

Postscript to A Question of Type

When our firm changed from Letterpress production to Offset Litho, many tons of lead type were sold as scrap for melting down and several hundred type cases were given away for firewood. These cases are being advertised today, on eBay for £10 each.

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

This publishing venture was begun in 1899 and is still proceeding. More properly called the *Victoria History of the Counties of England*, it is an attempt to summarise the history of each county and the principle places in them. Most importantly the volumes are based on meticulous research in archival material at the Public Record Office and elsewhere, much of which has not been published before. You can look at this at the library in Market Street or the Essex Record Office.

Heritage Centre Display

The current display in the Heritage room at the Heritage Centre on Galleywood Common consists of photos of CARNIVAL QUEENS PRINCESS & FLOATS COVERING THE GALLEYWOOD CARNIVALS FROM 1978-1983

Come along and perhaps spot yourself or your children in one of the photos

For further information on this and future displays you can find details on the website www.galleywoodheritagecentre.org.uk or you can phone on 01245 357700.

The Heritage room is manned on Tuesdays from 1.30 to 3.30 and Sundays from 11 to 1.

THE DISPLAY RUNS UNTIL
THE 29TH MARCH,

The display is compiled by
Wendy Cummin & Philip Walters
both members of the GHS.

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 33 MARCH 2011

www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety

Carnival Memories

*Carnival Queen Sharon
Cresswell with Princesses
Sonya Collins and
Samantha Bater at the
1983/4 Carnival*



ASK anyone of a certain Age if they remember the Carnival and you'll most likely prompt a flood of nostalgia.

The decision, taken, in 1992, not to continue the event, was met with universal dismay. For fifteen years the procession had paraded through the streets to the Fete in the field at Wood Farm. Practically the whole village would have turned out to see several troupes of majorettes leading up to eight floats carrying the Queens and their Courts from surrounding districts. This was 'community spirit' at its peak.

Stalls were set up early in the morning and elaborate displays of fruit and veg. laid out in the large marquee. As the procession arrived, the entertainment began. Dance routines by tiny tots, carefully rehearsed on the smooth floor of the practise room, struggled with the transfer to the grassy stage. Tug-of-war teams were press-ganged, knowing full well that they had no chance of beating Brunnings who had taken the trophy for as long as anyone could remember.

My own never-to-be-forgotten-moment was when our stand was awarded a prize. I stepped up to receive, along with a box of *Meltis New Berry Fruits*, a kiss from the Carnival Queen.

David Stacy

There are plans to stage a come-back carnival next year. The organisers are looking for one of our past queens to return to the stage and open the event. Interested? Contact Wendy Cummin on 01245 240499

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Ted Hawkins

Chairman Graham Mundy **Vice Chairman** Colin Baddock

Secretary (post vacant) **Treasurer** Ken Edwards

Programme Director Ted Hawkins

Committee Madeleine Howard Graham Smith

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

Our next meeting

The Bearman Family and their farms in Galleywood



Some more pages in the history of our village will be turned by the popular duo *Christine and Les Whybro*

Wednesday 9 March 2011
Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm

DATES for your Diary

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 2011 | |
| 1 June | WOMEN OF ESSEX <i>Talk by Daphne Field</i> |
| 14 Sept | NEW HALL AND ITS SCHOOL <i>by Tony Tuckwell</i> |
| 16 Nov | CRIME & PUNISHMENT IN ESSEX |
| | OVER THE CENTURIES <i>Talk by Graham Smith</i> |

A Question of Type

As the Company present at the late *CHELMSFORD RACES* expressed their Disappointment at being deprived of the usual *CONCERT and BALL* on the Second Evening of the Races, Mr Taylor, Organist, this Year proposes engaging such *VOCAL and INSTRUMENTAL Performers* for that purpose, as he hopes will meet with Approbation from those Ladies and Gentlemen who may be pleased to honour him with their Patronage. Particulars referring to the *CONCERT* will be mentioned in a future paper.

Extract from the Essex Chronicle in the summer of 1765

THE PIECE SHOWN ABOVE is, of course, a fake. The nearest match I can get to the typeface on the microfilm archive of the paper is a computer font called 'Weathered'. I have used it on the banner heading of our Newsletter for a faux historical effect. The *Chronicle* was set in a face called *Caslon*. The capital 'A' would have had a sloping top and the lower-case 'e' would have had a high horizontal cross bar. Readers of the *Chronicle* in the late 18th century would not have found these words as strange as we do today. What looked like an 'f' was in fact the way that the letter 's' was written when it appeared in the middle of a word. It was known as a 'long's' or *descending's*. In metal type it would have a small nub on the left side to distinguish it from an 'f'.

With the growth of printed books this symbol fell out of use by the middle of the 19th century. Researching these old newspaper copies is a tedious business. Unrelieved by any bold sub-headings, these pages would have tested the eyesight of the reader. And of course, every character would have been hand-picked from the small compartments of the type-case and assembled on the cast-iron topped table, known as 'the stone'. The labour involved in this process can barely be imagined by the modern computer user. When the 24 pages of a booklet, for example, were laid out on this huge table, the alteration of a few words by the author could have taken an hour to make.

This sample piece is from the folder of work I produced during my studies at the London School of Printing over sixty years ago. By this time the Linotype machine was setting lines of type in hot metal, but hand-setting was still the regular method for the majority of work. This piece would have taken at least a couple of hours to produce. The alignment of the leaders was a real test of my skill. The border required the cutting of strips of brass and bevelling the corners just like a picture frame. As the heading and part of the border were printed in Red, a separate chase would have to be made up for this.

Having experienced some of the old typesetting skills, I never cease to be impressed with capabilities of the computer. Despite this, I still feel a pang of regret when I see some of the classic faces distorted beyond recognition.

