

Our village owes its mention in many history books to the race course on the Common. Many of the highlights of this sporting venue have featured in talks by Ted Hawkins. Here is another contribution extracted from *A DISCOVERY OF OLD ESSEX* by Richard Pusey.

ALTHOUGH it has been said that Charles II patronized the course, racing really began here at the very end of George II's reign, in 1759 to be precise. ...the field on the first day consisted of four horses, one of which broke down. Then on the second day only two ran, while on the third there was the climax of a walkover! There are several old maps held at Chelmsford which show the course as it was in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. On Chapman's county map of 1777 the original loop on the common is clearly indicated. (Later it was to bisect the main road twice, the junctions being covered with oak-bark tan.) ...a map of 1810 marks a post-mill inside the course. This has long since gone, but Mill Hill and a house called Mill View near the Eagle public house perpetuate its memory. Another map, or rather plan, seems to date from shortly after 1817. This covers 'Part of the New Mile Course at Galleywood Common belonging to the Rt. Hon Lord Petre'. It shows the starting post, by the side of the Stock Road south of Bakers Lane, and the quarter- and half-mile points. A spinney now covers the southernmost part of this course.

Hunt-race meetings were a feature of the racing on the common early last century. They were arranged by Colonel Cook, Master of the Essex Hounds from 1808 to 1813. The prizes included a 50 guineas cup. Only horses which had been 'in' at the death of at least four foxes were allowed to enter. In 1862 the Galleywood Race Stand Company was inaugurated with a nominal capital of £2,000, there being two hundred shares of £5 each. The Chelmsford Race Committee, a separate concern, had to rent the facilities provided by the Race Stand Company in order to stage events. The Committee's minutes for the years 1867 to 1922 are lodged at the Essex Record Office. They fill two sturdy volumes. As one would expect, much of the routine business of managing the course is recorded. This includes inspections of the track, the appointment of stewards, tenders for refreshments and arrangements with the local constabulary. Accounts and the state of the bank balance also figure among the entries, especially in the earlier years. However, the books yield a wide variety of items of far more absorbing interest. Although the races in the 1860s were very popular, the minutes for those years and into the next decade show debts being frequently discussed. There was a continuous loss at the three meetings being held each year. It looks as though they were subsidized from the pockets of gentlemen who put sporting pleasures before gain.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PAST TIMES

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www.essexinfo/galleywoodhistoricalsociety

We go online

You will notice, I'm sure, that our heading has changed. It now displays our website address. We are in the process of developing the site and so this too may take on a changed appearance as time goes by. If you visit the site you will find information about us, together with edited copies of our newsletters. We are hoping that this wider audience for our activities may generate interest and contacts from former Galleywood residents now far from home. If you have any suggestions for features that we should build into this venture then please let us know. The site also provides the novelty of allowing you to hear it speak to you. So - if you know anyone who has difficulty reading a computer screen...

We were all saddened by the sudden death of John Chaplin in November last year. A large crowd filled St. Michael's church at his funeral to pay tribute to a well known, popular and respected Galleywood resident. His coffin arrived at the church on a trailer drawn by one of the vintage tractors in his collection. The scheduled talk at our March meeting on the Chaplin Family has been deferred. Details of the new subject for this meeting appear in the usual place on page two.

The Parish Council are presenting another exhibition of pictures from the Ron White Archive at the Keene Hall on February 25. Even if you have been to one of these displays before you are sure to find something new at this one. Don't miss it!

Essex Chronicle
 advert July 1849

I bought a pound of Roses tea
 And when I came to smell
 And also when I came to taste
 It pleas'd me very well

I'd often heard of Rose and Co
 Bearing the trading bell
 And when advis'd to buy of them
 I answer'd 'very well'

And glad I am I went to them
 Whose mixtures so excel
 John Rose and Co in every sense
 Have used me very well.

Monopoly in tea, forsooth
 Must shortly hear its knell
 And echo in the public mind
 Will answer 'very well'.

