirty feet high caused havoc to trees, gorse and bracken and also burnt out the forge then standing across the road near Mill House. At that time no fire engines were available, but villagers managed to save two haystacks and just as the roaring flames reached a house named Chequers the wind veered in the opposite direction and the fire petered out. In 1956 an extensive fire on the Common was blown towards the Church by a west wind but brought under control by the Fire Service. Because of the obvious risk Chelmsford Rural District Council subsequently gave permission for a firebreak 30 yards from the Church which is today less vulnerable as a result²².

Gipsies often encamped on the Common with their horses, caravans and dogs and at times there was evidence that wayfarers had slept in the church porch. In fact, on one occasion an intruder penetrated into the vestry and made up a comfortable bed on cassocks and surplices!

²¹ The last recorded hunt meeting was outside the Horse & Groom on Boxing Day 2016 although there is some doubt if the hounds were allowed to free run on that day. With the falling numbers the Hunt combined with another moving to Stansted Mountfitchet.

²² It is believed at least part of this is now used for overflow car parking between the road and main Common outside the front of the Church.



In 1893 a golf course of nine holes was laid out on the Common; all the hazards were natural, some being the remains of entrenchments thrown up when it was feared that Napoleon was about to invade. The outer defences against Bonaparte were between the top of London Hill and the Church. A clubhouse was built on to the Horse and Groom public house and local boys earned pocket-money as caddies until new links at Widford made the Galleywood course redundant.



Steeplechasing, Circa early 1920's

The racecourse on the Common had three claims to fame in that it was probably patronized by Charles II²³, "Old Rowley" - it became the only course in England to encircle a village church²⁴ - and it had a killing uphill finish. Although actual records of flat racing at Galleywood over a 3-mile course begin with the year 1759 there is every reason to believe that meetings were held much earlier. In 1770 George III gave 100 guineas as prize money in a race for 4-year-old mares carrying 8½ stone and there was a Queen's Royal plate of 100 guineas from 1759 to 1876. In 1890 a new racecourse with a new grandstand²⁵ was formed; it crossed the main road twice and a bye road, each covered with tan made from oak bark, and all traffic was stopped during races.

Flat racing gave place to steeplechasing and Galleywood Races became a great local occasion. Twice yearly a two-day meeting was held, the first mainly attended by the gentry and the second by farmworkers and Chelmsford townspeople²⁶. Livery stables and domestic accommodation were available at nearby inns and farms, including Galley Hall. When Admiral Rous patronised a meeting, he had a private stand alongside the course and thus gave his name to the site building later used as an inn. Because of the danger to children from unfamiliar traffic, the school closed on race days and the general excitement was probably akin to that which prevailed at eighteenth century meetings when there were prize fights and cock fights in the sandpits for the entertainment of racegoers.

²³ See Appendix 8 - Racecourse

²⁴ See Appendix 8 - Racecourse

²⁵ See Appendix 8 - Racecourse

²⁶ See Appendix 8 - Racecourse

GLIMPSES of GALLEYWOOD



The children frequently picked up coins dropped by dishonest bookmakers when they welshed with their takings.

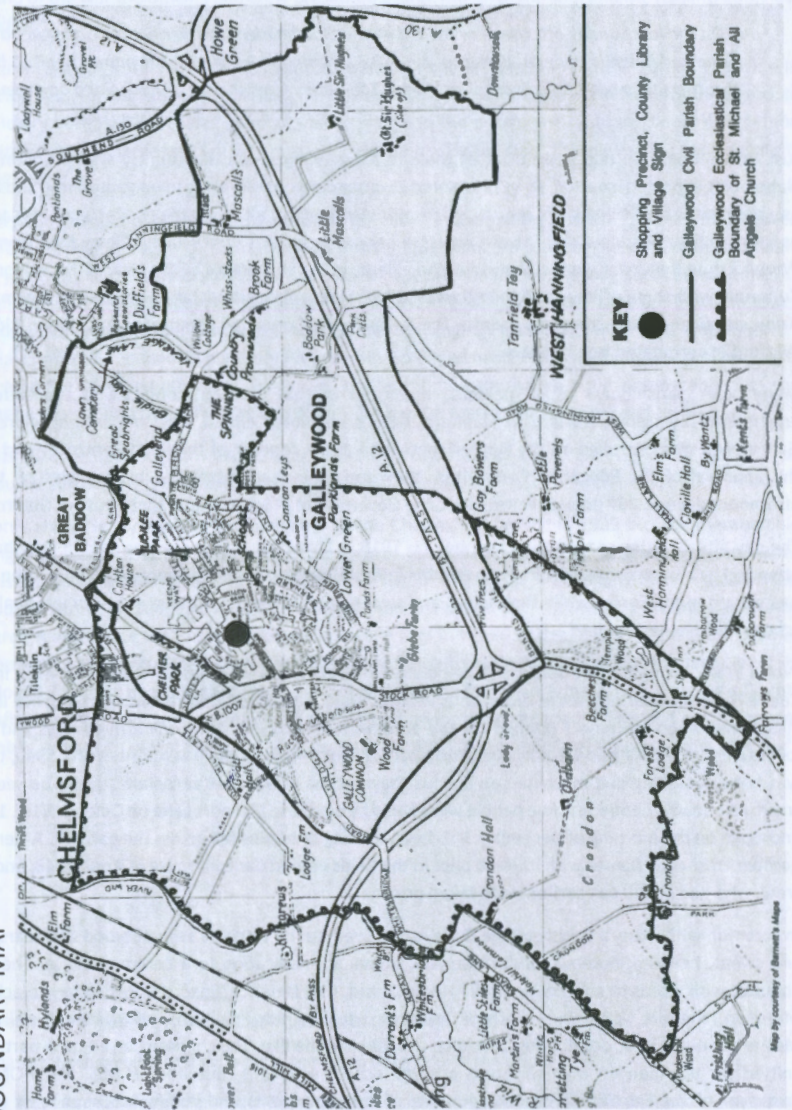
Steeplechasing at Galleywood came to an end in 1935 although there was pony racing on the course for a few years longer, until the outbreak of war. The national economic crisis affected attendances and meetings also suffered from the fact that crowds could watch and bet without making any contribution towards running expenses. However, the grandstand was not dismantled but remained to serve as the venue for many village activities until the generosity of Mrs. Keene produced the Keene Hall.

Today, in 1973, the Common is ordinarily a quiet and unspoiled area, populated on fine weekends and Bank Holidays by hundreds who arrive by car, bicycle or on foot bringing children, deck chairs, dogs, kites, bats, balls, picnic baskets and bottles of pop. Except when a part was ploughed to increase food production during the Second World War and immediately afterwards, it has been wholly available to the public for recreational purposes and without it Galleywood would be a place of less attraction and interest.



GLIMPSES of GALLEYWOOD

PARISH BOUNDARY MAP





CHAPTER 7 - WORLD WARS AND THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

A terse entry in the Parish Magazine shortly after the close of the 1914-18 war gives some idea of its impact on the parish:-

"On the last Sunday afternoon of the old year we had a memorial service for Galleywood men who had fallen in the war. In the course of his sermon the Vicar read the names of all 11 brave brothers who gave their lives for us. About 148 Galleywood men in all had joined up during the war".

Just as the Common had been used as the site for artillery when the country was preparing for Napoleon's expected invasion, so in 1914 some 25-pounder guns were dug in opposite the grandstand as a defence against Germany's Zeppelins, the monster airships, although they never went into action as those in Great Baddow did. Other guns were parked on what is now Chaplin Close. Men from the Warwickshire Regiment were stationed in the village, many in barracks at the rear of the mill on the Common, with some officers and their horses at Mill House. The grandstand was used as a camp for Army stores and just across the country the Royal Flying Corps had temporary accommodation at Widford in corrugated iron hangars.

Many older parishioners retain personal memories of that dreadful conflict and the suffering engendered by trench warfare in Flanders. Before hostilities ended even the schoolchildren of Galleywood were enrolled on the Home Front when at the request of the Food Controller and with the approval of the Education Committee, they and their teachers picked blackberries on three afternoons a week. 867 pounds were sold to the Government at 3d. a pound, for the use of the troops.

The day after fighting ceased on November 11, 1918, a Thanksgiving Service was held in the Church, attended by a large congregation. Nine months later a Welcome Home Dinner was given to men who had served in the Forces while their wives and sweethearts were entertained at tea to which all the schoolchildren were invited.

World War 2 brought more soldiers to be billeted in Galleywood for a time. They were mainly in the Keene Hall with their officers in Woodlands in Stock Road. Evacuated children also came to live in the village and when the school opened for the autumn term in 1939, 48 newly arrived boys and girls joined the classes. Air raid warnings became a part of everyday life and on September 3rd, 1940, there was heavy bombing and machine gun fire just beyond the village and aeroplanes could be seen to crash. As already mentioned, five people were killed by bombs in Skinners Lane on October 31st, 1940, and again on the morning of December 3rd, 1940, a string of bombs fell across the parish²⁷. A German bomber crashed in flames with its dead pilot in the fields behind Carlton House in April, 1943, and the crew, who had bailed out earlier, were taken prisoner.

In common with many a British village Galleywood lived out its wartime saga of blood and tears, toil and sweat, heroism, humour, endurance and, above all, dedication to a common cause. The tale abounds with words to stir the memory - Home Guard, Civil Defence, Special Constabulary, blackout, Morrison shelters, rationing, barrage balloons, searchlights, Spitfires, Hurricanes, Heinkels. Messerschmidts, Blitz, doodle-bugs, rockets, U-boats and the like. The children played their part, girls knitted for the men on minesweepers and the school as a unit "adopted" H.M.S. MASHONA, a destroyer of the 6th Flotilla, for the purpose of correspondents and comforts. On at least three occasions Petty Officers from the ship visited the school to thank the children for their interest and

²⁷ See footnote 11 for more details



they presented a model of the ship²⁸. To the great grief of her Galleywood friends, H.M.S. MASHONA was sunk in the Atlantic in 1941 and a memorial service was held in church on May 30th, the day after news of the disaster was received. Subsequently H.M.S. ASHANTI was "adopted" by the school and at the end of the war the officers and crew presented a large model of the ship and the Ashanti Cup, now a trophy²⁹.

Because so many churches received bomb damage an appeal was made in the Parish Magazine in March 1941, for vigilance in guarding St. Michael's during air attacks, particularly in regard to incendiary bombs. Ready-filled sandbags were placed in the porch, vestry, tower belfry and behind the organ and two large tanks of water stood in the belfry. Fortunately, there was never any necessity to use them.

Victory by the Allies over the Axis powers was formally proclaimed on May 8th, 1945, to be followed by the surrender of Japan three months later. After long enforced silence, the bells of St. Michael's rang jubilantly once more on May 9th to a total of 4 ½ hours and thanksgiving services were held in the church that day and again on the following Sunday. Another joyous peal rang out from the tower on August 15th when Japan fell. Some months later the Singing Fellowship under Miss Wadley gave a special concert in the form of a Victory Programme. So ended hostilities, and today wooden memorial tablets to the fallen in both World Wars hang on the church's south wall while innumerable men and women carry around their physical, emotional and mental scars of those brave and terrible years³⁰.

