

spent the rest of the time there, came out and went back to the workshops. I had spent a couple of years in London before the war in the Sales Office and the sales manager, when he knew I was back, said 'well there's a job here in the Sales Department'. I thought 'that's a step up', and so I worked in various departments and in '82 I was 64 and I said that's enough. I went to Baddow as one of my last jobs. The Radar was part of the old Crompton Works but they also had quite a number of departments at Great Baddow in Baddow Research. and they had to save money. We were part of GEC and Arnold Weinstock was the managing director and he knew everything about money. I was given the job, knowing that I was packing up, of looking into the storage which the Company had. Not just here but at Leicester, around the country, but basically to move the Radar people from Baddow to this Crompton site. It was quite an interesting time. I'd ask people 'do you use that now' – I was being prompted by the disposal man you see. They would say 'that cost thousands of pounds to build' and I'd say 'do you know anyone who want to buy it?' That went on every day until we'd cleared everything out. We had to decide whether the mast was going to stay there. We were at Stowe Maries where they used to test the radar on the hill there and in order to link to Baddow on the first platform of the Baddow tower where there was a hut, there was a microwave link there between there and Stowe Maries. I said 'Is the link still used?' and they said 'Yes' so the tower stayed up.

And then I came to Galleywood. I've been the treasurer for years of the Cycling Action Group in Chelmsford though I've just given the job up. I belong to quite a number of organisations – RSPB, Essex Wildlife Trust and National Trust. In fact I used to do some work for the National Trust. Then when I was 70, my wife saw an advertisement in the library for volunteers to go and work in Hylands Park with the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers. She said 'I think we ought to go and help' and so we did. She died in 1997 but I'm still doing that now. I go out with the Rights of Way group with Malcolm Stuart. I try to get a swim in when I can and still use my bike but not so much as I used to. My son is working on the house now and he can find me a job or two and my daughter comes over from Bedford and she's a very keen gardener and tells me what I ought to be doing.

Membership Renewal forms are enclosed with this newsletter. Our treasurer will be pleased to collect your renewal cheques at the AGM.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Ted Hawkins

Chairman Graham Mundy **Vice Chairman** Colin Baddock

Secretary Sarah Walters **Treasurer** Ken Edwards

Programme Director Ted Hawkins

Committee Madeleine Howard Graham Smith David Stacy

Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor
David Stacy at Haldon, The Common, Galleywood, CM2 8JX
email davidstacy@btinternet.com

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 32 NOVEMBER 2010

www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety

Heritage Room Opens

OUR PICTURE shows a corner of the newly opened Heritage Room at the Heritage Centre on Galleywood Common. The wall panels, prepared by Wendy Cumin will be regularly changed to reflect various aspects of village history.



A meeting of cousins



From left: Martin, Doreen and Tony

Thanks to a chance connection via the website www.galleywoodfolk.com which mentions our local history displays, some members of the Lodge family have been able to meet a previously unknown cousin in the Heritage Room of the Heritage Centre.

Alfred William, William Louis and Alice Sophia were 3 of the 14 children of William and Sarah Ann Lodge; Tony Lodge [grandson of Alfred William] and Doreen Cooper nee Lodge [granddaughter of Alice Sophia] met Martin and Gina Lodge. Martin is the grandson of William Louis.

They spent a very busy afternoon exchanging family information and getting to know each other, as well as studying the "Family Links" display which brought them together.

Wendy writes:

Ernest Arthur Lodge, son of Edward Arthur and Edith Florence, died in WW2 while serving with the RAF aboard Lancaster LM 469. I was contacted by someone on behalf of the family of another member of this crew who was killed – T/S Stanley Chidester from the US airforce – seeking information and a photo. Thanks to photos from Christine Whybro I was able to send a photo of the aircrew, and the family in the USA were delighted to recognise their relative in it. The family hoped to correspond with any relatives of Edward Arthur Lodge in Galleywood, and his sister Doreen Cooper has agreed to have her details passed on to the family. A closure for both families perhaps.

Our next meeting

The History of Chelmsford High Street



from 'The British Isles' by Cassell

A talk by Dot Bedenham

Dot is a well-known local speaker and gives talks on a variety of subjects. She is curator of Social History and

Art at the Chelmsford Museum

**Wednesday 17 November 2010
Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm**

The meeting will be preceded by a short Annual General Meeting

Stan Church continues his story with his memories of the evacuation from Dunkirk.

I was in the territorials and in camp Paxton when war was declared and we drew mobilisation stores and went to France in September until we were chased out in May at Dunkirk. We landed at St Nazaire and as I had a car before the war and could drive, I was one of the people who drove the army vehicles and we drove across France to the outskirts of Lyons where we spent October through to May when the balloon went up. We then went into Belgium as far as Brussels where we found that Hitler's army had come round the back and got to Calais so we were cut off. They decided that we should dump all our equipment, break up the lorries and start to move towards Dunkirk. We got there just before dark but we didn't have far to look to find it as there were huge plumes of black smoke as the oil tanks had been hit. I got there on the 22nd of May and we waited there until the 28th. At that time they were taking people off the beach in small boats and going out to load them on the big boats and it was very slow. They couldn't use the harbour because there were ships sunk there. But outside there was a long pier called the Mole and they decided they would try to use that although when a ship came in you were talking about a fifteen feet drop to the deck from the Mole. But it speeded things up and on the 29th we were marched into the outskirts of Dunkirk, out along the Mole and loaded on to the ships. When we arrived there were three ships - two civvies and the 'Ivanhoe' a destroyer. I thought 'that's got guns - that looks good to me.' I got back to Folkestone and that's when I got started on my Army service again.

When I think of Dunkirk - and I was only 22 then - you don't have the same apprehension as you do when you're getting old. There was someone in charge - they knew what they were doing so you just do what you're told. It's only in retrospect that you think 'that was a bit tricky at the time!' We had to go along the coast because there were minefields that had been sewn and we had to keep away from the coast because the Germans had taken Bologne and Calais at that time but we managed.

Soon after coming back I was posted to the RAF. I realised that a blue job was better than a brown job. I was at an operational television unit and, having electrical experience, I was made duty electrician. I thought 'this is the job for me'. I was there during the Battle of Britain and then in November I was sent back to my unit and I thought 'we're going overseas again' but my officer said 'No, you are going back on to reserve at Marconis. They want every man they can get to turn out equipment'. I suppose they thought that producing radar and wireless equipment was a better job than me being a squaddie in the field. So I went back to Marconis. Because I had been in the army they thought I knew something about soldiers so I joined the Home Guard and they made me a sergeant. The Home Guard in Chelmsford was, I think, the fore-runner of Dad's Army. Our commanding officer was a bank manager, we had a man who worked for Andrews the undertaker and Mr Barnard who was a butcher. I don't think we had a 'stupid boy' though we did have a young lad who was about his age but unfortunately he had a gammy leg so wasn't in the army. So I

DATES for your Diary

2011

9 March THE BEARMAN FAMILY AND THEIR FARMS
IN GALLEYWOOD

Talk by Christine and Les Whybro