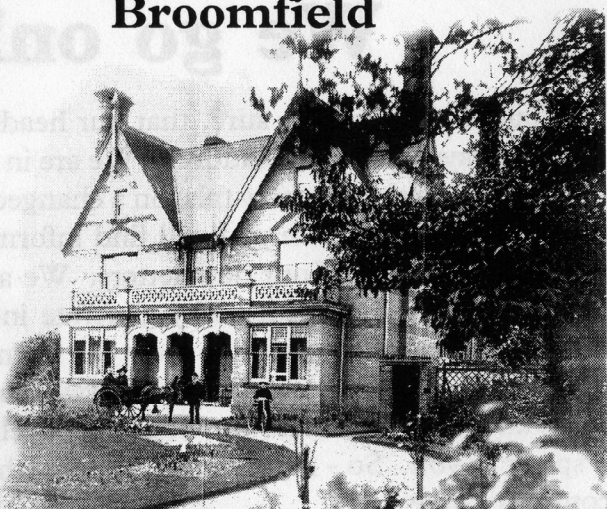
Our next meeting

The history of the old Farleigh Hospice house in New London Road built in 1858 and the new building at Broomfield



Speaker
George Harris

formerly Fund Raising Manager at the Hospice.



The House around 1903

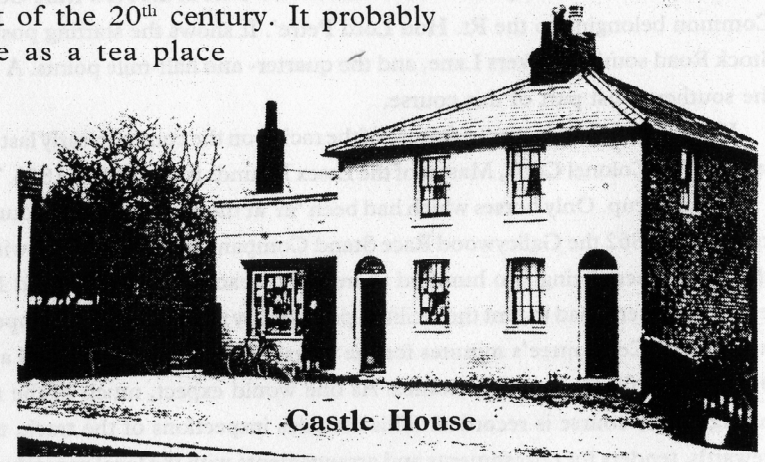
**Wednesday 8 March 2006
Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm**

DATES for your Diary

- 2006**
- 25 February** EXHIBITION OF PICTURES FROM THE RON WHITE COLLECTION
- 7 June** THE HISTORY OF GRAY & SONS
Talk by Michael Gray
- 20 September** THE HISTORY OF INGATESTONE & THORNDON HALLS
and the history of the Petre Family
Talk by Lord Petre

Galleywood for Tea

The old high-wheel 'Ordinary' bicycle or 'pennyfarthing' (a term never used in those days), ridden by fit young men, had opened up the roads of England, moribund since the coming of the railway, and brought life back to many country inns. When in the late 19th century, it was superseded by the rear chain-driven 'safety' cycle, such as we know today, it brought many mature riders into cycling including many ladies, and a different type of refreshment was needed, so many a wayside cottage became a tea-room or 'cyclists rest' as they were known. Galleywood being a popular place to visit because of the common and racecourse, was not left behind and a 'Cyclists Rest' opened at the former Elephant & Castle in Stock Road at Castle House around the start of the 20th century. It probably ceased to trade as a tea place around the time of the first World War, as David Cook remembers it as a sweet shop in the late 1920s and 30s, well placed for the village school opposite.



Castle House

From the records of several Essex cycling clubs around 1930 it seems 'Galleywood for tea' was a frequent choice. Venues included 'Braziers' tea rooms by the common, the former Admiral Rous inn then owned by Albert Brazier, probably well remembered by locals with a longer residence in Galleywood than myself, Another was 'Justacottage' on the common. Around 1930 Mrs Curtis at the Horse & Groom, also on the common, used to supply teas at weekends and was often used by cycling groups. I do not know whether they all struggled up London Hill but as they had been out for a ride in the Essex countryside they probably approached through Great Baddow or perhaps the rural town of Chelmsford (itself with a notable cycling history), leaving it to after tea to swoop down the hill on their return home.

CHARLES COMPORT