A natural development from World War I was the formation of the British Legion in 1921, to be honoured subsequently with the prefix Royal.

Records show Galleywood as a sub-section of the Chelmsford branch in 1935 but the membership strength was such that the Galleywood branch was formed in September 1937 and has flourished consistently. A number of original members still live in the village, including the ever-active Vice-President, Mr. A. W. Lodge, who as a very young man lost a leg in the service of his country. He is one of three members of the Branch to be awarded the Legion's Gold Badge, one of the highest tributes for outstanding service, the others thus honoured being the late Mr. J. Eve and the late Mr. G. H. Landon. A founder member, the late Mr. A. Brazier, was the first Branch member to receive a County Certificate of Merit for services rendered, while mention must also be made of Mr. F. Cook, a founder member, who, with the late Mrs. L. C. Keene, was awarded life membership for outstanding services³¹.

²⁸ It has not been possible to trace what happened to this model

²⁹ It has not been possible to trace what happened to this model or the trophy

³⁰ The best source of information about Galleywood residents who served and died can be found in 3 volumes - Galleywood War Memorial (compiled by Wendy Cummin) and Galleywood Served and Survived Vols 1 and 2 (compiled by Christine Whybro) available at Galleywood Heritage Centre in the Ted Hawkins Heritage Room.

³¹ Further information on the Galleywood branch can be found at Appendix - The Royal British Legion



Army Convoy through Galleywood 1914 - 1918

To obtain funds for charitable obligations, the Branch organised whist drives, dances and annual dinners, and in 1959 a grand fete with film stars and a Beauty Queen raised a substantial amount towards the purchase of the Headquarters' building at the corner of Watchouse Road and The Street. Meetings were previously held in the Keene Hall or, since 1950, the old Grandstand on the racecourse. Many people gave donations or made interest-free loans towards the Headquarters' project and the members themselves undertook necessary interior work to save expense. Extensive enlargements were carried out in 1972.

In 1938 the Branch formed a Rifle Club and built their own range on the Common. Then, in 1944, as a practical measure of their interest in servicemen, they bought a bicycle which was kept at Chelmsford Police Station for the use of service personnel arriving on leave after the last bus had left. Gifts were sent at Christmas during the war to all men and women in the armed forces and benevolent work at that season remains a high priority, although it continues throughout the year whenever need is shown.

The Women's Section of the Galleywood Branch was formed in 1947 and joins in the annual Remembrance Day parade at the church. An indication of the strength of the local Branch is given by the large numbers of both sections on parade each year.



CHAPTER 8 - NONCONFORMITY IN GALLEYWOOD³²

Evidence of nonconformist Christian worship in Galleywood can be traced back to 1818 under Wesleyan inspiration and leadership but it came to an end in 1829. In 1845 a local farmer, John Keyes, made his house on the Common available for services and it was so used until 1852. About that time, an unnamed young scissors-grinder and his friend conducted open air services in the vicinity and they were so well attended that it was agreed to transfer them to a room in the old grandstand on the racecourse, that is to say, the building subsequently superseded by a modern structure. At some later stage this arrangement ended in favour of services in an old farmhouse, believed to be Glebe Farm alongside Stock Road. However, this proved inconvenient and eventually the existing Methodist chapel in Well Lane was built at a cost of £190 on land forming part of Galley Hall Farm.

The opening services were held on October 21st, 1860, thirteen years before St. Michael's Church was available for alternative forms of Christian worship, but all did not go well. In fact in December, 1871, the Primitive Methodist Quarterly Meeting received a report that *"the Galleywood Common chapel is in a dilapidated and distressed state and has been a burden and a drag to the station ever since it was built. It has cost the station much more to keep it than the society is worth to the station and from the scantiness and poverty of the population is not likely ever to be any help to us"*.

Nevertheless, permission to sell the building was withheld and services with a sparse and needy congregation continued year after year. Before the turn of the century a great effort was made to improve the premises and by 1900 it was possible to add a porch, vestry and boiler house, as seen today. Services at the little chapel have continued in the non-conformist tradition and recent years have seen the forging of a closer bond between parishioners of nonconformist and orthodox persuasions.

The present Minister in Galleywood is the Rev. R. Hancock. (1973)

³² As is noted later in Chapter 14 the chapel closed in July 2012 and is now a private house. Galleywood Heritage Centre holds a more detailed history of the Chapel donated by John & Jill Bellamy.

CHAPTER 9 -PARISH CHARITIES³³

"As cold as charity" is a description to make one apprehensive, yet before there was a welfare state in England there was certainly need for philanthropy. When Galleywood and Great Baddow were largely rural areas, many people lived at subsistence level and often had large families to feed from meagre wages. Winters in those days could be especially hard and cruel for old and young alike and although many English churches administered their own Sick and Poor Fund from Sunday collections, extra material assistance was most welcome.

In such conditions it was customary for men and women of means and goodwill to make some provision during their lifetime or in their wills for people or organisations likely to appreciate practical help in one direction or another. As a result, the Vicar and Churchwardens today administer four Charities solely applicable to Galleywood and six others shared with Great Baddow, but they sometimes find difficulty in carrying out the precise intentions of the donors in the different circumstances of the present time. For instance, people eligible for an allowance of coal may now be living in flats or houses heated by electricity, oil or gas. On the other hand, local schoolchildren derive real benefit from a charity shared with Great Baddow for educational purposes and some other charities are still giving positive assistance to parishioners.

The four charities solely applicable to Galleywood are:-

(1) Mrs. L. C. Keene's "Children and Coals" Fund:-

- (a) One half for coal at Christmas for the poor
 - (b) One quarter for a summer outing or treat for the Sunday School children
 - (c) One quarter for a Christmas party for schoolchildren
- from an investment of £2,626.

(2) The John Henry Keene Fund:-

- (a) One half for the church
 - (b) One half for the sick and poor
- from an investment of £1,200.

(3) The Markland Barnard Fund:-

- for bread and meat for deserving widows of 50 years and upwards residing in the Galleywood district
- from an investment of £100.

(4) The right to occupy six of the Keene Memorial Homes in Chelmsford.

The six Charities shared with Great Baddow are :-

(5) A share in the Jasper Jeffery charity for educational purposes.

³³ It has proved difficult to track the current position with many of these charities. However, it appears likely that some have been subsumed into a more general Vicars Hardship Fund to be distributed at the discretion of the vicar. See also Appendix 6 – Parish Charities.



- (6) A one-third right to alms houses in Vicarage Road, Great Baddow.
- (7) A share, 45 cwts., about Christmastide in coal from the Boggis-Gilson Fund.
- (8) A share in the Marshall, Straight and Trundle Bread Fund³⁴.
- (9) A share in the Pugh-Innes Fund for the sick and poor.
- (10) A share in Rev. John Bramston's Fund for Day or Sunday Schools.

The name Keene appears again and again in twentieth century Galleywood history. John Keene of Carlton House was a wealthy director of the Pearl Insurance Company and both he and his wife associated themselves actively with church and parish life. After her husband's death, Mrs. Keene gave generous financial help to many projects which she considered worthwhile and the family



Galleywood Flower Show, Circa 1925

name is perpetuated in the Keene Hall, which she built in 1937, and again in Keene Way. Markland Barnard was another public-spirited resident of Galleywood, remembered years later in the naming of Barnard Road and Marklands Close. Special mention should also be made of John Bramston as he was the Vicar of Great Baddow whose concern for the education of Galleywood children led to the hiring of a small room as the first school in the early years of the nineteenth century.

³⁴ This was popularly known locally as Tommy Bread – see article in Past Times No 79 (Oct 2022)



CHAPTER 10 - INNS, FARMS AND WINDMILLS

Tired workers from farms and windmills could find relaxation and entertainment in one or other of the dozen inns which were to be found in Galleywood and without the two nearby windmills it would have been far more difficult for farmers to get their corn ground after harvest. The periodic demands of racegoers for hospitality and stabling accommodation undoubtedly accounted for such a large number of public houses in a rural area and today only The Eagle³⁵, The White Bear, The Horse and Groom and the rebuilt Running Mare remain.

The last named was originally known as The Running Stream because from the pond just outside, a stream ran along Slades Lane and thence into a ditch by the football field to join another stream crossing Galleywood Road by Stomps Garage. In 1803 a local newspaper mentioned The Running Mare as the place where a poor woman sought shelter after being robbed by two soldiers of 13/- which she had earned selling homemade sausages. Maybe they were from the Uttlesford and Clavering Cavalry encamped that year on the Common while George III's Generals kept a wary eye on Napoleon and were inspected by the Duke of York there. Anyway, the thieves were not caught but escaped into surrounding woods.



The Old Running Mare, Circa 1914

The Ship Inn on the parish boundary towards Stock owes its name to its connection with stagecoaches which ran to the port of Tilbury. Records reveal that it was in existence around 1540 as a woodman's hut and it has been a hostelry since 1610. Opposite The White Bear, of which the licensees are known from at least 1867, there once stood The Blue Lion, so named to commemorate the link of the titled Mildmay family with the district as a blue lion was depicted on their coat of arms. This inn functioned from 1839 to 1882 and contained much stabling for horses.

There are records of licensees at The Eagle from 1874 and a reference to The Wheatshaf in 1867. In Lower Green stood The Welcome and The Carpenter's Arms - the former closed over 60 years ago. The Elephant and Castle is now Castle House, a dwelling place in Stock Road, while The Royal Oak was on the site of No. 663 in Galleywood Road. In Galley End stands a weather-boarded house which was formerly an inn of puzzling title, The New Found Out, and near it is the 29-mile milestone to London. A notable member of the Jockey Club and a prominent owner of racehorses gave his name to The Admiral Rous alongside the racecourse. It became a Tea Room about the time of World War I, but during its days as an inn saw not only the murder described earlier but also many lively gatherings of racegoers, many of whom drove down from London in four-in-hand coaches. There are accounts in

³⁵ The Eagle Public House is no longer having been converted to an Indian restaurant in August 2022



1869 and 1870 of occasions of great merriment when gargantuan quantities of champagne, chicken and ham were consumed, followed by free fights as onlookers scrambled for the remains of the feasts.

In bygone days Galleywood was almost exclusively a farming area but with one or two important exceptions there are now numerous small dwelling places or plans for them on most of the acres which were formerly tilled or grazed. It may be of interest to record names of past and present farms in casual sequence, thus :- Attwoods, Bearmans, Branwoods, Gardeners, Mascalls, Great Seabrights, Skinners, Cannon Lays, Sewells, Wood, Glebe, Parklands, Rignalls, Oakmans, Ponds, Bexfields, Spots, Pym's, Lodge, Temple, Walters, Crondon Hall, Crondon Park, Forest Lodge, Goat Hall, Galley Hall. Some were large farms and others of only modest acreage, but they have inevitably been decimated by the housing, industrial and educational needs of the twentieth century.

