

*When his sister started looking into the family history, Steve Bullman was prompted to join the search*



FROM AN EARLY AGE I had always felt an attraction to Galleywood whether it was the Common, the wooden fencing from the race course or the large church, so when I moved to the village in 1992 I felt comfortable right from the start.

When my parents recently celebrated 50 years of marriage, my younger sister decided to research the family tree. She found that our maternal grandfather, who was born in Salisbury, had a grandfather from Essex - Thomas Olley - who was born in 1844 in Colne Engaine, near Colchester. His father, also Thomas, had at one time farmed several acres in Galleywood.

I was taking to Richard English about this and within a few hours we were able to check the burial records and found that my great, great grandparents are indeed buried in the churchyard of St Michael and All Angels. Suzzanah Cousins Olley was buried on May 25 1893 aged 80 years whilst Thomas Olley was buried in 1845 aged 80 years.

To me, these are incredible ages for Victorian times. In further investigation on the internet I found that Suzzanah was born on July 14 1814. In a surprising co-incidence, my second cousin, Nichole was born on July 14 whilst my granddad, who lived to 92 was born on July 13, as was my sister Deanne and her daughter Charlotte, my cousin Gary was born on July 15, amazing is it not?

Gerald Barrett has found a reference on the internet to a Thomas Olley of Chelmsford, retired farmer on the road to Galleywood. Looking at dates and buildings in the area I would assume this to be along Galleywood Road, probably between St John's roundabout and the Running Mare area. Does anyone have any more information or clues or even ideas?

## Graham Smith

Earlier this year we were delighted to welcome Graham Smith as a member of our committee. As the author of many books on historical subjects, Graham is a diligent researcher and his experience is proving to be a valuable contribution to our discussions.

### GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**President** Ted Hawkins

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**Secretary** Sarah Walters **Treasurer**

**Programme Director** Ted Hawkins **Archive Director** Philip Walters

**Committee** Madeleine Howard Graham Smith David Stacy Derek Waters

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

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 27 SEPTEMBER 2009

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

## Heritage Centre to open in the Autumn



**A**FTER MANY MONTHS of hard work, a date has been set for completion of the building part of this exciting project. The builders are still in possession but we are promised that by November 14 this year, the main conversion will be finished.

We hope we will then be able to join in the discussions on the display of photos and historical material.

## War Memorial Appeal

Galleywood is probably one of the last villages left without a War Memorial and Wendy Cummin is spearheading an appeal to put one up in our village. Plans for the proposed Memorial and details of the casualties to be named can be seen in Galleywood library, in St Michael's Church, in the Diner and in all of the pubs. These names can also be seen on Galleywood Parish Council website and on [www.galleywoodfolk.com](http://www.galleywoodfolk.com) We need to raise about £11,000. An account in the name of Galleywood War Memorial Fund currently stands at £4585. If you are in support of a proper War Memorial in Galleywood, please consider making a donation, however small. There are collecting boxes at all the above venues [except the library] or contact Wendy at [jandw@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jandw@blueyonder.co.uk) or 01245 250499.



Our next meeting

Will we see cattle grazing on The Common?

We present our second talk on the history of Galleywood Common

‘1800 – 2009

**THE WAY WE ARE NOW**

speaker *Leslie Whybro*

Leslie is a Commoner who is claiming the right to graze 30 head of cattle on The Common.

Will it happen?

**Wednesday 16 September 2009**

**Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm**

## DATES for your Diary

2009

18 November

WORLD WAR TWO: Life on the Home Front 1939 – 1945

Pauline and David Scott

with a surprise visit by a V.I.P. and a mini exhibition

We also hold our AGM on this evening



## A Galleywood Diary

*This collection of local stories by **David Stacy** covers the twenty one years from 1987 to 2007 and can now be seen online at [www.galleywooddiary.co.uk](http://www.galleywooddiary.co.uk). The record is a searchable database so just type in your name, an event or suitable keyword and see if you are in it!*

EARLY IN 1995, the Galleywood Parish Council decided to appoint a Local History Recorder. Whilst the deliberations of the Council itself were adequately documented in the Minutes of their meetings, the members felt that some record of other happenings in the Parish should be created which might, in due course, be of interest to a wider audience.

My mere twenty five years as a local resident hardly equipped me with the depth of recall that many others could boast, but I was intrigued by the project and so decided to take up the challenge. I enrolled in a local history course at the Chelmsford library and began a pattern of weekly visits to the Essex Record Office which, at that time, was still housed in the building next door. Over the course of the next twelve months I assembled a large file of detailed statistics and stories about the history of Galleywood. I was in the process of sorting this wealth of information into a history of the village when the Parish Council announced the publication of *19th Century Galleywood* by Christine Whybro. Much of the stuff I had collected was duplicated in this work and so a change of direction was called for. I abandoned the idea of a village history and set about creating a contemporary ongoing record that would be reasonably up to date at any moment in time. History doesn't come to a standstill - it's happening all the time - so my Diary would try to keep pace with events as they occurred.

I started the account in 1987 with the separation from the Parish of Great Baddow and the formation of the Galleywood Parish Council. Records of the Ecclesiastical Parish extend back much further in time of course, and in the intervening years the requirements of Local Government have set out boundaries for civil administration which no longer enclose a similar area.

Today, the two Parishes overlap between Galleywood Common and Galleyend and from Bakers Lane to Deadmans Lane. The Ecclesiastical Boundary extends westwards towards White's Bridge, whilst the Civil Parish spreads nearly to Howe Green in the East. I make no apology for occasionally stepping over the lines marked on the maps of these two Parishes in his pursuit of 'Local Interest'

I make no claim to offer a comprehensive diary of every event of note. Historians have long been criticised for their selective recording of events and I'm sure that this will be no exception.