

Celebrate Chelmsford rated a great success

KEN EDWARDS has passed us a message from Liam Rich, Special Events manager at the Borough Council, thanking our Society for our involvement in the *Celebrate Chelmsford* programme. Over 100,000 people attended over 80 events and the whole thing is regarded as a great success and likely to be repeated.

Our Society has recently joined the BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY. Our membership includes a comprehensive

insurance scheme and occasionally discounted entrance to events. There is a lot of information on their website – www.balh.co.uk.

It publishes two magazines – *Local History News* and *The Local Historian*. Our copy of these may be borrowed on application to your editor.



Committee vacancies

Pauline Potts has recently moved out of Galleywood and we are grateful for her support on our committee. Maureen Southerden has joined us but we are anxious to replace John Turkentine, David Stevenson and Bob Villa who have stepped down to avoid a conflict of interest with other matters being discussed by the Parish council. If you feel you would like to join our committee, please give David Stacy a call on 359215. We meet only four times during the year.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Chairman David Stacy **Vice Chairman** Colin Baddock
Secretary Sarah Walters **Treasurer** Graham Mundy **Programme Director** Ted Hawkins
Archive Director Philip Walters
Committee Madeleine Howard Maureen Southerden

Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor
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PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 19 SEPTEMBER 2007

www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety

The London Hill Spring

Malcolm Stuart tracks down an old water supply

IN the days before motorised transport, cart drivers would stop on London Hill on a hot day to refresh themselves at a natural spring. Later, this source was capped with Hessian concrete bags and the spring water held in a small metal tank.



Ben Basham and Pat Stuart survey the site

From here it was piped down to a large holding tank in Wood Farm's Pump House field adjacent to the bottom of the garden of Rous Cottage.

Water was pumped up to the farm from this tank for the cattle and the farmhouse. The pipe, which still exists, is a 25mm internal diameter iron pipe buried about 250mm down.

The spring is located at TL 700025 on the south side of London Hill, 180 metres west of the waymark post, opposite Stables Nursery, marking the start of bridleway 79.

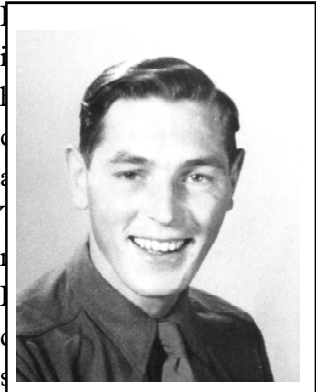
Does anyone recall when the spring was capped and which local builder did the work?

I am grateful to Ben Basham who told me about the old spring, to the Galleywood Rights of Way maintenance gang who attacked the brambles and located the site, and to John Turkentine who helped locate the metal pipe.

Our next meeting

LIFE IN GALLEYWOOD FROM 1900 TO 1950

speakers: The Whybro family Denis, Christine and Leslie



AND LESLIE WHYBRO have always taken an interest in Galleywood. Denis has spent most of his 85 years in Galleywood as a member of the large local family in 1922. Christine and Leslie, his sisters, have also many childhood memories of what is now Galleywood.

Christine will concentrate on how local events affected a family and changed a way of life. Leslie will discuss how Denis saw Galleywood as a hotbed of gambling and how it was seen as 'removed from authority'. Christine offers a chance to hear the story from her perspective.



Before he died, George Johnson, who came to Galleywood as a young boy, gathered together his memories of growing up in what was then a small village. His account is somewhat light on dates but the following extract may resonate with some of our older residents.

IT WAS NEARLY NINE MONTHS before our new bungalow in Skinners Lane was ready. By the time I arrived home the move was complete so far as the household effects were all in place, all that remained was to get to grips with the lack of those amenities to which we had so easily become accustomed in our former house. The first two of these were quite simply resolved. Our water supply was to come from the only pump available, situated behind Copdock Cottages, a block of three clapboard cottages facing Skinners Lane. For our main lighting it was out with the lamps and away to Mr. Wasket's garage for a gallon of paraffin with incidental lighting by candle power. The third amenity was not to be resolved so easily. The reasons why were soon to become apparent when the demand for it became a matter of urgency for us all – we hadn't got one! We couldn't believe it; a brand new dwelling and not a loo to its name. The only way out of this predicament was to use the potties and these, together with a few squares of newspaper, were placed under the bed in each bedroom before going to bed that night. This was a most unsatisfactory situation and it became the top priority for my dad to build an outside loo. This he did to the best of his ability. It was a rickety affair that was to stand in our back garden, not a place to loiter on a hot summers day.

Mr Jarvis told my dad that he could have as much land for his vegetable plot as he liked, with the proviso that he turfed whatever land he required and Mr Jarvis would have the turves. This proved to be an arduous task as first the grass had to be cut, then the turf cut into strips of one foot by three before my dad could get going with the turving iron with me rolling up the turves as he cut them. We were soon to discover that the cutting process was made easier when the blade was kept wet by dipping it in a bucket of water. There was a lot of sweat and backache to come before we had cleared a plot measuring eighteen feet wide by three hundred feet long. By this time we were back in the business of keeping two pigs and two or three dozen chickens and the manure these provided, together with the weekly supply from our dry closet, soon had that vegetable garden producing some good crops.

Between us and Copdock Cottages was another bungalow similar to ours, occupied by a Mr and Mrs Bailey. Mr Bailey ran a one-lorry hauling and carting business and he had a strip of land similar in size to ours which ran directly from behind our normal back yard down to a pond on which he had built a staging with seats and stocked with carp. It is interesting to note that these dwellings and the rest of the field fronting onto Skinners Lane and back down Beehive Lane as far as what is now a florists, used to be that parcel of land farmed under the name of Copdocks. What I always assumed to be the cart lodge of this farm still stood in the grounds of Mr Bailey's property and was used by him as workshop and garage; a warm dry place under all that thatch.

Our other near neighbours were on the fringe of our field living in a pair of clapboard cottages end on to Skinners Lane. A Mr and Mrs Mathams with their sons Jack and Bob lived in the one nearest the road and Mr and Mrs Lanzer with Nell, Jessie, Iris and Reginald in the other. At the back of these cottages, which faced the side of our bungalow, was the path leading to Mr Lanzer's front door. Running parallel to this path was a deep ditch carrying the water that overflowed from the road from the fields opposite after heavy rains. This water flowed into and out of three ponds before discharging over Deadmans Lane to flow around the boundary of Mr Marven, the builder's property, before once again crossing the road leading to Baddow.

**Wednesday 19 September 2007
Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm**

DATES for your Diary

2007
21 November POCKY PESTILENCE
The Pest House and its people
Speaker: Rosemary Wilsmer

2008
12 March LORDSHIPS OF THE MANOR
Speaker: Ray Knappett, CHARTERED SURVEYOR