The new schools stand on fields which one John Attwood is known to have farmed in 1274; on part of Bearmans Farm where Stephen Barneman lived in 1413 is the recently opened Sports Ground of Chelmsford Borough Council. Alsander le Skynnere was at Skinners Farm in 1328 Borough and Rannulph le Gardener owned Gardeners Farm off Beehive Lane in 1285. John Braynwoode lived at Branwoods Farm in 1345. According to the Court Rolls, Great Seabrights Farm was called Sabrightes in 1338, Sabryts Hall in 1544 and Sawbridge in 1777. Canonesgrove was the name of Cannon Lays in 1338 and about that time Sewells Farm in Galley End was known as Swallesfrith.



Former Windmill in Ponds Road



Former Windmill on the Common



Before World War 2 the owner of Spots Farm in Ponds Road hired out threshing machines at harvest time when such services were much in demand; at less busy seasons the employees worked elsewhere, for example, at the local brickyard. The introduction of more modern farm machinery meant that the need for threshing machines diminished and following the death of the founder, the business was moved to another village and enlarged to include other contract farming activities.

In the same way Galleywood's two windmills had their day and were used no more when their primary duty of grinding the farmers' corn was taken over by flour mills. By that time the livery stables were no longer being used by racegoers and consequently there was no heavy local demand for oats, bran and straw, as formerly. One mill was situated in a meadow by Brick House in the vicinity of Ponds Road and the other stood high on the Common near Mill House, a familiar landmark, as was the forge hard by. Patient horses pulled grinding stones in their circular tracks when the mills were busy and inside the men worked rhythmically. A fixed steam engine was in time installed in the mill on the Common for use on windless days, but with the passage of time all work stopped, and the mills gradually deteriorated until they were demolished.



Old School and the Eagle Inn, Circa 1907



CHAPTER 11 - TIMES REMEMBERED

Country life for ordinary people at the turn of the century differed amazingly from rural living today in its customs and simplicity. No one had ever heard such words as television, discotheque, margarine, combine harvester, hippie, hovercraft, airport or aeronaut; by contrast how many of today's children know the meaning of terms like pigstie, ha-ha, cornstooks, hurdy-gurdy, sampler, box iron, antimacassar, higgler or tallyman³⁶, all then commonly used. Does a child in Galleywood today find it difficult to believe that at the rear of Strathmore Bakery is a very old bakehouse where the mixing vat was actually turned by dogs in harness not so very long ago?

In the district, as elsewhere, the average wage of a farm labourer in 1879 was 12/- a week with a free tied cottage and possibly free milk for his family. Bread, pork, often from his own pig, and vegetables formed his staple diet, with occasional beer and baccy in the short hours of leisure. Cottage women supplemented their husband's wages by picking peas and potatoes in season and gleaning corn after threshing machines had left the field. They spent most of their earnings on clothing for the family which they bought from tallymen or pedlars hawking their goods from door to door. The men worked long hours ploughing, sowing, hoeing, milking, haymaking, harvesting, lambing, sheepshearing, hedging, ditching, thatching and tending farm animals, especially their sturdy horses with names like Boxer, Prince, Captain, Daisy, Bonnie or Blossom. After a tiring day they were glad to ride back to the farm on their horses' backs dressed in stout corduroy with a colourful neckerchief and a sack over their shoulders if rain was falling.

Children looked forward to visits by the hurdy-gurdy man, perhaps with a little monkey perched on his barrel organ, or a knife and scissors grinder might call, not to mention the tallyman with his attractive wares or even a gipsy selling wooden pegs. When darkness fell oil lamps were lit and in spite of the absence of main water and fire services it was usual to go to bed by candlelight.

In fact main water did not come to Galleywood until 1930. Before that time water was drawn from pumps, the weight of two pails often being taken by a wooden "yoke" fitted around neck and shoulders. The well opposite the Methodist chapel in Well Lane was in constant use and a pipe from it took water to Lower Green. It still exists and although it has been emptied for cleaning, it filled again in less than an hour.

Refuse collection was by horse and cart until 1934 when a more modern system was put into operation. 1935 saw the arrival of electricity in the parish and the provision of street lights and in 1959 main drainage became available. It was then that farmland began to be sold for building purposes and the urbanisation of the district loomed. A remorselessly increasing population demanded more and more inroads into the countryside from which hedges, trees and fields began to disappear and nightingales sang no more at night. Horses and bicycles provided the only means of transport for years. Many farmers and shopkeepers had their own ponies and traps, and at least two people in the village hired out their equipages, charging about 2/6d. for taking four passengers to and from Chelmsford with waiting time for shopping. Use was also made of an elderly carrier who came from Stock with a heavy horse and a covered cart into which passengers piled. He pulled up occasionally to accept parcels for delivery and when business was brisk to the point of over-crowding he himself sat on the shaft of the vehicle. Later in the day he returned from Chelmsford with passengers and different parcels, usually proceeding at walking pace or at most a slow trot. It was not until 1916 that steam

³⁶ See Appendix 7 – Meaning of Terms



buses, with open tops and seats with black tarpaulin covers, first ran from Chelmsford to Galleywood under the control of Mr. Clarkson of Woodlands, a director of Clarksons Steam Car Company of London and thereafter transport facilities speedily expanded.

Although a balloon might occasionally be sighted, probably no one in the village had seen an aeroplane until the pioneer Graham White flew over in 1910 to land in the grounds of Hylands prior to his marriage in Widford Church the following day. After tea he again flew around for a time to entertain excited onlookers and eventually came down on the lawn of the mansion with the aid of car headlights.

There is news of postal facilities in Galleywood from 1863 onwards when one David Taylor was in charge of a sub-office. By 1882 letters were being delivered at 8 a.m. and despatched at 6 p.m. and by 1885 postal orders could be purchased but not paid out. During World War 1 the sub-post office was in Barton's baker's shop, today known as Rothel Cottage, and it was there that some sad war telegrams arrived.

In its time Galleywood was a fairly important centre of brickmaking and the goods siding in Private Road was built to bring fuel to Carrs Brickyard adjoining the railway. Much of the old school was built with bricks made in the village. Incidentally coal was sold from the yard at 1/- per cwt. and other merchants hawked it round the district at the incredible price of 10d. per cwt. Years later there were brickworks on the southern part of the Common where hand-made red and stock bricks were turned out and sometimes there were complaints about excessive smoke from the kiln. The available patches of gravel including one opposite Stomps Garage were eventually worked out and the last brickworks closed down.

Until 1919 there were no nursing services in the parish although a rather ingenuous attempt to help the sick had been made just before World War 1 when an announcement appeared in the Parish Magazine that a blanket could be borrowed for a deposit of 1/- but that only five pairs were available! However, the advent of the parish nurse was nigh and in August 1919, a scheme was devised for sharing her services with Widford. The entry in the Parish Magazine is illuminating: "*Her charges would be 1d. a week, 1/- a quarter or 4/- a year. For a maternity case the charge would be 21/-. Our £50 towards her £100 a year might be made up without much difficulty as follows :- Government grant £15, nurse's probable earnings as midwife £10, say 130 subscribers of 4/- a year £26, total £51*".

Alas, the church's concern for the welfare of parishioners as illustrated by the announcement of available nursing services was not always matched by a similar determination on the part of the parishioners to support the church. An instance of this once occurred when the congregation miserably failed to attend the annual church meeting to elect officers for the following year and only the Vicar, the two outgoing churchwardens and a newspaper reporter were present. With the stout assistance of the last named in seconding each churchwarden's proposal for the re-election of his colleague, a delicate situation was successfully surmounted!

One of the highlights of past years was the annual choir outing to Clacton which began with the men and boys walking to Chelmsford railway station to pick up the train selected for the journey. The name of each boy was sewn inside his jacket "*just in case*" and he carried his carefully hoarded pocket money for a spending spree. Some of it might well have been acquired from blowing the church organ at 3d. a time - this was the instrument which was sold to Chignal St. James in the course of time. At night the tired revellers found a hired waggon waiting for them at the railway station as fortunately they were not expected to walk home.



The annual flower show on the site of the grandstand was first organised by the Cottage Garden Society in 1912 and taken over by the newly formed Horticultural Society in 1924. It drew crowds to the Common and special buses ran to and from Chelmsford for the occasion which was enlivened by the attendance of a Fair. Good prizes were available for winners of competitions in the poultry, rabbit, horticultural and other sections and in sporting events. Men practised for weeks ahead for the honour of winning the Marven Challenge Shield³⁷ in the tug-of-war and another outstanding contest was the 2-mile race round the racecourse in which a well-known churchwarden and farmer of today competed without, it is believed, much success.

That same man of repute, Charles Cottey of Wood Farm, who was recently awarded the M.B.E. for public services locally, revived an old custom in September 1948, by giving a Harvest Supper in the Keene Hall for 80 of his friends, farm employees and their families. To arrange a convivial gathering of this sort was an old country practice in many districts as a way of thanking all who had assisted in the harvest and its revival at Galleywood was noteworthy.

A pleasant occasion of a different order is recorded as having taken place at a public meeting in the school on October 17th, 1917, when the Vicar and audience honoured a member of the police force, Constable Gipson. During his fifteen years' service in the neighbourhood the officer had established excellent public relations and had taken considerable interest in social activities. The parishioners therefore decided to mark his transfer to Clacton by presenting him with a purse containing £15.10.0 as an expression of goodwill and in presenting it the Vicar added his own special thanks for Constable Gipson's spare time labours in the churchyard.

In such ways passed the even tenor of the country round and no one in Galleywood had ever heard of nuclear warfare, of supermarkets and pop groups, nor believed that man would shortly walk on the moon!

³⁷ This shield is now in The Keene Hall main hall.



CHAPTER 12 - GALLEYWOOD IN 1973

A stroll round Galleywood today and a perceptive eye can produce many examples in buildings of the passage of time. Although there are exceptions, the oldest houses are mainly in Well Lane and Lower Green and all show considerable variation in design and building material, some dating from the sixteenth century. In direct contrast are the mass-produced box-type houses and unlovely blocks of flats erected in the last decade while in Bakers Lane are the two caravan sites which appeared shortly after World War 2.

Both Goat Hall and Galley Hall are sixteenth century buildings and at one time the latter was said to be haunted. Mill House was erected in the following century. Brick House near Galley Hall was built around 1810 and takes its name from the fact that it was the first house in the area to be constructed with Galleywood brick. Well House is deemed worthy of inclusion in the nation's Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Also noteworthy is Wild Wood Cottage in Galley End dating from around 1640-1680 and built by one Louis Monsant in peculiar style. It was often his practice, as here, to provide a watertight roof by inverting an old boat on the walls and covering it with pitch; during recent conversions the main keel and ribs of the boat were revealed and barnacles and other shellfish were clearly visible. A similar roof may be seen in The Street.

Apart from private houses in ever-increasing numbers, the village possesses the Keene Hall, built in 1937, the reconditioned Vicarage Hall, a Scout Hut in Chaplin Close soon to be superseded by a new hut in the Watchouse Road recreation ground, the Royal British Legion enlarged Headquarters, a new parade of shops in Watchouse Road with a new County Branch Library adjacent and a County Youth Centre in the old school at The Eagle crossroads. In the past year or so the Rural District Council have built bungalows and a flatlet building (Cottey House) in Watchouse Road, and Chelmsford Borough Council have provided a block of flats for the elderly in Bekeswell Place. The village's two new schools are easily recognisable on vantage ground in Barnard Road. On Sundays the Church School is regularly used for Family Services and is a convenient place of worship for residents on the surrounding housing estates.

