

year. Unbeknown to me at the time, the first *Past Times* included a short article on Jack Shelley, our Galleywood poet, whom also I featured in the last *Past Times*, what a coincidence.

Over the last fifteen years there have been over fifty talks on a wide variety of historical subjects and not all of them relating to Galleywood – Ingatestone Hall, Hylands House, Marconi, Ridley's Brewery, the Essex Regiment, Farleigh Hospice... and so on. Also prior to the foundation of the Heritage Centre, the Archive Group of the Society organised a number of Exhibitions.

Since its formation the Society has had 293 members in total, the current membership is 110 including 10 honorary members and it is the second year running that our membership has topped the 100 mark. During 2012 two hundred and sixteen members and guests attended our four meetings, clearly showing that there is still "a considerable interest in things historical". Also it is worth noting that the membership fee of £5 per annum has not increased since 1998/9, which is certainly no mean achievement!

The poster advertising the Inaugural Meeting will also be on display at Keene Hall on 5th June.

NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE

A most successful Old School Reunion day was held in March when over 100 ex-students and friends attended. Another well attended Community Day took place on Tuesday 16th April.

During June/July there will be a Display – 'Some snippets from the Ron White archive' and, then in August there will be a Display on 'The Galleywood Carnival'. Malcolm Stuart will give a talk on 'How the Roads came to Chelmsford' – Part 1 at 1.30pm on 21st May and Part 2 on 25th June. There will be a charge of £2 on both days in aid of the Heritage Centre.

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.

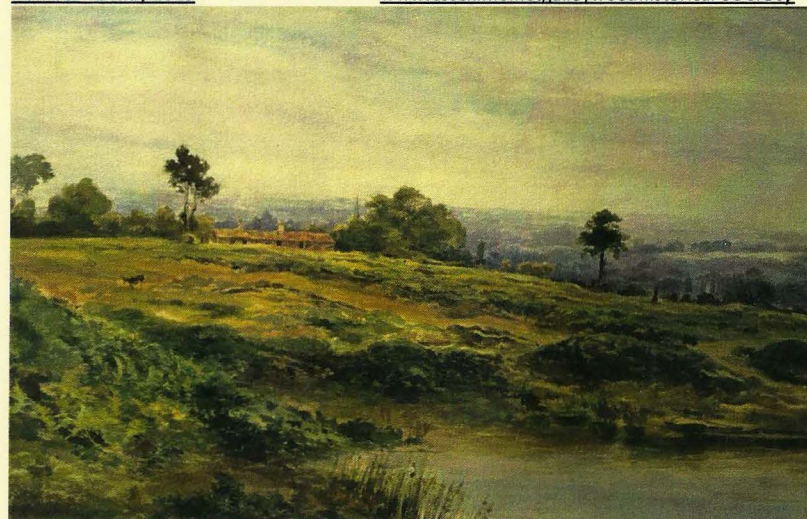
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PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistorical_society



A VIEW OF GALLEYWOOD COMMON c1870

I happened to see a colour print of this watercolour painting on display in the Heritage Centre and thought that it well deserved to be shown to a wider audience. Although there are an ample number of B & W postcards and photographs of old Galleywood, to my knowledge there are few paintings in existence. This painting is attributed to Caroline Mildmay and dates from circa 1870. A glass slide of the painting was found amongst the many photographs and illustrations in the Ron White archives, which are now stored at the Heritage Centre.

I decided to make some enquiries of Caroline Mildmay at the Chelmsford Museum and they hold several watercolour paintings by her: *The Old Rectory, Chelmsford: Carew and Kenna playing* (they

were her nephew and niece), *Two Views of the Rectory Garden, Chelmsford* and, yes, 'our' *A View of Galleywood Common*, which is the only painting presently on public display. The Rectory and its garden were between *Rectory Lane* and *New Street*, which became the site for the Marconi factory and the surrounding housing.

As for the artist, her full name was Caroline Eugenie St John Mildmay. Since Tudor times at least, the Mildmays had been one of the most important and influential families in Essex; various members of the family owned estates around the county. However, it was in Chelmsford and Moulsham, in particular, that the family was most celebrated. Indeed the City's Coat of Arms, to be seen in the *High Street*, has two blue lion supporters, which are derived from the family's Coat of Arms.

Caroline was born in London in 1834, the daughter of the Rev. Carew Anthony St John Mildmay and the Honourable Elizabeth Caroline St John Mildmay (nee Waldegrave); they had married in London in December 1830 and there were at least four sisters.

In 1861 and 1871 Caroline was living with her parents at the Rectory, *Rectory Lane*, Chelmsford: her father was the Rector and Archdeacon of Essex. There is no further record of her until 1878 when she proved the will of her father, who had died in Homberg, Germany in July of that year; her mother had previously died in Bournemouth in January of the same year. Caroline was now shown as 'of *St George's Square, London*'. She died in December 1894 aged sixty years and had then been living at *4 Rosary Gardens, Kensington*. She left over £30,000, quite a wealthy lady in those days. Caroline only started to exhibit her paintings after the death of her parents, as they did not approve of her exhibiting her work! At least over one hundred years later one of her paintings is on public display to be duly admired. This remarkable talented lady could almost have stepped out a Victorian novel. A colour print of the painting will be on display at Keene Hall on 5th June. I am indebted to Wendy Cummin for the details of Caroline's ancestry.

Our Next Meeting (Please note change of date)

Wednesday, 5th June 2013 8pm at Keene Hall

In Praise of Essex. Talk by Graham Smith.

Far removed from the media's general view of Essex, I hope to dispel the outsiders' opinion that "*Essex has no countryside to speak of, it is flat and boring commuter land and its people are utterly devoid of culture...etc.*" Along the way I will highlight some lovely villages that you might perhaps be unaware of, a few of its charming ancient market towns, a brief look at its long and proud literary and artistic heritage and some lesser known facts about the County and its people over the centuries.

Date for Your Diary

11th September 2013 Great Seabrights since 1700

Speakers – *Christine & Leslie Whybro.*

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY: FIFTEEN YEARS OLD AND STILL GOING STRONG!

The Inaugural Meeting of the Society was held on 26th November 1998, so this year marks our 15th anniversary. I wonder how many of our present members remember the occasion. I have been told that there was a large attendance and our present President, Ted Hawkins, commenced the proceedings before handing over to David Stacy, who was appointed the Society's first Chairman; David was the Parish's Local History Recorder. The speaker on that first evening was none other than Christine Whybro, who spoke about the Napoleonic Defences and Fortifications on Galleywood Common. The object of the Society is to promote interest in the history of Galleywood and the surrounding areas. Ron White's decision to give to the Parish Council his extensive collection of memorabilia of old Galleywood, which he had built up over some fifty years, was the inspiration behind the launching of the Society.

In its first four years the Society met three times a year to listen to speakers, but in December of each year the members met for a cheese and wine evening. However, in 2003 the meetings/talks were extended to four a year and in February of that year, 'A Newsletter for Our Members' was produced – *Past Times* No 1. David Stacy wrote "*Since we formed our Society three years ago, the attendance at our meetings have confirmed a considerable interest in things historical.*" So *Past Times* celebrates its 10th anniversary this