

The following extract appeared in the *Essex Chronicle* in June 1773. When much of today's communication is reduced to text-speak, this elegant language is a reminder of how far we have changed a couple of centuries later. For someone whose stock-in-trade was words, it seems appropriate that Mr Frost should find himself using five when only one would do.

Some Gentlemen and Ladies having intimated that the terms and subscription to C. Frost's Circulating Library are such that as do not entirely meet with their Approbation, and it being not only his Wish but incumbent upon him to grant every possible Satisfaction to those who have been so kind as to give him encouragement, he proposes, after Midsummer Day next, to charge as follows, viz. A quarterly subscription 3s.6d. A yearly Subscription 12s. Any single volume in his collection will be lent at 3d per week, or for 1d. per day. Such Gentlemen or Ladies who have any books in their possession belonging to C. Frost's Library are requested to return them before Midsummer Day next as Volumes, the want of which make Sets of Books incomplete have been kept a considerable time perhaps through some readers not recollecting to whom they belong; and it is hoped that after this Request none will think it unreasonable that they should be charged for such Sets of Books as are so made incomplete. Though the Number of Readers in the Country are not so considerable as in London, and consequently the Returns of a Library will not answer the purchasing all new publications, yet such as meet with the most general Esteem will be added to the present collection which already consists of above 1200 Volumes by the best Historical, Poetical and Novel Writers; Catalogues of which are delivered gratis at his shop, where may be had new books, Pamphlets, Magazines, Prints, Maps etc etc. at the London prices as soon as published; also Pens, Paper, Sealing Wax, Ink, Middleton's Fine Black Lead Pencils and all other Stationary Articles of the Best Kinds.

#### GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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# PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety

## A life remembered

*A familiar face at the groups working on improving the natural environment around Galleywood and also in Chelmsford is Stan Church.*

*With energy that belies his 92 years he has long had a passion for the countryside. We have persuaded him to share some of his memories.*



**M**Y EARLY DAYS were spent in North London. My father had a very large pub in Winchmore Hill called the *Green Dragon*. I have a picture showing the hitching rail in the front. My father died when I was five and my mother was left with myself and three younger than me and a family in their late teens. So in that situation in those days, the brewery would say 'you've got to find somewhere else to live' but because my mother had been a manageress in one of Lyons Corner houses in London before the first War she had catering experience and had held a licence. So she was quite an enterprising person and they let her keep the licence.

On a Saturday night she would get a concert party come down from London and perform in the big garden at the back and because there was nothing else to do, this became a big attraction and we had literally hundreds of people turn up. That was on the Saturday. On Sunday nothing happened and we went to church. My mother had the bright idea of buying one of the first radiograms and in the garden behind the house there were two Horse Chestnut trees and she put a loudspeaker in each of the trees and it was my job to put the records on so I'm claiming to be the first DJ. I hadn't got a microphone and our selection was pretty limited. If it rained we went inside to the skittle alley where there was a stage and we performed in there.

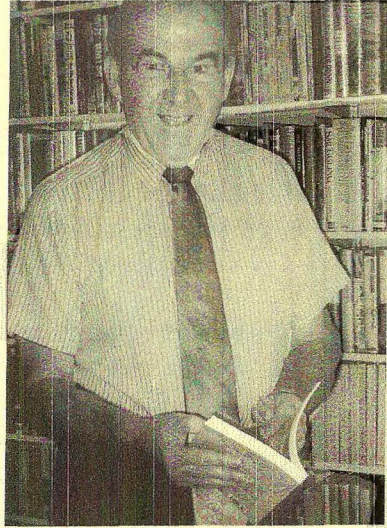
We later moved from the *Green Dragon* and she took the *Golden Fleece* at Brentwood. I was sixteen, my brother was a year younger than me and that was when we both started at Marconis. I spent 48 years with the firm and in that time I went to various parts of the

**Our next meeting**

# 'Gone for New England'

*A talk by Graham Smith*

LOCAL AUTHOR AND A MEMBER OF OUR COMMITTEE



GRAHAM'S TALK covers a part of the County's history and heritage which has been greatly and sadly neglected by previous historians and writers.

Even before the famous Mayflower journey, several Essex seamen were involved in the establishment of New England across 'the Pond'. It is reckoned that over 60% of the settlers to New England in the mid-17th century came from Essex, more than any other county.

The large number of Essex place-names in those American colonies today are evidence of this 'great migration' of Essex people. Five U.S. Presidents – George Washington, John and John Quincy Adams and the Bushs – all had an Essex ancestry. General Oglethorpe (the founder of Georgia) married an Essex lady and lived for the last 30 years of his life in Cranham, where he is buried. William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania, was brought up and educated in Essex. We will hear ample evidence of these American associations with Essex, and much more about the county's links with early America.

**Wednesday 15 September 2010  
Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm**

## DATES for your Diary

2010

17 Nov THE HISTORY OF CHELMSFORD HIGH STREET  
*Talk by Dot Bedenham*

Our Annual General Meeting will precede the talk

organisation including a couple of years in London in the head office.

I first came to Galleywood in 1947 when it was a small village. Any building that went on at the time was incorporated into the village, not just physically but socially. People joined in. On the Pym's road estate, quite a number of people that moved in there were relatives of people that already lived in the village. That's how that part of Galleywood got absorbed. Keene Way stood out as being a bit separate. But when they built Barnard Road that was almost a new village, but to a certain extent the new merged in with the old. The property that I'm living in now is the one I bought in 1947. I paid £400. I believe it had belonged to a Walter Chaplin and he sold it to a Mr King who had a motor business in Chelmsford and we bought it from them. A lot of work had to be done on it as it wasn't habitable as it was left. The property had gas and electricity but no main drainage. In those days, we had an Elsan in the garden but finally when main sewer was put into Well Lane I had an extension put on. Originally it was semi detached because there was another cottage next door and they were both one up and one down. I've heard that mine had a hay loft and a stable on the side of the house which then gave an extra room downstairs and another room upstairs. And when I had an extension built I had another bedroom, bathroom and toilet – a great day. Below that we had a kitchen. I knew many people in the village because I worked at Marconis at that time and there were several people in Galleywood that worked for the firm.

I used to play football for Marconi but when I came to Galleywood I started playing for Galleywood for several years. At the time the secretary was Mr Alf Lodge, a remarkable man in that he'd only got one leg – his other leg was wooden, but he rode a bike. He'd done a marvellous job since the end of the first world war so I decided that if he would like some relief I would take over the secretary's job. I did this for several years until times moved on and younger people came, but I still kept in touch and to this day I still go and watch them at Chelmer Park. I like to keep Saturdays for sport.

I have a daughter and a son and my son was born here in Galleywood. They both went to the school which is now the youth centre. My daughter later went to Sandon and my son went to the grammar school in Chelmsford. I was working for Marconis. At that time there quite a number of new people moving in after the second world war and I got to know a lot of people, particularly as my wife was going to the school with the children so she met other wives with their children.

One thing we had then which we no longer have is the fete Day. It used to be held in what is now Chaplins Close. There were stalls and the big event was the tug of war. This was the last event that the old whole village attended.

So life went on – I used to cycle to work at Marconis and I moved to several of the works and finished up at Writtle Road and I was working at the Radar Company at the end of my time. I kept busy, generally as we had relatives living away so I used to go visiting at weekends. My parents lived in Suffolk and I've got relative in Brentwood and around this area here. And then the war came.

*Stan continues his story in our next issue.*