Off Chaplin Close are 45 allotment plots, each of 10 rod area, administered by the six trustees of the Cottage Garden Society by whom the site was purchased for £165 in 1923 with money loaned by local well-wishers, interest free and soon repaid. Allotments had previously been available on a field alongside the Margaretting Road where houses and the former Co-operative Stores now stand. The plots are in constant demand and even today the modest rent is only 50p. yearly. Other activities of the former Cottage Garden Society have been taken over by the Horticultural Society³⁸.

A branch of the Women's Institute has been active in Galleywood for very many years and has contributed in full measure to village life both in war and peace. Today it shares activities and influence with the Townswomen's Guild of much later origin. A separate band of women with skill and patience arrange fresh flowers in the church week by week and once or twice the building has been decorated with flowers throughout, on the occasion of a Flower Festival. People from the village and well beyond have queued to view a scene of inspiration and beauty created by flowers artistically arranged to illustrate an agreed biblical theme and the generous contributions of admiring visitors have swelled church funds.

³⁸ See also Appendix 4 - Allotments



There has been a Football Club in the Parish for well over half a century and the Cricket Club was formed at the conclusion of World War 1 with a grant of £15 from the Army Canteen Fund, a similar amount being given to the already flourishing Football Club. Scouts, Cubs, Girl Guides and Brownies usually have enrolment waiting lists and parade with their leaders in St. Michael's Church on occasions such as St. George's Day and the Remembrance Service each November. The Darby and Joan Club fulfils a real need for people at the other end of life and its organisers are unwearied in their efforts to promote entertainment and relaxation.

The list of social activities in Galleywood is, in fact, encouragingly long and includes the Flower Club, the Keene Players, the Social Club, the Modern Sequence Dance Club, the Ladies' Keep Fit Classes and the company of Whist Players. The Magnet Club or County Youth Centre in the old school is a new departure which perhaps has not yet realised its full potential. At present activities include a Young Adults' Club, a Youth Club and, during the day, Play Group facilities.

Year by year modern Galleywood with its new roads, new houses, attractive gardens, new residents and semi-urban culture, takes over from the old village that Arthur Pryor knew when he built his church. On fields over which birds once careened in crazy and joyful aerobatics now stand homes in rows of ordered profusion and on the few remaining farms attested herds graze or combines throw out bales of straw where farmworkers in their day pitched the lovely stooks of corn. Some regret for the quiet past is natural but contributes little to the demands of the impelling present; indeed the dangers of a static society were noted by Tennyson :-

*"The old order changeth, yielding place to new
And God fulfils Himself in many ways
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world".*

So the Church of St. Michael and All Angels celebrates its centenary in ever-changing and challenging times, standing on the high Common in perpetual witness of the Christian faith before a growing and often indifferent population. Achievement and disappointment will doubtless continue to mark its path ahead but in all eventualities the words of St. John will eternally proclaim the creed of triumph and assurance :-

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith".



PART 2 by Ted Hawkins and David Cook-1993

CHAPTER 13 - GALLEYWOOD 20 YEARS ON – 1993

St. Michael and All Angels Church celebrated its Centenary on 29th September 1973 with a special thanksgiving service by the Rev. Allen Willett and the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt. Rev. John Trillo - a truly memorable and historic occasion. The three-day Flower Festival by members from the Church and village organisations illustrating the Centenary theme "*Jesus, the same yesterday, today and forever*" was a great success attracting over 3,000 visitors admiring the magnificent flower arrangements.

A special peal of 5,088 changes lasting three hours was rung on the bells of the Church proclaiming the Centenary and creating a link with the consecration ceremony in 1873 when a similar peal was rung³⁹.

During the Centenary celebrations there was a fascinating Exhibition at the Keene Hall of 'Old Galleywood' including photographs of the famous historic racecourse on Galleywood Common. A splendid Pageant with the theme "*Pupils' Progress - One Hundred Years of Education*" was presented by St. Michael's Church of England Junior School in a marquee on the School's playing fields. It was thoroughly enjoyed by over 500 people including Peter Pryor, grandson of Arthur Pryor who built St. Michael's Church. The children and teachers dressed in Victorian costume, chanted multiplication tables, sang Victorian songs and performed typical school drills contrasting these with scenes of modern school life.

Galleywood became a civil parish on 1st April, 1987. Prior to that date it was part of the Great Baddow civil parish. In May 1987 nine local Parish Councillors were elected by the residents of Galleywood to form the first Galleywood Parish Council and Councillor Keith Liley, a Chelmsford Borough Councillor and former Great Baddow Parish Councillor, became the first Chairman of the Council. In anticipation of Galleywood becoming a civil parish, the Keene Hall was extensively modernised in 1986 to provide accommodation for the Parish Clerk's office. Parish Council, Planning and other committee meetings are held in the Keene Hall and are open to the public. Parishioners may raise any questions on village matters at Parish Council meetings. So 113 years after Galleywood was constituted an ecclesiastical parish in 1874 it was granted the status of a civil parish in 1987.

Charles Cottey, MBE., of Wood Farm, known affectionately as 'Mr. Galleywood' died in 1988 aged 84. His long service to the Chelmsford Council was recognised in 1984 when he was elected an Honorary Alderman. He was a local Parish Councillor for 34 years, a member of the Rural District Council for 21 years and a Governor on many local schools over a period of 40 years. Cottey House, the warden-controlled housing for the elderly in Watchouse Road, was named after him to commemorate his huge contribution to housing in the community and in particular to this development in Galleywood. He was also a Special Constable for 30 years having enrolled during the General Strike in 1926. Devoted to the church, he served as a Churchwarden at St. Michael's Church for 30 years. At his funeral service the Church was full to capacity to pay tribute to this outstanding man and give thanks for his work in the community.

³⁹ See also Appendix 3 – Galleywood Church Bells



Over these 20 years St. Michael's Church has established another worship centre at St. Michael's School called 'Family Hour' which, as its name suggests, caters for young families. This work has proved very successful and the school hall is often bursting at the seams. On an average Sunday there are some four hundred attendances in all at services in the Church and in the School⁴⁰. The fabric of the Church is in good order and parts of the interior layout of the Church have been redesigned and carpeted, to have more flexibility with worship, to be able to rearrange easily on special occasions and to have a fellowship area at the back of the Church. After a long period of waiting the Church Council decided to retille the roof and many friends of the Church and parishioners alike rose generously and sacrificially to find the funds.

The Reverend Roger Wakely became Vicar of St. Michael & All Angels Church on 17th September 1987. He is the seventh Vicar of Galleywood and succeeded the Reverend Canon Allen Willett who, after 19 years with the Parish, took partial retirement in the Diocese of Peterborough in January 1987. Married with two children, the Reverend Roger Wakely came to Galleywood from the Diocese of Leicester where he was Rector of seven country churches. He graduated from the Southwark Ordination Course in 1970 and his career has included several valuable years as a schoolteacher, deputy head and a school chaplain.

To the delight of Methodists in the village, the little Wesleyan Chapel in Well Lane has been registered for marriages since 1984 and these have proved to be popular in this small and homely atmosphere. Membership of the Chapel has recently increased to about 30 and there is an encouraging growth in Sunday School attendance. Special services such as Harvest Festivals and Christmas Carol services attract near-capacity congregations of around 60. The links with the Anglican congregation are a treasured feature of the life of the Chapel and shared services are arranged two or three times every year. Much has been done in recent years to maintain and improve the Chapel especially the remodelling of the entrance steps and the constructing of a ramp to assist the disabled. The Chapel is part of the Chelmsford Methodist Circuit in the London North East Methodist district and the present Minister is the Reverend Harold Fisher⁴¹.

The 1980's saw the growth of public concern over nature preservation. Galleywood Common - still a popular place for recreation - was suffering from the invasion of the motor car. The increasing popularity of horse riding was damaging the grassland while young motor cyclists were finding the woodland paths an ideal practice ground for their off-road techniques. The Galleywood Common Association was formed to focus attention on these threats to the environment and in 1988 the Chelmsford Borough Council, responsible for the management of the Common, commissioned a survey of Galleywood Common by the Essex Naturalist Trust. This comprehensive report, in addition to listing a great many varieties of plants - some of them rare - produced a detailed plan for management.

The Management Plan, subsequently put in place by the Chelmsford Borough Council, recognised the need to control this habitat, both as a place of recreation and host to a wide variety of plant species. Posts and ditches were installed to restrict cars to approved parking places and some new bridle paths constructed to allow horse riders access to the Gallops by Stock Road. Left to its own devices, the area would fall prey to the advance of trees and shrubs, so some limited clearing was commenced to encourage the regeneration of heather and gorse. Volunteers put in many hours work clearing the

⁴⁰ See also Appendix 9 School worship

⁴¹ See also Chapter 14 – the chapel is now closed



pond in the woodland near the racecourse whilst others cleared overhanging trees from some of the bog areas. Responding to the public mood for the protection of things natural, the Borough Council adopted a controlled mowing schedule to allow wildflowers to develop in some of the grassland.

Changing patterns of life will no doubt put pressure on this open space but the Common seems set to continue as a valuable amenity and area of natural beauty for the Parish of Galleywood.

The Galleywood Carnival continues to be a popular annual event since it was first held in July 1978 following the successful Fete organised for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in June 1977. A field at Wood Farm in close proximity to the Common was generously made available for the Carnival by Charles Cottey and is still the venue today by kind permission of his son, Douglas Cottey and family. The Carnival and Procession through Galleywood provides a very enjoyable afternoon of entertainment, interest, competition, fun and fund raising for charity with a most colourful Flower Show organised by the Galleywood Horticultural Society. The Tug-of-War 'Marvens' Challenge Shield first competed for in 1923 has been a highlight of the Galleywood Carnival since 1979⁴².

Galleywood now proudly displays a beautiful Village Sign near the Library in the shopping precinct. Specially commissioned by the Galleywood Parish Council in 1990 it is double sided and engraved in wood featuring Galleywood Common in its heyday with racehorses and jockeys in brilliant colours, the Keene Hall and the spire of St. Michael's Church seen as a landmark for miles around.

GALLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL - 1987 – 1991



By courtesy of Leslie Brand

*Left to right - back row: Councillors J. Wyatt, G. Allen, E. Hawkins, I. Gray, D. Stevenson.
Front row: Councillor R. Thorne, Clerk to the Council, Mrs D. Raybould,
Councillors K. Liley (Chairman), M. Grimwade, R. Harman (Vice Chairman).*

The Keene Hall continues to be in considerable demand by village organisations, associations and by parishioners and others for all kinds of functions. Last year (1992) the tiled roof was completely

⁴² The trophy is now in the main room of The Keene Hall



renovated. The gardens surrounding the Keene Hall and Twitten Green, the open space between The Street and Ponds Road, are very attractively maintained. With thanks to all the community-minded people in the village, Galleywood received the Award of Highly Commended in 1991 in the Best Kept Village competition organised by the Rural Community Council of Essex.

