

you still play the piano?. **RW** I don't play much now as I don't hear so well. **JB** What got you interested in photography? **RW** I first got interested when I was about 12 or 13. My sister had a Kodak box camera and I used to do her films. Then I got an old Ensign Selfix and that was my first camera. Later, I used to buy ex RAF film advertised in a photographic magazine. It was heavy quality film, 5 inches wide and I had to take it in the dark room and cut it down to ordinary size. After we came to Galleywood, George Cutting and I had a darkroom in the loft of his house in Well Lane and we used to develop and print pictures in there. **JB** When did you take the aerial photos? **RW** Around 1951. George and I went up in an aeroplane and I took my aerial photos of Galleywood and Chelmsford. That was before all the estates were built in the village. We were taken up from Southend by Neville Jones who used to live in one of the bungalows by the Chapel in Well Lane. Before I started the Galleywood collection I used to show films of my Canadian holidays. At Cromptons I was a metallagist and used to do Micro-Photography. **JB** Which houses do you most regret seeing pulled down? **RW** Well all of them really: Galley Hall, Galley Dene. I remember the Blue Lion and the riding stables. The little shed on the corner of Skinners Lane used to be a cobblers shop then Mr Johnson, the policeman, took it over and turned it into a fish and chip shop. I remember going into Galley Hall and seeing the priest hole they had in there by the chimney. There was a cottage in Rignals Lane, I think it was Rose Cottage, and the lady there used to take in washing, but I never managed to get a photo. **JB** I remember when you came to the Methodist chapel to give a show and you said it was going to be your last, so I put this on the posters and so many people came we could hardly get everyone in. **RW** Since then I've done shows in the Lodge Room, Keene Hall, The Social Club and the Church. **JB** Thank you Ron for adding another piece to the village history.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Ron White **Chairman** David Stacy **Vice Chairman** Colin Baddock
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Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor
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PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 10

MAY 2005

Ron's pictures are going digital

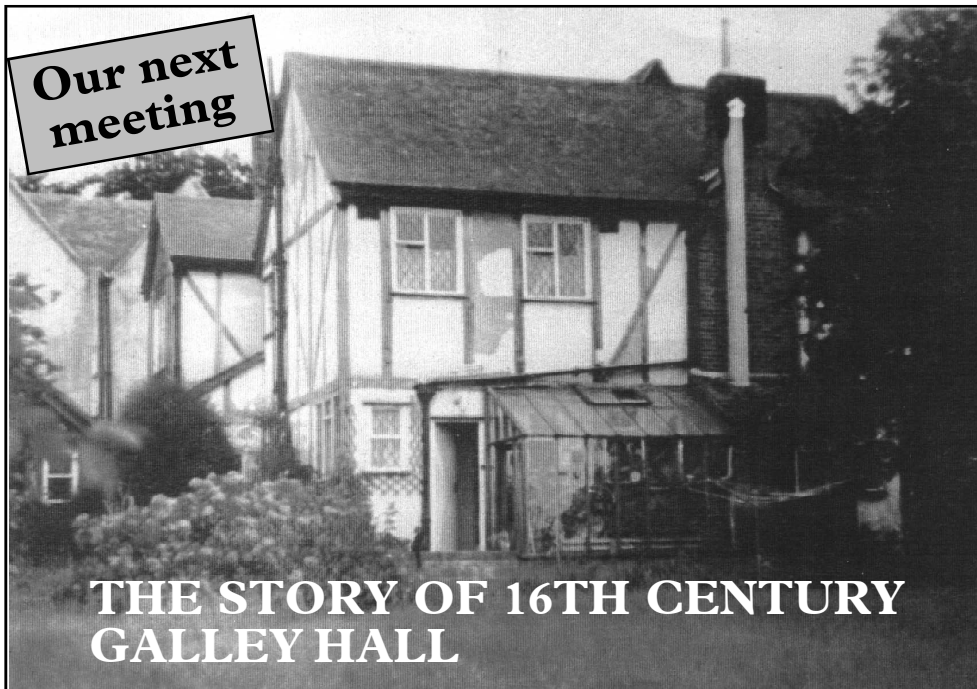
We think this picture may not be in the collection, so we are offering it to the Parish Council for inclusion in the archive.



THE Ron White Archive has been acquired by the Parish Council and the process of transferring it to digital computer format is nearing completion. The Council took advice from the Essex Record Office and other archiving agencies and the work is being carried out by *Slides2Disk* in Romford.

The 8 volumes of books containing photographs, annotated and supported by Ron's carefully hand printed notes have been scanned and recorded on to a series of CDs. A replica 8 volume set has been produced and Galleywood Parish Council plans to exhibit this to the public in the near future. The 1500 35 mm negatives have been scanned at high definition and recorded on to a set of DVDs, which will allow prints of non-copyrighted images to be produced on request at a nominal cost. Details of this service will be announced shortly. There remains the completion of the scanning of the 1100 slides and checking and validation of the accompanying index, for which additional volunteer support will be welcome.

If you are interested please contact the Clerk on **01245 268961** or the Chairman, John Turkentine on **01245 475263**.



An Elizabethan Farmhouse in Ponds Road
demolished in 1975
and the Galleywood Paddock Housing Development

**Talk by
TED HAWKINS**

**Wednesday 8 June 2005
Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm**

DATES for your Diary

- 21 Sept** THE HISTORY OF GALLEYWOOD CARNIVAL
Talk by Keith Lilley
Chairman Galleywood Parish Council 1987 – 1995
- 16 Nov** ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCHYARD AND THE
GALLEYWOOD BOUNDARY STONES
Talk by John Turkentine
Chairman Galleywood Parish Council

The Ron White Collection

Ron White has passed his collection of photos to the Parish Council and Jill Bellamy went to see him and ask how it all started.



Ron and Doris at their home in Watchouse Road

JB How long ago was it when you started collecting your photos of Galleywood? **RW** I think it was around 1992. **JB** What got you started? **RW** One day when they started pulling down John Duncan's house in Skinners Lane I went up there with my camera and afterwards I was talking to Lawrence Taylor at Lathcoats farm and said 'There's nobody keeping any records of these old houses' and he said 'What about you making a start' and that's what started me off. So I went around and took photos of all the old houses in Galleywood. **JB** and then you got interested in the people? **RW** I did a video of Brook Lane and Lower Green in the Spring and then I went round every old house in the village asking for old photos of people. I remember going to Galley Dene but the old lady, Mrs Adams wouldn't let me in the house. She used to spend the evening in The Bear and several times I used to help her home. **JB** When did you come to Galleywood? **RW** It was 1951. We bought the plot on Stock Road but couldn't build a house there because to get a licence to build you had to have two children and we only had one, so we had to sell the land back to Brunning. **JB** Where were you born? **RW** I was born in Quilters Farm in North Woodham Ferrers where my father used to run threshing machines and farm machinery and we went to school at Rettendon. **JB** Well Ron, not a lot of people know that you're musical. **RW** I used to play the Euphonium in the Rettendon Salvation Army Band. I started by playing Second Cornet and my father used to play First. One of my sisters used to play in the band and my other sister used to play the organ in the hall in West Hanningfield Road. **JB** and