

there were a number of beer-houses in Galleywood; these beer-houses could not sell spirits. They were mainly cottages adapted for the sale of beer, rather than purpose built inns. Some names are known from old records – The Wheatsheaf, The Elephant & Castle, The Labourers' Arms and The Squeegee at Lower Green along with The Old Found Out at Galleywood End. However, by the turn of the century these beer-houses closed; they had proved to be uneconomical to keep open. More detailed information on these old inns will be discovered from the forthcoming display at the Heritage Room

News from the Heritage Centre

THE DISPLAY on 'The Public Houses of Galleywood' will open on 6th March and continue until 3rd April. A selection of old photographs of the inns, as well as some of the licensees. This display will be followed on 10th April by 'The history of St Michael's church (and some of the vicars)', which will continue until 15th May. There will also be a 'Community afternoon' from 1.30-3.30pm on Tuesday 15th May, 14th August and 6th November, when you can meet local historians and explore the archives. On these afternoons the Centre offer transport to those who wish to visit the Centre but are unable to visit due to the lack of transport, distance involved etc. If you, or you know of anybody who might wish to avail themselves of this service, please contact either Wendy Cummin on 01245 250499 or Phil Walters on 01245 473191.

There will also be a small extra display on **Galleywood Parish Council**, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. The display will be in the Heritage Room over the Easter weekend (6th to 9th April). The display will outline the Parish Council's history and some of the archive material will contain details of the Allotments, the Memorial Hall 'That never was' and other interesting items.

In Memorium

IT IS WITH SOME SADNESS and regret that we have to record that Colin Baddock passed away on 30th December 2011; he was aged 73 years. Colin had been a most enthusiastic member of the Society, he was elected to the Committee in November 2002 and for many years he acted as its Vice-Chairman. Many of you, I am sure, have fond memories of Colin; he often stepped in to operate the overhead projector much to the gratitude of many of our speakers. Colin had many outside interests and for several years he was the Chairman of Galleywood Neighbourhood Watch. Colin's valuable contributions to the Society will be greatly missed.

Another stalwart member of the Society also passed away in December – Myra Sankey – she died on 21st December.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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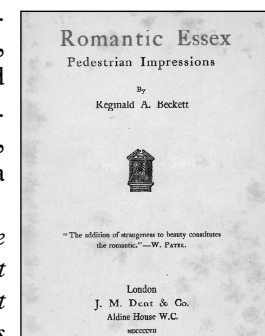
www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety

A View of Galleywood in 1901

IN THE LAST CENTURY there was a plethora of books written about Essex but few of their authors had much to write about Galleywood; those that did confined their brief observations to Galleywood Races and St Michael and All Angels church. Although Arthur Mee in his *Essex* for the celebrated The King's England series does at least spare about eighty words on 'A scattered village on high ground south of Chelmsford...' where he commented that '...its glory is in its wild common, which we found a mass of living gold...' This book was written 'in the early months of the Hitler War' and was first published in 1942.

However, there was one traveller and writer, Reginald A. Beckett, who during the last years of the reign of Queen Victoria, walked the length and breadth of the county, which he recorded in his book, *Romantic Essex*, first published in April 1901. Beckett did not mention the Racecourse, or indeed the Church, but rather he described in some detail a chance encounter with a Galleywood family.

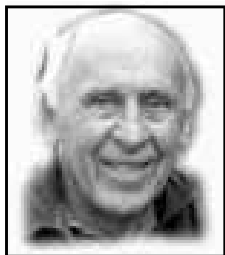
'...returning by the westward road, I came out at last upon the open common at Galleywood. Here I fell in with a boy of about twelve years, who took my fancy with his bright face and intelligent talk. He had lost his parents, he told me, and was living with his grandfather, who followed the good old trade of a wood-cutter. He took me to the little lonely cottage among the trees, and persuaded his grandmother to prepare some tea for me. The old man brought in some faggot-wood to make the kettle boil, and explained to me how the greater heat is given out by sticks with the bark on them, which was the heart of the wood. He was a little reserved at first, but presently talked freely and with much shrewdness upon men and things; showing that grasp of essential facts which is given to those of natural intelligence living simple and quiet lives. So we sat and talked far into the dusk. When I rose to leave, and stepped out into the shadowy woodland road, they all came to the garden gate and bade me good-night. I have never seen them again, but I often wonder what has become of that boy.'