The Galleywood Women's Institute and the Galleywood Evening Townswomen's Guild continue to play a very active role in the village. They hold regular monthly meetings in the Keene Hall with speakers on a wide variety of topics and always give full and enthusiastic support to community events in Galleywood. In 1988 Galleywood's Darby and Joan Club for senior citizens celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a special Birthday Lunch. On that occasion the celebration cake was cut by the oldest member, Mrs. Ethel Hindes, who two years later reached her century.

Galleywood Community Care Association was formed in 1978 to serve the folk in Galleywood who find themselves in need of short-term neighbourly help. It is an entirely voluntary organisation of willing helpers from the village who act as 'good neighbours' in providing all kinds of temporary practical assistance in cases of ill-health, disability, age or convalescence. The Rev. Allen Willett, the then Vicar of Galleywood, was a prime mover in setting up this service. In 1989 the Association opened a 'coffee shop' in the lounge of Bekeswell Place, Barnard Road, for the elderly residents living there and for others who might wish to call in for a break and a chat whilst passing or shopping⁴³.

Galleywood has a flourishing Art Club, formed in 1987, which meets weekly in the Vicarage Hall, Beehive Lane with 50 full members and 50 associate members. Although the Galleywood Art Club seeks to encourage art for pleasure the work produced is of excellent quality covering all media including oils, watercolour, pastels and acrylics and is highly regarded in the village. Art Exhibitions and Craft Fayres are frequently held by the Club attracting a large following and considerable sums of money have been raised for charitable purposes from the sale of its paintings. The Chairman, Ray Fullerton, has been the driving force in setting up and running this very successful Club.

Galley Hall, the sixteenth century building, was demolished in the mid 1970's to make way for an attractive development of over 100 houses built by Countryside Properties Limited. The development is called Galleywood Paddocks and stands between Ponds Road and Galleywood Common. It received a number of design awards at the time. On the other hand, the sixteenth century Seabrights Barn, which had fallen into disrepair over the years, was imaginatively converted into a large family inn and restaurant retaining its very attractive beams and features.

After a great deal of local opposition, the route of Chelmsford's A12 southern by-pass runs through the bottom of Galleywood Common and other outlying areas of southern Galleywood. Although an infringement of the rural nature of the village it does afford a quick and convenient access to both London and the coast.

No tears were shed when the unsightly blocks of flats built in the 1960's at Homestead off Barnard Road were demolished during 1990. They were a typical example of the much-criticised system-style flats built at that time using huge prefabricated concrete blocks. The flats and houses which have taken their place are pleasantly designed in traditional brick.

In 1987, the 1st Galleywood Scout Group celebrated 60 years of scouting in Galleywood. From humble beginnings in 1927, the Scout Hut in Jubilee Park, specially built in 1973 and since extended twice, houses one of the largest scout groups in the district with 130 young people - 22 Scouts, 60 Cubs and

⁴³ This is now discontinued



48 Beavers (boys of 6-8 years). The Scouts aims to encourage the physical, mental and spiritual development of the young and help them to take a responsible place in society - their activities have now been extended to include canoeing, abseiling, climbing and archery. The 1st Galleywood Guide Company also holds its meetings in the Scout Hut which helps to foster links with the scouting movement. Under the present leadership the membership of the Guides has rocketed from a low of 8 in 1989 to 33 today and a close relationship has been formed with the 2 local brownie packs.

St. Michael's Church of England Junior School and the Galleywood County Infants School at the same site in Barnard Road work in close liaison with each other and enjoy a very good reputation. Attendance at these schools reached a peak of around 700 in the mid-1970's with an array of relocatable classrooms but has steadily reduced since to around 440 in 1992 mainly due to the slowing down of development in Galleywood.

Both schools benefit from very active and supportive Parent Associations. Thriftwood School, situated at the junction of Beehive Lane and Slades Lane, was opened as a purpose-built special school in 1975 for children with moderate learning difficulties who come from a wide area to the south and east of Chelmsford. At present there are 126 pupils aged 4 to 16 on the roll. Links have been established with the local community by entertaining the elderly residents at Cottey House and participating in the annual Education Sunday service alongside the Junior and Infants Schools at St. Michael's Church. The pupils at Thriftwood School are encouraged to take an interest in their very pleasant local environment and to maintain a high standard of behaviour and respect for others, both in and out of school.

The Galleywood Short Mat Bowls has been a remarkable success story. Early in 1989 the Galleywood Parish Council organised and sponsored an afternoon demonstration of Short Mat Bowls in the Keene Hall. On that same afternoon the 20 villagers attending the demonstration immediately agreed to form the Galleywood Short Mat Bowls Club and proceeded to elect its first officers. The first club night was held at the beginning of May 1989 in the Galleywood County Infants School and within three weeks there was a waiting list for membership. The purchase of the mats, bowls and other equipment was made possible with the help of interest free loans from the Galleywood Parish Council and from club members and these loans were repaid by the Club at the end of its first year. The Club now meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings each week in the School and on Wednesday afternoons in the Keene Hall as well as on most Mondays for matches and competitions. Two teams have been entered in the local leagues and the Club is affiliated to both the Essex and the English Short Mat Bowls Associations.

Broadly speaking, most of the 6,500 people in the civil parish of Galleywood live in a fairly built-up envelope of land within or adjacent to the following - Pipers Tye down along Brook Lane as far as Bride Way back to Rignals Lane, along Lower Green to Ponds Road, then Stock Road to Beehive Lane, down Skinners Lane, Keene Way and Walters Close and then along Watchouse Road back to Pipers Tye. This area is approximately one third of the civil Parish of Galleywood and the remainder comprises Galleywood Common, Chelmer Park, Jubilee Park and other land predominantly within the Green Belt area and currently subject to an overriding constraint on development.

In order to make the countryside more available to the public, especially those with disabilities and the elderly, a small area of land was chosen in 1990 as a Country Promenade. This is located in an area off Brook Lane where a seat has been installed with a small parking area. It commands beautiful views over the southern part of Galleywood and the surrounding district and is the first of its kind in the Chelmsford area. The Country Promenade was made available by the Chelmsford Borough Council in consultation with the Galleywood Parish Council and with the kind cooperation of the local farmers.



Alongside the Country Promenade the Galleywood Parish Council managed to purchase a piece of ancient woodland called The Spinney comprising about two thirds of an acre. This woodland is surrounded by arable land and an orchard. The native trees are roughly 50 to 100 years of age and comprise oak, ash and hornbeam. There is a wild service tree growing on the east edge of the pond within the woodland and other trees and shrubs include field maple, elm, hazel, elder, dogwood, holly, hawthorn and blackthorn. Paths have been constructed through the woodland specially designed to assist people in wheelchairs, the ambulant disabled, elderly people and parents with children in pushchairs. A long 'dipping platform' is being built by the side of the pond for children who wish to learn more about pond life.

The Galleywood Branch of the Royal British Legion celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a Golden Jubilee Dinner and Dance at the Keene Hall on 19th September 1987. Between 1921 when the Royal British Legion was formed until 1937 Galleywood was a sub-section of the Chelmsford Branch. Although the membership of ex-service men and women is now only 57 it nevertheless continues to play an active role especially in the Poppy Day Appeal and in the Remembrance Day Parade and Service at St. Michael's Church. The Galleywood Branch has recently installed a Roll of Honour in the Headquarters Room in The Street, Galleywood in memory of the Galleywood men who died in the Two World Wars and a short service of dedication was held in October 1992⁴⁴.

In the 1980's local communities all over the country were encouraged by the police to become involved in crime prevention by forming neighbourhood watch schemes to help counteract local crime and protect properties against vandalism and burglary. Large numbers of local people attended a public meeting in 1988 convened by the Galleywood Parish Council in liaison with the police when a Galleywood neighbourhood watch scheme was set up on a village basis. With numerous street co-ordinators covering a large number of properties in Galleywood it operates very successfully through a village co-ordinator.

About 12 years ago Carlton Farm, in Beehive Lane, changed over from cattle and pigs to horses and the farm is now run as a riding school and a livery yard. Covering thirty acres of land, the Carlton Equestrian centre is very well equipped and conveniently situated for these activities. Over the past three years the partners managing the Centre have improved the standards and facilities and with a better qualified staff offer more services to the horse riding fraternity - it is open for inspection at any time by the British Horse Society and the Association of British Riding Schools. Horse riding as a leisure pursuit is on the increase and, as well as offering riding lessons, clients are educated in horse care and management, riding on the roads and on the rules of the countryside as they apply to horse riders. A recent survey in 1990 estimated that at least 200 horses were kept within a mile radius of Galleywood. Currently horse-riding lessons are given to about 200 adults and children, with some of the children as young as three years of age. The Carlton Equestrian Centre maintains that there is probably no better way to enjoy the local countryside than from the back of a horse!

During the past 20 years more farms in Galleywood have amalgamated. One of the oldest farming families in Galleywood are the Howards who have been at Parklands Farm, Lower Green for just over 100 years. For the last few years Ken and Madeleine Howard and their family have given local people, especially young children, a great deal of pleasure by having an open day at the farm to view the flock of about two hundred sheep with their newly-born lambs in the big lambing shed.

⁴⁴ Also see Appendix 5 - The Royal British Legion



Over the next 20 years into the twenty-first century we may see many changes in our way of life, but it seems likely that Galleywood will continue to be a very pleasant village in which to live.

The Second Edition published by the Galleywood Parish Council – 1993



PART 3. David Stacy and Ken Edwards - 2023

CHAPTER 14 - THE VILLAGE MOVES INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

In the final months of 1999 concern grew into panic that the Millennium bug was going to cause computers to malfunction and potentially endanger everything from tills to power stations, but in the event these fears failed to materialize. The 21st century marked the beginning of the digital age and computers were becoming a familiar sight in most homes. The growth of broadband meant that connection to the internet could be made whilst using the telephone at the same time. Initially very expensive; the price was gradually reduced by competition. Formal letters were still in use but Email had become the communication of choice. Telephone messages sent using the text facility allowed more detailed communication without the need for sender and recipient to be present at the same time. The traditional telephone landline was being replaced by the mobile 'phone which soon acquired the now essential camera facility. Such was the ease with which this device enabled the taking of self-portraits that a new word entered the vernacular – 'selfie'. A great deal of shopping was now being carried out 'online' enabling the buyer to conduct the transaction from the comfort of their home. Technology was beginning to advance with ever-increasing speed. Many new cars were now equipped with the ability to move into a parking-slot with minimum help from the driver and the growing threat of air pollution was encouraging the makers of petrol and diesel engines to turn to electricity.

Pupils at Galleywood Infants School and St Michael's Junior School made their contribution to the Millennium celebrations by making a CD called 'Galleywood 2000'. More than 100 pupils performed songs and as well as featuring tracks from the two schools. The CD includes contributions from Jubilee Park Pre-School, St Michael's Church, Galleywood Methodist Church and Rainbow Pre-School.

