

was awarded gold and silver medals. His first book was published when he was twenty-three years old and it was illustrated with his own engravings. Many other books followed on history and costume. He became a celebrated author, engraver, artist, social historian and antiquary; nine of his paintings were exhibited at the Royal Academy.

It was in 1801, a year before his death, that Strutt published his most important and famous book, *The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England*, with over 400 hundred pages and 140 of his own engravings. It became a classic reference book and the first of its kind to describe in great detail the sports, pastimes and amusements dating back to Roman days. Ken Edwards' friend, Dr Don Anthony, MBE, a world renowned Olympic historian, strongly maintained that Strutt's *The Sports and Pastimes of the People of England* had influenced the revival of the Modern Olympic Games in 1896. So 2012 seemed a most appropriate year to commemorate the life of this remarkable man. Joseph Strutt is buried in the City of London Cemetery in Manor Park, which is a short distance away from where the successful London Olympic Games were held at Stratford, East London, Both, Ted and Ken, should be congratulated on successfully accomplishing, at long last, the City's acknowledgement of one of its celebrated past residents.

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE

This is another reminder that a **reunion afternoon** is planned for **Tuesday 26th March 2013** for all past pupils of the Old Galleywood School. If you attended the school at any time, this will be an occasion to catch up with all friends. Also please bring any photos you have, and share your memories. Please contact Wendy on 01245 250499 or wendy.gfblueyonder.co.uk for further details. The archive of the Keene Players, an amateur theatrical group that performed at Keene Hall are now at the Heritage Centre: there are many photographs of the performers and cast lists in in the archive. There was a recent reunion of the Keene Players, which was most enjoyable.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Ted Hawkins

Chairman: Graham Mundy. Vice Chairman: Graham Smith.

Secretary: Gillian Parker. Treasurer: Ken Edwards.

Programme Director: Ted Hawkins. Committee: Madeleine Howard.

Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor: Graham Smith
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PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Number 41 March 2013

www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistorical_society

Jack Shelley – Galleywood's Poet.



Harold William (Jack) Shelley was born in 1908 in a cottage in Pipers Tye in Galleywood. When he was a young boy he was shot accidentally and wheeled in a pram from Galleywood to the Chelmsford hospital for treatment. The builder responsible for the shooting gave Jack an apprenticeship in the building trade when Jack left school aged twelve. He became a bricklayer and went to work in South London. He loved the outdoor life. Jack met his wife, Queenie, who came from Widford, and they were married in 1930 and their daughter Pat was born in 1931; she was their only child.

Jack and his family moved to Chelmsford in 1940, where he worked for Hoffmans for the rest of the war. He disliked factory work after having worked out-of-doors. In 1948 he became the licensee of the *White Hart* at Margaretting Tye and later the licensee of the *Two Brewers* in Springfield Road, Chelmsford until he retired in 1973 aged sixty-five years. On retirement he moved back to Galleywood and lived in Brook Lane.

In his retirement Jack loved writing poems, mainly about Galleywood, Chelmsford, the countryside, the seasons of the year, his close family relatives and everyday life. His daughter, Pat, collected all these poems and published them in a book, containing no less than one hundred and seventy-one poems. One of which, *Nostalgia*, was chosen by the Galleywood Parish Council for printing in its illustrated and colourful Millennium Calendar 2000.

Nostalgia.

*"Yes, I remember Galleywood
A long gone misty scene.
The Sliding Pond, the village Pump
That stood there on the Green
The Wooden Stile, the Swinging Tree,
The Meadow – Sewells Barn
The apple tree in Clarry's hedge,
The Wash – and Seabright's Farm*

*"Tho now the years press wide the gap
And future years portend,
I still can hear the children shout
At play in Galley End."*

A copy of this book of his collection of poems can now be seen at the Galleywood Heritage Centre and is very nostalgic of his life generally, it is difficult to put down; one of my particular favourites is *Essex*.

Jack was a great friend of Ron White and loved talking to him about Galleywood and his childhood at Pipers Tye. He was also a frequent visitor to all the Parish events at Keene Hall. Another one of his hobbies was woodcarving and he was an extremely good woodworker. His wife, Queenie, died in 1987 and there are some moving poems about her in his collection. Jack Shelley died in 2000 aged ninety-two. At his request his ashes were buried in his parent's grave in St Michael and All Angels churchyard on Galleywood Common.

I am grateful to Jack's daughter, Pat Corbin, (via Ted Hawkins) for the information about her father.

DAVID STACY - RETIREMENT

It will not have passed your notice that this issue of *Past Times* is somewhat different in several ways; the reason is that David has finally decided to retire. When I took over from him as editor back in June 2011, David continued to type set the magazine, as well as printing over one hundred

copies of each issue. Thus we now have had to resort to a commercial printer. Since the first *Past Times* back 2003 David has been completely involved in the writing, printing and posting of the newsletter and the Society owes him a deep sense of gratitude: thank you, David, for all your sterling work over the years.

Our Next Meeting

THE GONSON FAMILY AND SEABRIGHTS MANOR.

Talk by Christine and Leslie Whybro.

Christine and Les need no introduction to our members; this is another instalment in the fascinating story.

**Wednesday 13th March at 8 pm
Keene Hall, Watchouse Road**

Date for Your Diary

sch **12th June 2013**

In Praise of Essex.

Talk by Graham Smith.

My talk will comprise my defence of this much maligned county. I will mention some of the old ancient market towns and lovely villages that can be found in the countryside. I will also provide some unusual facts about the county, which perhaps you may be unaware.

Blue Plaque to Joseph Strutt (1749-1802)

Two of our members – Ted Hawkins and Ken Edwards – were invited to attend the unveiling of a Blue Plaque to commemorate Joseph Strutt. The Plaque was unveiled by the Mayor of Chelmsford at Springfield Mill House on Sunday 18th November 2012. Ted and Ken had made an application to the Chelmsford City Council that Joseph Strutt was worthy of such public recognition. They had researched the life of this local luminary and have given talks on this most talented local man.

In 1749 Joseph Strutt was born at Springfield Mill House (now the Riverside Inn) in Victoria Street, Chelmsford. He was educated at KEGS until the age of fourteen when he served a five year apprenticeship with a well-known London engraver. In 1769 he attended the Royal Academy School, where he