

## News from the Archive Group

At the time of writing, we are putting together the final touches for our small display in Galleywood library to run from Tuesday 29 January to Saturday 2 February 2008. The aim of the display is to spread awareness of the Society's activities and display some interesting facts about World War One

The Archive Group is working on the Wall of Remembrance for relatives to be commemorated at the Exhibition in November 2008. At present there is space available on the wall; members who have a relative who died in World War One, please contact Wendy at the Archive Group with any photograph or documents they might like to be displayed. Wendy's telephone number is 01245 250499 or email address [jandw@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jandw@blueyonder.co.uk).

**The Great War  
- Galleywood  
and Beyond**

**Exhibition  
Saturday  
8 November  
2008**



## DID YOU KNOW

Facts about  
World War 1



On April 1st 1918 the RAF was formed by the merger of the Royal Flying Corp (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS).

Captain Albert Ball was an early fighter ace before he went missing on 7th May 1917. In his short career he had shot down 40 enemy aircraft and was awarded a Posthumous Victoria Cross to go with his MC, DSO and bar.

Roland Garros (1888-1918) became an aviator and earned his pilot's licence in 1910. He soon became a record holder. He joined the French Air Force at the outbreak of World War 1 and had some success as a fighter pilot. He was shot down and killed on the 5th October 1918. His name lives on because the French Open Tennis Championship is held in the stadium which bears his name.

Lt William Leefe Robinson VC (1895-1919) Commissioned in 1914 and joined the RFC in 1915. In September 1916 during a German air raid he attacked the Schutte-Lanz airship and shot it down over Cuffley, Hertfordshire. This was the first time an airship was shot down over England; for this action he received the VC. He was then posted to France and was shot down in May 1917 and became a prisoner of war and did not return to England until December 1918. He died on the 17th January 1919 of influenza.

# PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 21 MARCH 2008

[www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety](http://www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety)

## Spare the Rod

Among some of the interesting documents on display at a recent Open Evening at St Michael's Junior School was the Punishment Book. The chastisements carefully recorded here were mild enough but show us how far we have come since corporal punishment was acceptable in nearly all schools. *'Wiping muddy hands round boy's face in playground at dinner time - 2 strokes'*. A 'stroke' of course was delivered with the cane on the palm of the outstretched hand. An intriguing entry records *'Removing book from girl's satchel and copying sum from it - 4 strokes'*. This was, apparently, a more serious misdemeanour than *'swearing at Mrs Blenkin - 2 strokes'*. The same two strokes were administered for *'chalking on school and repeatedly denying it'*. *Insolence, talking and going on the grass* all merited this minimum penalty although the *'obscene drawing'* must have been particularly well executed to merit 4 strokes. Only one entry qualified for the (no doubt) much talked of six strokes and this was for *'stealing milk'*.

An interesting feature of the book was revealed by the absence of any girls' names. We must assume that they could not have all been little angels and would have been disciplined by non-physical means such as detention and line-writing. If we are to believe reports in today's papers girls are now at least the equal of boys in their eagerness to challenge authority.

The entries in the Punishment Book came to an end in 1972 leaving many blank pages unused. Although corporal punishment in schools was not finally abolished by law until August 15 1987, the abrupt change in policy at St Michael's came with the appointment of the new head teacher, Gordon Cornell.

In 1989, the Elton Committee concluded that *'There is little evidence that corporal punishment was an effective deterrent...'* Disruptive behaviour in many classrooms in 2008 seems almost out of control and a hand, placed by a teacher on the arm of a violent pupil, brings a furious parent to the door of the headteacher demanding retribution, compensation and more. The days of physical correction may be long gone, but have we made any progress?

### 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

Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor  
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**Our next meeting**

# LORDSHIPS OF THE MANORS

*Speaker:* Ray Knappett,  
CHARTERED SURVEYOR

Although the feudal system was dismantled long ago, certain aspects of it are still of interest in the twentyfirst century.

The speaker will describe its current attractions, not so much from academic research or study but mainly from his experience over fifty years in practice as a Chartered Surveyor and Land Agent; from the Manor of Great Baddow to all parts of the country.

He has been engaged in the sale of over 500 feudal titles since the 1950s and has experienced the motivations and reactions of both purchasers and vendors both in this country and abroad.

**Wednesday 12 March 2008**  
**Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm**

## DATES for your Diary

2008

**4 June** THE HISTORY OF  
CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL  
Talk by Tony Allen

**17 September** **The Great War - Galleywood and Beyond**

Members talk about their family connections with the Great War

**8 November** We present our EXHIBITION in the Keene Hall

**19 November** HOW THE RAILWAY CAME TO  
CHELMSFORD and the changes this brought about  
Talk by Malcolm Stuart

*In 1890 Chelmsford became the first town in the country to be lit by electricity. The following report appeared in The Times*

Last night the public lighting of Chelmsford by electricity was formally inaugurated. The light has been installed by Messrs Crompton & Co (Limited) whose works are situated at Chelmsford. Their contract was accepted by the Town Council on the 27th March last year, and the work was immediately commenced and the lighting was to have begun on the 18th September. Through the difficulty in getting materials however, and the numerous alterations insisted on by the Board of Trade, the installation was not finished until about a month ago, since which time it has been running with satisfactory results. The wires are carried overhead on posts and this is almost the only drawback in the affair. The three main streets are lighted by means of 18 arc lamps, for which the Town Council are to pay £22.10s per annum, and the other streets by 200 incandescent lamps, for each of which the charge will be £2.6s.10d, the total cost thus being £873 6s.8d. This is against £768 formally paid to the gas company for only 168 lamps. Messrs Crompton's contract is for five years, and their sureties for its due performance are Viscount Torrington and Sir Charles Grant. There is to be a fine of 4d per hour for every arc lamp which goes out, and 1/2d an hour for every incandescent lamp. A breakdown is provided against by reserve machinery, but if the lights should fail Messrs Crompton will be liable to a fine of £500. A Board of Trade licence has been applied for by Messrs Crompton. In the clause relating to private lighting the draft licence as approved by the Town Council provided for the charge to the consumers of 8d. per unit. Messrs Crompton now say that this was an error, and that 1s.4d was intended. The Council, however, decline to allow the price to be increased to more than 10d. at which Messrs Crompton say they cannot supply it. *[but they did, presumably! Ed.]*

The lights were switched on last night just before 7 o'clock by the Mayoress (Miss Brown) and the ex Mayoress (Mrs Chancellor) in the presence of a large number of people. A public dinner was afterwards held at the Saracen's Head hotel. The Mayor, (Alderman J.S.Brown), who as chairman of the lighting committee, was chiefly instrumental in securing the lighting of the town by electricity, presided and among those also present were several members of the corporation, Mr R.E.Crompton, and a number of other well known electricians. In the course of the after-dinner speeches Chelmsford was congratulated on being the first town in the kingdom to be lighted (sic) throughout by electricity.

*This article was provided by Ted Hawkins*