In 1998 the Galleywood Historical Society was formed. Its aim was to promote interest in the history of Galleywood, its surrounding areas and related subjects. Membership is open to anyone whether resident or not upon payment of a membership fee. An annual programme of talks, usually four, by both invited speakers and members is held and a newsletter, '*Past Times*', is published quarterly with articles of local historical interest contributed mainly by members.

Several other groups are active in the community. The National Federation of Women's Institutes has a local branch which holds meetings in Keene Hall as do the Art Club and Horticultural Society. Both these hold an annual show. Paintings by members are displayed for sale and vegetables grown to immaculate standards never fail to bring admiring comments from humble gardeners. The village has no shortage of opportunities for social meetings for those who perhaps live on their own or may not belong to an organized club. On the second Friday of each month the Good Neighbours scheme, supported by the Parish Council, offers a cup of tea (or coffee) at The Keene Hall with a biscuit and 'the chance to chat'. Inform Galleywood is sponsored by St Michel's Church as a stepping stone between the public and Citizens' Advice Bureau.

Every household is kept fully informed about events happening in the village when they receive their copy of *Galleywood Grapevine*; the community magazine issued by the Parish Council. The contact details of every local organization are included along with a calendar of their meeting times.

In 1994 the transformation of the near derelict Glenridge Cottages on The Common into a fully equipped Day Nursery had been completed and this new venture was opened by Councillor Janette Potter. Sue Mann and her partner Avis Richardson tackled this daunting task with a dedicated and



professional approach and the fact that their establishment met the exacting standards required by the Local Authority put the seal on their efforts. A grassed area with mature trees has been enclosed to provide a garden play space, and the cottage rooms are now bright with pastel colours and fully equipped to provide a warm secure environment for children from three months to school age. Children and babies are in the care of fully qualified Nursery Nurses and assistants and the entrance, on the west side of the site, allows cars to pick up and deposit children away from the road.

An addition to the housing stock of the village came with the construction of James Croft; a small cul-de-sac off Well Lane containing a small group of five-bedroom homes. In November 2017 pedestrian access to the Stables nursery was made considerably safer by the construction of a road-side footpath in Margaretting Road following pressure by the Galleywood Common Association. This group set up regular liaison meetings with the Parks Department of the Borough Council; leading to the formation of a Management Plan to oversee maintenance of the Common which became a Local Nature Reserve in 1993.

Seabrights Barn was a 700 year-old listed building in Galleywood Road. In order to convert this imposing structure into a restaurant it was virtually rebuilt. All the oak cladding was removed to expose the main framework and the clay roof tiles were taken off and carefully stored in neat piles in the corner of the field. At this point the project encountered a major set-back. After only two days, this valuable heap of priceless tiles had been stolen. Replacements had to be obtained to complete the project which included an annexe extended to the rear. A large car park at the front helped to establish it as a popular venue. When a further refurbishment took place in 2016 it was re-named Great Baddow Barn⁴⁵. A short cul-de-sac of six homes off Galleywood Road acknowledged their view with the name Barn Mead.

In 2003 a small working group was formed to consider the preparation of a Village Design Statement. This document would describe the physical qualities and characteristics of the village and the values these have for local people. The aim was for the Statement to be eventually linked with the formal planning system and to influence future planning decisions. In 2004 Galleywood was awarded the Petre Trophy for Essex Best Kept Village.⁴⁶

In August 2006 the village adopted the Greening Galleywood Project. It was introduced by Cllr John Turkentine who gave a presentation to parishioners at the Keene Hall. This initial three year project "placing wildlife in the heart of a parish" received £25,000 in July 2006 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to train volunteers in a variety of natural history, environmental and traditional rural craft skills enabling them to undertake the surveying of some twenty identified key sites within the Parish and to establish biodiversity improvements, document and publish the results of the project and formulate a 10 year sustainability management plan to last into 2019. The training workshops run by various experts covered a diverse range of flora and fauna – reptiles, bats, hedge-rows, fungi, pruning apple trees, coppicing Hornbeam, identifying wildflowers and trapping small mammals. Galleywood Parish Council is supporting the plan beyond 2019 and the detail of this interesting project is displayed in their production of the Parish Footpaths Map.

The original presentation plotted the progress of this unique project and from its inception, prompted by an impromptu walk around the Parish by the late Bernard Cooper, Cllr John Turkentine and Essex Wildlife co-ordinator Claire Cadman, who recognised that Galleywood parish has an abundance of wildlife and the enthusiasm within the parishioners, to ensure that this heritage could be sustained

⁴⁵ Currently part of the Hungry Horse restaurant chain

⁴⁶ In 2019 Galleywood was awarded winner of Class I RCCE Essex Village of the Year competition



and improved for future generations to enjoy. John explained that all of the key sites had to be accessible to the public i.e. adjacent to a highway or public right of way highway or public right of way (footpath) and also have the permission of the land owner. The resulting 14 key sites adopted for the project are on land owned by - Parklands Farm, Galleywood Parish Council, Chelmsford Borough Council, St Michael and All Angels, Galleywood Infants School and St Michael's Junior School. Without the significant support of volunteer parishioners, students of Thriftwood, Galleywood Infants School and St Michael's Junior School, parties of international Scouts attending the 2007 Centenary Jamboree at Hylands, Galleywood Rights of Way (GRoW), Great Baddow and Galleywood Environmental Group, The Princes Trust, Tony Rouy and his intrepid band of 'Twitchers' and the Mormons, this project could not have been completed. Eight interpretation boards have already been sited at the major key sites, and all 14 are mapped on an information board now in the grounds of Galleywood Heritage Centre.

Thriftwood School in Slades Lane caters for children with moderate learning difficulties. They maintain a close contact with the outside business community and encourage students to develop contacts beyond the school environment. The friendly atmosphere is enhanced with frequent opportunities to work out of doors.

The Parish staged its first exhibition in May 1996 at the Keene Hall. A steady procession of visitors passed through the Lodge Room and on into the main hall when the show opened at 2.00 pm. With every available space filled with exhibits, a small marquee was put up outside the kitchen to serve refreshments. During the afternoon, the Youth Service formally presented the Parish with the old village pump which had recently been discovered on their premises which was the Old School. Vice - chairman Gordon Cameron in accepting the gift said he hoped that a suitable place would be found for the pump to be permanently on display. The pump is now in the grounds of The Keene Hall. The colourful displays set out by local organisations attracted considerable interest and many reported increased support for their activities. A star attraction was Ron White's display of photos of old Galleywood which the Parish Council acquired and is now held at Essex Record Office with copies and index at Galleywood Heritage Centre.

The Galleywood Carnival Association recently called a public meeting at the British Legion Hall to decide the future of the event. The carnival had been abandoned after 1992 due to shortage of people willing to help with the organisation. This apathy was still evident when, apart from the president, John Smee and committee member Bill Vicker, only six people turned up for this meeting. Bill Vicker said 'The association will cease to exist on December 31. Rather than let things drift on and on it means in the future another group could take up the name and start again if the interest is there.'

In 2012 the first village Festival was held with celebrations on Galleywood Common. Gardens were open to visitors; the school put on a musical concert; talks and shows by local societies; barbecues and a celebration service at the church which ensured that from 2014 there was an annual repeat of this popular event. As part of the 2015 Festival A Galleywood Cantata, composed by Eric Withams, was performed by pupils of St Michael's school on 11th June in St Michaels church.

In April 2012 a Village Plan was produced after a detailed survey of all residents along with additional research amongst schools, shops and businesses. It was adopted by the Parish Council which declared it to be a platform for future improvements in the Parish. Space does not allow the full detail of this wide-ranging report to appear here but this may be seen on the Parish Council website. The general conclusion that may be drawn from the responses to the research was that Galleywood was a good place to live.

The congregation at St Michaels had, for many years, been divided into two worship centres – one at the nineteenth-century church on The Common and the other at the more modern building;



consecrated for worship but housing St Michaels' school in Barnard Road. Joint services were held from time to time but attendance numbers were falling. The largely elderly congregation could not sustain children's work without volunteers from outside and the much-loved pastor at the school had left for a new post. Some younger members of the congregation had started to think aloud about organizational change, so at the beginning of 2010 the church began '40 days of discernment.' and so; at Pentecost 2010; the two churches were merged into one. The result was positive in numerical terms and also for releasing energy for mission.

During 2015 a major rearrangement of the interior of St Michaels was undertaken. The organ, then sited in the North Transept, was dismantled, taken away and put into storage. The space thus created was formed into a room by the construction of a glazed screen with an entrance door. The enclosure was completed with a wooden screen with a fine representation of the Tree of Life carved by Sawston Joinery, facing the chancel. This room was fitted with a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities. A short flight of stairs now leads to a small further upper room; all providing much needed space to accommodate young people.

A new site for the organ was then constructed at the West end. The glazed screen built in 1955 in memory of Miss Helen Godwin to separate the ground floor of the Tower Room from the nave was moved forward and a mezzanine floor projected out into the nave. The enlarged ground floor room, now used by young people during service, is named the Martin Room acknowledging the work of Derek Martin who represented the church council throughout the re-building.

In 2017, The Revd. Andy Griffiths, by now a Canon, completed eleven years as vicar of St Michaels and his charismatic style endeared him to the congregation. At one of his sermons he preached on the parable of The Talents and followed this by giving sealed envelopes to all. An anonymous donor had provided £1000 in cash and recipients found amounts varying from £5 to £50 with the challenge that they follow the example of the 'good and faithful servant' and grow the money. He was proud of the fact that St Michaels became, what he was fond of describing as, a 'ssh'- free church which put no restraints on the playful – and sometimes noisy - antics of toddlers and young children. He was assisted by his curate Gemma Fraser who was eventually ordained as a full vicar. As Andy leaves to take up a post at the Chelmsford Diocese training new clergy, St Michaels enters its interregnum and the Parochial Church Council sets about preparing a profile to present to prospective candidates. (*Later note – The Revd. David Cattle has taken up this role since October 2018*).

So you have glimpsed Galleywood and how it changes and this is also true of St Michael's Church. The building looks like an immovable object but, as with all things, it is constantly changing. Throughout the Covid pandemic, we came to understand much more deeply that the church is not the building, it's the people, the worshipping congregation and the wider links with the local community. In 2022 we launched a new logo and strapline, 'The Church on the Hill' and we wrote a 'we are' statement that sets out our core thinking about who we are.

We are a friendly, joyful and relaxed Church where anyone can find a home, worshipping on the hill in the beautiful setting of Galleywood Common. Just as our spire is visible for miles around, we seek to be a sign of hope for all people by proclaiming God's love, sharing the good news about Jesus Christ, and drawing people to faith in him. As disciples of Jesus, we learn from the Bible, and we recognise the need for God's Holy Spirit to transform our lives. Following the example of Jesus, and strengthened by God, we serve our village and the wider world through love, prayer and action.