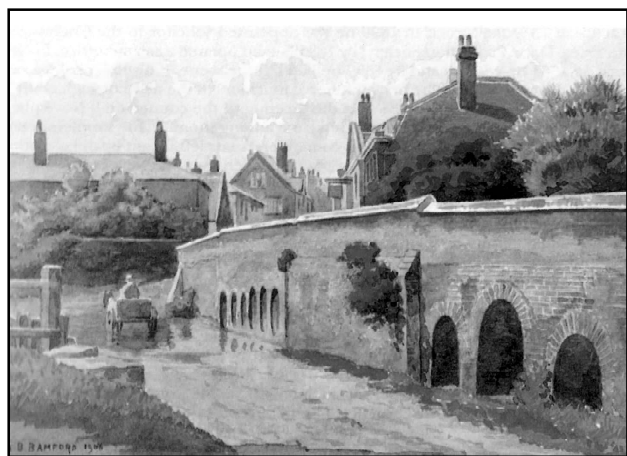
Our next meeting

How the Roads came to Chelmsford

A talk by
Malcolm Stuart



FOLLOWING on his excellent talk to the Society in November 2008 about the arrival of the Eastern Counties Railway's at Chelmsford, **Malcolm Stuart** has now turned his attention and interest in transport to investigate how the roads came to Chelmsford. He says that his research has highlighted some interesting misconceptions and a need to go back to pre-history to reveal the full story. It certainly sounds that Malcolm has an intriguing story to tell us.



The ford at Springfield Bridge c. 1906

Wednesday 14 March 2012
Keene Hall Watchouse Road
at 8 pm

DATES for your Diary

2012

6 June THE SPORTING HERITAGE OF GALLEYWOOD
Talk by *Graham Smith*

12 Sept THE SEABRIGHT FAMILY AND THE OLD HALL
Talk by *Christine Whybro*

Beckett has provided a fascinating insight into a Galleywood family of over one hundred years ago. I consider that *Romantic Essex* is one of the most charming books ever written on Essex, and I am certainly not alone in this opinion; C. Henry Warren, the author of many Essex books, maintained that it is 'one of the very best books, despite its title, on the county, full of sensitive appreciation and original observation.' Indeed the book was so successful that a 'Cheaper' edition was published in July 1907. However, in November 2001, on the centenary of the book's publication, a fine paperback edition was published by PBK Publishing of Doddinghurst with the addition of 33 excellent colour illustrations. It was felt that 'This minor masterpiece is too valuable a work to be left unappreciated and forgotten on a dusty second hand bookshop shelf.' If any members are unaware of *Romantic Essex*, I would recommend it to you. It provides a most interesting view of 'Old Essex'. I gather that Essex Libraries Services have thirteen copies of the paperback edition available for loan.

The Old Inns of Galleywood

IT IS QUITE SURPRISING that our village still has four public houses – The Eagle, The Running Mare, The Horse & Groom and The White Bear. The oldest of these are The White Bear and The Running Mare, both of which can be traced back in the records to at least 1800.



The White Bear has also been known as 'Hares' and 'The Bear' and its position on the corner of *Well Lane* and on the then main road from London to Maldon obviously ensured its popularity with travellers. Almost opposite it on the other side of the road was The Blue Lion; this inn finally closed in the second half of the 20th century when it became a private house and the buildings were used for stabling. It is interesting to note that from 1811 to 1814 a Mary Mole held the licence of The Blue Lion, perhaps she was the widow of the previous landlord, Robert Cole. In those days it was quite unusual for women to be granted such licenses.

The Running Mare has had even more names over its history – 'Trues' or 'Tanners', 'The King's Head' and 'The Running Stream'. Having said that it was unusual for a woman to become the licensee, for ten years from 1818 a Bathsheba Smith was its licensee. I have been told that in 1987 Red Rum and his trainer were guests of honour at The Running Mare after the building had been refurbished. Perhaps some of our members remember the occasion?

The Horse and Groom appears to date back to 1838, when it was built for Grey & Sons, the well-known Essex brewers. It might have originally been called 'Sheds', which was then the club house for the original Chelmsford Golf Club. By 1870 the first licensees of both The Eagle and The Admiral Rous are recorded. However, during the 19th century