This year in 2023, we celebrate our 150th anniversary in September. Our Church building was consecrated on the festival of St Michael and All Angels, sometimes called Michaelmas, 29th September 1873. We have a series of events planned between Sunday 24th September and Sunday 1st October, including a concert by the Southend Boys and Girls choir, a cabaret

featuring home grown talent, an art evening with Colin Steed, a walk around the Parish boundary, a special 3-hour peal of bells by Essex Association of Ringers, a treasure hunt for children, and a special service with Bishop Guli at which she will bless our new cross at the crossroads! It will be a very special week of celebration for the life of our Church, and a renewal of our commitment to be faithful to God. *Anne Pepper, Churchwarden and Sexton of St Michael's Church, Galleywood*

The Church of England has traditionally had a close association with the Methodists and from time to time St Michaels held joint services at the Chapel in Well Lane. Over recent years the congregation there had dwindled with many choosing to attend the larger Methodist church behind the shops in Gloucester Avenue. So in 2012 a final service was held and the chapel closed after 152 years in Well Lane.

The grandstand overlooking the old race course on The Common had stood derelict since racing ended in 1935 and its use as a Borough Council Depot had ended until the Parish Council decided to put this iconic building to some practical use. A working group was formed and an ambitious renovation started to create what was to become the Galleywood Heritage Centre. The opening ceremony was performed by the mayor, Tony Sach in 2009 and Lord Petre, Lord Lieutenant of Essex was in attendance. The main interior is a large meeting room with storage for chairs and direct access to a fully-equipped kitchen. This was named The Horseshoe Tea Room and serves snacks for consumption either inside or on the outside terrace.

A smaller room off the main hall held extensive records and photos of local history and was later named the Ted Hawkins Heritage Room to commemorate the considerable contribution Ted made to the village, notably through the Parish Council and Historical Society coupled with an extensive knowledge of the racecourse and 'Golden Miller', the most famous horse to run there.

A separate building in the grounds, now named The Common Room, is also available for hire along with a marquee which is erected in the garden during summer months. The whole complex is managed by a Board of Trustees and generates a healthy income from hiring the many rooms.

In 2017 a listening bench was installed in the garden. This project is sponsored by the Essex Record Office Sound and Video Archive in partnership with Galleywood Historical Society and The Heritage Centre. People seated on the bench are able to press a button and hear several audio clips of historical interest made by people who remember the village in days past. Further recorded interviews with local residents and others, conducted by the Historical Society as part of their Oral History project, are available at the Ted Hawkins Heritage Room and the Essex Record Office.

The spectacular growth of the world-wide Internet has brought vast improvements in the way people are able to communicate and the residents of Galleywood have been eager to embrace this breath-taking technology. The village enters the 21st century with confidence and a continuing sense of community.



PHOTOGRAPHS, PICTURES and MAPS

Sources of all the photographs in the first edition (1973) were not given and they are assumed to have been obtained by Muriel Sanders from local contacts. The second edition (1993) only added one photograph, that of the Parish Council members.

Where the source is stated as 'Ron White Collection', these photographs appear in the Ron White Collection which is now held at Essex Record Office. Copies are available to view at the Ted Hawkins Heritage Room, Galleywood Heritage Centre when open. It has not been possible to trace the original photographer.

Page 2	Arthur Pryor 1816-1904	Source Ron White Collection
Page 7	St Michael and All Angels	Source unknown
Page 12	St Michael's C.E. Junior School	Source unknown
Page 14	Steeplechasing, Circa early 1920's	Source Ron White Collection
Page 19	Army Convoy through Galleywood 1914 – 1918	Source Ron White Collection
Page 22	Galleywood Flower Show, Circa 1925	Source Ron White Collection
Page 23	The Old Running Mare, Circa 1914	Source Ron White Collection
Page 24	Former Windmill in Ponds Road	Source Ron White Collection
Page 24	Former Windmill on the Common	Source Ron White Collection
Page 25	Old School and the Eagle Inn, Circa 1907	Source Ron White Collection
Page 33	Galleywood Parish Council 1987 – 1991	Quoted attribution to Leslie Brand, printed here with the permission of Galleywood Parish Council who appear to own copyright
Cover (front)	Galleywood Village Sign	The original artist is unknown
Cover (back)	Sketches of the Old Windmill on the Common, St Michaels over the fields and The Eagle Inn crossroads looking along Stock Road towards Chelmsford	The original artist of these is unknown
Map (Page 16)	Map of Galleywood showing the Civil and Ecclesiastical Parish boundaries	Quoted as courtesy of Barnett's Maps
Page 47	Royal British Legion Building June 2014	Source John Cummin
Page 47	Formal opening of the building 10 June 1961	Source unknown
Page 43		



APPENDICES

These Appendices give further detail about some of the references and provides the opportunity to update where the current position has changed.

1. Vicars of Galleywood
2. The Village name derivation
3. Galleywood Church bells
4. Allotments
5. The Royal British Legion
6. Parish Charities
7. Meaning of terms
8. Galleywood Racecourse
9. School Worship

1. Vicars of Galleywood (Page 8)

Rev Hirzel Carey de Lisle	1873 - 1907
Rev Edward Napleton Drew	1907 - 1917
Rev John Henry Keen	1917 - 1921
Rev Francis Arthur Roughton	1921 - 1958
Rev Edward Charles Lendon	1958 - 1968
Rev Allen Gardiner Willett	1968 - 1987
Rev Roger Wakely	1987 - 1996
Rev Stephen Bailey	1996 - 2004
Rev Andy Taylor Griffiths	2005 - 2017
Rev David James Cattle	2018 - to present

Source – Brian Pepper - September 2022.

2. The Village Name derivation (Page 3)

The following has been provided by Anthony McQuiggan

The earliest recording of the village is from 1250 in the Cotton charters now in the British Museum as "Gauelwode". The 1307 assize Rolls in the Essex records office (ERO) have it recorded as Gavelwod and in a grant of land on the 9th March 1328 as "Gavelwode" in "Gavelwodeestrete". "Gavelwood Hall" appears in a survey of land 1377-1616 again the ERO.

"Gavelwoodend" first appears in 1581 in a Survey of the Manor of Baddow and again in 1590 in Volume 1 of a Caleoar of records as "Gallowood ende". "Gall(e)wo(o)dend" appears again in 1633-35 in the Essex parish records for marriages. As late as 1834 property deeds in the ERO show "Galeood End" – at this time (1882) the population of the village was 817

There are references to the word Gavel in Medieval England in reference to a tribute or rent payment made with something other than cash. These agreements were set in English land-court with the sound of a "gavel," a word which may come from the Old English "gafol" (meaning "tribute"). "Gavel" would be prefixed to any non-monetary payment given to a lord (e.g., "gavel-



malt") – Hence Gavelwode (Galleywood) – payment of tax in wood. Gavelwoodend was probably the end of the wood or the boundary to it.

The location of Gavelwoodend is marked in some maps close to the Eagle crossroads when "Galley Wood" (two words) was to the East of Mill Hill and South of the present Heritage Centre on what is now "Wood Farm". Gavelwood Common and Gavelwood End are contemporary, together making Gavelwood (Galleywood). The position of Gavelwood End has moved East from the Common over the years as the village expanded and now appears in some maps around the position of the present Tye. It is not a place but a name for a location on the edge of the village (or the residential part of the village) that has moved over time with the map-makers pen I would suggest.

Other names that have disappeared include Gavel wood Hatch (1617), Gavelwood Hall (1377), Gallod Common (1590), Gavelwood Croft (1776), Galwood He(a)th (1834) and Gavelwood Reden (1617)

3. Galleywood Church Bells (Various Pages)

The bells were cast by Warners of London. The tenor bell weighs nearly three quarters of a ton (744kg). In 1926 the bells were rehung on ball bearings, the bell frame was strengthened and sallie guides were fitted. The work was carried out by Day & Son of Eye, Suffolk at a cost of £147. (*Source The Story of St Michaels (August 2016)*)

The following has been provided by Rosa Moles (known as Christine or Chris):

The peal rung for the centenary of the church on 22nd September 1973 was 5088 changes of Galleywood Surprise Major.

As part of the Centenary celebrations the ground floor ring was moved up a floor to provide a vestry beneath in late 1978 (delays due to planning and lack of funds). This space was refurbished and renamed The Martin Room in 2018 when the glass screen was removed from the ringing chamber and the organ pipes placed in front of it.

On 30th October 1982 a peal was rung of Stedman Triples in 2 hours 37mins.

The new millennium was rung in by the local ringers at midnight on 31st December 1999.
On 21st October 2005 Galleywood ringers rang for the bicentenary of the battle of Trafalgar.
On 13th September 2018 The Ancient Society of College Youths rang a peal of 5040 changes of Double Norwich Court Bob Major in 2 hours 57mins.

As a culmination of a national campaign to recruit ringers the bells were rung at 12.30 for an hour on Remembrance Day 2018 to remember 1,400 bell ringers killed and commemorate the end of WWI.

The bells were lowered in March 2019 and remained silent during Covid restrictions, the belfry was inspected and the whole tower cleaned before resuming ringing practices in July 2021.
The bells rang out on 6th February for the 70 years from the Ascension of Queen Elizabeth to the throne and again on 2nd June for her Platinum Jubilee Celebrations in 2022.

The steeple keepers have installed a simulator so that the bells remain silent when learners are being taught and cameras in the ringing chamber showing the bells actually ringing in the belfry at the top of the tower.



On Friday 9th September 2022 the tenor bell was tolled 96 times in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth 11 who had died the previous day. On Sunday 11th September 2022 the bells were rung open to commemorate the Proclamation of HM King Charles the Third.

4. Allotments (Page 29)

Chaplin Close allotments

I am indebted to Adrian Batsford, current Chairman of the Galleywood Cottage Garden Society for the following:

The original allotments were on Galleywood Common but after WWI a new permanent home was required. In 1920 Chelmsford Rural District Council bought land in what later became Chaplin Close from Walter Slipper, partner in a Chelmsford firm of auctioneers in Duke Street. A public meeting was held in the School Room to allow parishioners wanting to take up allotments to register their wishes. Those in favour of locating to this new site formed the Cottage Garden Society and the land was purchased from the Council. Those who did not wish to move formed another group which has evolved into the current Galleywood Horticultural Society.

The following is an extract from Past Times no 9 (Feb 2005) written by David Stacy

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.

Glebeland Allotments

Perhaps surprisingly the original edition made no mention of the Glebeland Allotments close to the church itself. The land which had been grassed for many years and maintained by local farmer Charles Cottey saw occasional use by the school then just across the road for games and later as an area for the boys to learn about growing things. This ceased in 1967 when the school moved to Barnard Road and reverted to grassland. Around 1970 as the Chaplin Close allotments became full, churchwarden David Cook took the lead in arranging for the area to be converted into 20 allotments. Now owned by the Diocese of Chelmsford and managed by Strutt and Parker they provide additional allotment land for those who wish to grow their own.



5. The Royal British Legion – Galleywood Branch (Pages 17, 18)

From Past Times no 46 (June 2014)



Courtesy of John Cummin

This photograph of the Galleywood Social Club, which is situated on *The Street*, was kindly taken by John Cummin. However, most Galleywood residents would know it previously as the Headquarters of the Galleywood branch of the Royal British Legion.

The British Legion was formed on 15th May 1921 and the first 'Poppy Day Appeal' was launched in November of that year. The British Legion finally gained 'Royal' status in 1971. Originally Galleywood British Legion was just a sub-section of the Chelmsford branch that is until September 1937 when its membership was sufficient to warrant the formation of a separate branch; its members usually met in the Keene Hall or later the Old Grandstand. But by 1960 funds were raised to finance their own headquarters building on the corner of *The Street* and *Watchouse Road*. Many of the members undertook the necessary interior work to reduce the costs. The building was formally opened on 10th June 1961. Mrs Lavinia Keene who was always a firm and loyal supporter of the British Legion, was awarded life membership for her outstanding service to the branch.



The formal opening of the British Legion building – 10th June 1961.



Extensive alterations to the building were made in 1972 and on 24th March 1973 a special Headquarters Room was opened followed by a ceremonial march-past along *The Street* with the standard bearers and members in full regalia, which was witnessed by many Galleywood residents.

On 19th September 1987 a Dinner and Dance was held at the Keene Hall to celebrate the Branch's fiftieth anniversary, although by then the membership had fallen to fifty-seven. Five years later a Roll of Honour was unveiled in the Headquarters Room to remember all the local men who had died in the two World Wars. The Branch was awarded a Memorial Trophy for branch efficiency in 1992, 1997 and 2000. The building had now been split to form a Royal British Legion Club and a Residents Club. In 2004 because of a sharp fall in membership the Galleywood branch of the Royal British Legion closed and the building then became known as the Galleywood Social Club.

Although this building is just fifty-three years old with no particular architectural merit, it is as much part of the history of the village as the other older and more attractive buildings in the parish.

I am indebted to Major David Swann, Essex Chairman, The Royal British Legion for the following: Following falling membership numbers in Galleywood and a joint meeting of the Galleywood and Chelmsford branches on 18th March 2002, all Galleywood members transferred to the Chelmsford branch on 2nd June 2002 with the Galleywood branch closing. Since then, the building, which had for some years been shared with a Residents Club has been exclusively Galleywood Social Club with no direct links to the Legion beyond it retaining ownership of the land and building. The standards of the former Galleywood section are now laid up in St Michaels church'

Within the Social Club building two mementos of Legion occupation remain:

- to the right of the bar area is a brass plaque commemorating the completion of the building by volunteers in April 1961
- in the entrance above the door to the main area is the roll of honour for the fallen in the two World Wars

6. Parish Charities (Pages 21, 22)

As stated in the footnote to Chapter 9 Parish Charities it has proved difficult to track the current position with many of these charities. It appears likely that some have been subsumed into a more general Vicars Hardship Fund to be distributed at the discretion of the vicar.

The Keene Memorial Homes charity is still in existence and more can be found at www.keenehomes.org.uk where there is also a brief history.

The Markland Barnard Fund is now very recently devoted to buying bibles for children at St Michaels Junior school. These stay with the school until the pupil leaves when they are passed to them as a gift.

From Past Times 79 (Oct 2022)

Marshall, Straight and Trundle Bread Fund – Tommy Bread

Whilst undertaking the oral history interviews a few years ago one of the subjects that came up was 'Tommy Bread' which was referred to as bread given away free locally to the poor. Collection points of The Keene Hall and school were mentioned with '*Rita collecting a large bloomer and a small tin loaf for her family of 5 and also collecting a loaf for Granny Green who lived in Copdock Cottages*'.



Glimpses of Galleywood by Muriel Sanders first published in 1973 refers to Galleywood having a share with Great Baddow in the Marshall Straight and Trundle Bread Fund although a search at the Charities Commission recently shows only a Marshall Straight Charity with no information currently available, suggesting it had been wound up some time ago.

The Chelmsford Chronicle of 22nd December 1950 carries an article as follows:

Housewives queue for free bread

HOUSEWIVES crowded to the Parish Hall, the Mission Room, and the Keene Hall, Galleywood to receive freshly baked loaves —free St. Thomas' bread —this week. Each member of every family in Baddow is allowed one small loaf. The bread is provided under an old charity. In 1823 Marshall Straight left to the parish £276 10s. 10d three per cent Consols, in trust, for the provision of bread among the most deserving poor, to be distributed on St. Thomas' Day, Dec. 21, each year. Nowadays, anyone can collect bread. About 100 loaves, large and small, are distributed from each centre, but in the old days when bread was cheaper there were more than double that number. All the loaves have usually been collected within an hour. They are distributed by trustees of the fund.

An earlier Chronicle article on 1st February 1839 provides more background to the charity behind this.

Straight's Charity. Marshall Straight, by his Will, dated the May, 1822. bequeathed unto the rector and churchwardens of this parish £250 upon trust, to invest it in the Three per Cent. Consols, and to apply the dividends in the purchase of bread of good quality, to distributed in moieties on the 25th March and 21st December in every year, among such of the most deserving poor persons of the parish as in their discretion should seem proper. This sum of £250 was invested in the purchase of £276. 10s. 10d. Three per Cent. Consols, now standing in the names of the Rev. John Bramston and Charles Milburn. The yearly dividends, amounting to £8. 5s. 10d. are received by Mr. Bramston, and expended in the purchase of bread, which is distributed on the 21st of December to all the poor of the parish, whether receiving relief or not, in shares varying according to the size of their families, half-quartern loaf being given to each individual in family. We recommended that the distribution should be in future confined to the deserving poor.*

* Consols are a form of British Government debt first introduced in 1751 at 3.5% and have been in circulation ever since, although interest rates have varied. In 2015, the British government decided to redeem all Consols in circulation. As a safe investment it was well suited to roles where a reliable and regular income could be secured.

The name 'Tommy' appears to come from a link to the feast day of St Thomas the Apostle. This is traditionally on 21st December and was a day that saw the poor go round asking for money and food, including going door to door round the more well off in the parish. This was known as 'Thomassing' or going 'agooding'.

The date is however not as fixed as it seems as while most Christians celebrate it on this particular date, the date varies across the world amid different sects. Historically, St Thomas Day was widely observed on December 21 dating back to the day the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle was established in the 12th Century. However in 1969 the date was moved by the Roman Catholic Church to 3rd July. The Greek Orthodox Church celebrates the saint's feast on October 6th. However, most Anglicans, keeping up with the traditions of the past, still celebrate the day on the Winter solstice of December 21st.



Certainly the free distribution of bread to the needy makes more sense in December than in the summer when other home produce might be more readily be available.

I am indebted to Susan Wilson for finding the two Essex Chronicle articles

7. Meaning of terms (Page 27)

Pightyle – a small enclosure of land, a paddock

Ha-ha - A ha-ha also known as a sunk fence, blind fence, ditch and fence, deer wall, or foss, is a recessed landscape design element that creates a vertical barrier often between a lawn in front of a house and land usually occupied by animals such as sheep. This prevents the animals encroaching on the lawn whilst retaining the view.

Cornstooks – an arrangement of cut grain stalks into a sheave that keeps the heads off the ground. These stooks were often seen in fields as grain was harvested allowing it to dry before threshing.

Hurdy-gurdy – a string instrument that produces sound by a hand-crank-turned, rosined wheel rubbing against the strings. Most hurdy-gurdies have multiple drone strings, which give a constant pitch accompaniment to the melody, resulting in a sound similar to that of bagpipes.

Sampler - A needlework sampler is a piece of embroidery or cross-stitching produced as a 'specimen of achievement', demonstration or a test of skill in needlework. It often includes the alphabet, figures, motifs, decorative borders and sometimes the name of the person who embroidered it and the date.

Box iron - a flatiron that is heated by inserting live coals or a piece of hot metal in its boxlike holder. Antimacassar - a piece of cloth put over the back of a chair to protect it from grease and dirt or as an ornament.

Tallyman - one who sells goods on the instalment plan and comes round to collect the regular payments. Often an unwelcome visitor when money was short.

8. Galleywood Racecourse (Pages 13-15)

I am indebted to David Dunford whose book Full Circle (March 2017 Essex Hundred Publications) charts the rise, fall and rise of horse racing in Chelmsford for the following:

Suggesting Charles II probably patronised the course implies he was a regular visitor. Although we know he often visited Newmarket I've seen no evidence that he ever came to Galleywood. I'd change 'probably' to 'possibly'. However, we do know that in 1814 the Duke of Wellington was among the spectators.

Galleywood was the only course in England to encircle a church but it's worth noting the church wasn't built until the early 1870s when racing was well established.

Until the 1840s the races were mainly local social gatherings. Unlike modern horse racing, gambling was of secondary importance since little information was available upon which to place a bet besides personal knowledge of horses and the appearance of the animal on the day. For that reason the carnival atmosphere of the meetings rather than the chance to bet on horses was the main attraction for the working classes. On race days the common resembled a fairground with numerous side-shows, boxing bouts, cock-fights and many booths selling alcohol. The entertainment went on long after the end of the last race. For the upper classes the races were primarily a social occasion and a wide range of social activities took place in Chelmsford in conjunction with them. These included theatrical performances, balls, dinners and breakfasts.



It's correct to say that in 1890 flat racing gave way to steeple chasing. However, I would dispute the assertion that Galleywood Races then 'became a great social occasion'. As noted above they were extremely popular in the early 1800s and the heyday of racing at Galleywood is generally held to be the 1860s. This was the period when Admiral Henry Rous, who was the senior steward of the Jockey Club, was appointed to oversee meetings. The admiral had his own private grandstand built on the course. During this period Galleywood was holding three meetings a year whereas the vast majority of courses were down to one or two.

Despite the conversion to steeple chasing, racing dwindled in the years before the First World War. During the war itself the grandstand was taken over for army billets and the common used as a training area. Twenty-five pounder guns were dug in opposite the grandstand as defence against Zeppelins

After the First World War racing again became popular, with thousands of spectators and special trains being laid on from London to Chelmsford. (I've never seen the suggestion anywhere that one meeting was held for the gentry and a second for ordinary people and I'm fairly sure this is wrong) The meetings were attracting top class horses, among them Golden Miller who went on to win the Cheltenham Gold Cup five times as well as the Grand National. However, the resurgence failed to last and the crowds dwindled. The final meeting was held in March 1935, although the course was then converted to pony racing which survived until the beginning of the Second World War.

I'm not sure where the line about a new grandstand being built in 1890 comes from ... a new stand was built in 1863 and another in the early 1920s - I've never seen a date of 1890.

9. School Worship (Page 32)

The following kindly provided by Rev David Cattle

St Michael's Church runs weekly assemblies in St Michael's Junior School, and also leads special services in school for local and national events, such as for the Platinum Jubilee and later death of Queen Elizabeth II. The school comes to Church for special services four times each year - Harvest, Christmas, Easter and at the end of the school year. The school choir also takes part in the annual Carol Service at the Church. Plus, the Church buys a Bible for every child at the school, which stays in school while they are pupils there, and which they then take home to keep when they leave the school. For Galleywood Infant School, the Church runs occasional assemblies and services, and the school comes to Church for Christmas and Easter services each year.



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