

### **SO WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?**

If you watched the recent popular and successful TV series, and think that it is about time for you to try and trace your own ancestry; during September & October, Wendy Cummin – our 'Ancestry expert' - will be holding a series of ancestry workshops at the Heritage Centre to help people with their family history. Wendy will start with a birth certificate and from there trace back your family to about 1780.

Places on these workshops will be limited, to a maximum of twelve people each course. A charge will be made but, at present, the actual cost has not been decided. So if you would like to attend one of these workshops or find out more details, please contact Wendy Cummin on 01245 250499.

### **OTHER NEWS FROM THE HERITAGE CENTRE.**

On **August Bank Holiday Monday**, there will be a Pirate Treasure Hunt for children. It will last from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, with the last entry to the Treasure Hunt at 2.00 pm. The cost will be £2 per child, with a prize for each child.

On **Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September** Christine & Les Whybro will give a talk on 'Family History' from 1.30 pm. The charge will be £2.

On **Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October**, Derek Aspinell, will be hosting a display of US WWII aircraft memorabilia, including uniforms. The display will be open from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, there will be no formal charge, but donations will be very welcome.

Then, on **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> October**, another Community Day will be held from 1.30 pm until 3.30 pm; your chance to explore the archives and meet local historians. The theme in the Heritage Room will be 'The WI'. There is no charge for this and should you require transport to the Heritage Centre, please contact either Wendy Cummin on 01245 250499 or Phil Waters on 01245 473191.

Refreshments will be available on both days.

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### **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  
28 Russell Gardens, Chelmsford, CM2 8DB Email: [grahamsmith99@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:grahamsmith99@hotmail.co.uk)

# **PAST TIMES**

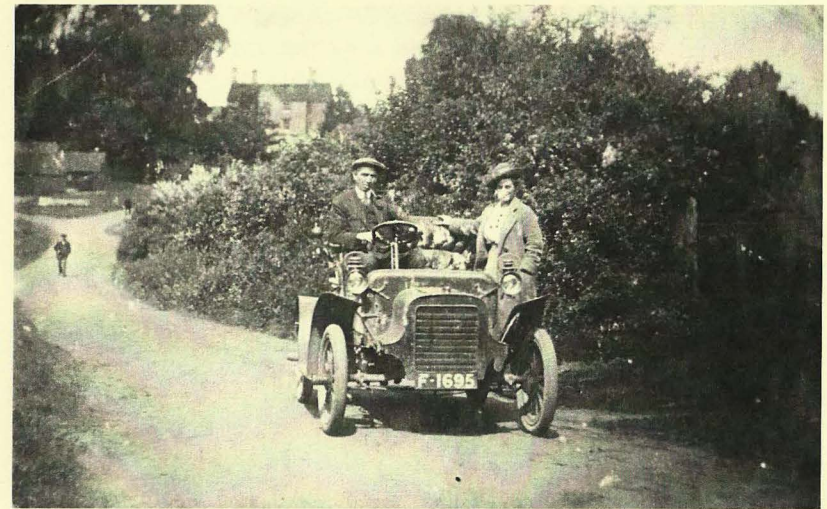
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## **GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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[www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety](http://www.essexinfo.net/galleywoodhistoricalsociety)



### **EARLY MOTORING IN GALLEYWOOD.**

The above B & W photograph, which dates back to 1916 or 1917, is one of my favourite images of early Galleywood. It shows Mr Henry James Windebank proudly sitting at the steering wheel of his motor-car – F 1695 – accompanied by his wife, Gertrude. By 1911 he was the licensee of *The White Bear* along *Watchouse Road*. Previously he had been a carpenter in Chichester, where in 1899, he and Gertrude married, and they had no children.

Under the Motor Car Act of 1903 all owners of motor-cars or "horseless motor carriages", as they were generally called then, were required to register their vehicles with the County Council when they were given a registration letter and number, which had to be displayed on the vehicle: the

letter 'F' was exclusive to Essex. At this time there were only three hundred and fifty-seven registered "horseless motor carriages" in the whole of Essex. The Act also imposed a speed limit of 20 m.p.h., which remained in force until March 1935, when it was increased to 30 m.p.h. Almost all of these early motor cars were of foreign manufacture, and they were universally dismissed as "noisome foreigners' playthings". By 1908 the average price of a motor car was £420 (about £38,000 in today's values), so they remained the preserve of the moneyed classes for many years ahead.

'F 1695' was first registered for 'trade use' in 1906 and was described as a red Cadillac flat-back two-seater weighing 8cwt – another foreign motor car. The Cadillac Automobile Company had been founded in Detroit, USA in August 1902 and it soon gained a high reputation for the stylish luxury finish to its cars and moreover their reliability. In 1908 the Company was awarded the Dewar Trophy in the United Kingdom for the most important advancements of the year in the automobile industry.



It was on 1st July, 1916 that Henry Windebank registered his Cadillac for 'private use', it was now grey in colour rather than the original red. The above photograph is a rather iconic image, showing three different forms of transport – a motor-car, a bicycle with its rider, in full military uniform, alongside a horse-drawn brewer's dray belonging to Baddow Brewery Co. Ltd. It is interesting to speculate on what would have been the reaction of

the villagers when this splendid and stylish motor-car was seen and heard chugging along the hitherto quiet village lanes?

Sadly Henry Windebank did not have very long to enjoy his motoring, he died on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1917 aged forty years and he was still at *The White Bear*. He left assets of £927 (about £75,000 today), so one might surmise that being the licensee of *The White Bear* was a fairly profitable occupation, or perhaps much of his assets resided in his Cadillac motor-car?

At this time there was certainly at least one other motor-car in the village; the Keene family had a motor-car and their chauffeur, Henry Charles Waskett, lived at Carlton Lodge. He would later open the first garage in the village, which was situated in *Stock Road*: but that is another story that will have to wait for a future *Past Times*!

I am greatly indebted to Wendy Cummin for details of Henry J. Windebank and to Susan Wilson for the registration information on 'F 1695'.

### **Our Next Meeting (Please note change of subject)**

**Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September 2013 8pm at Keene Hall**

### **History of Hill Farm & Unique Maps & Aerial Photographs of Galleywood.**

***An illustrated talk by Anthony McQuiggan of Hill Farm.***

Anthony McQuiggan moved with his family into Hill Farm, Galleywood in 2011, with no idea of the rich history of the locality and the place his new home had played in the past in shaping the local landscape. With a growing interest in mapping, sparked by archival research, Anthony started to place into context local historical data and he reveals how the fusion of traditional sources can be brought alive with modern presentation tools, with interesting results. It sounds as if there is a rather fascinating evening in store for us.

If, like me, you are not really sure where Hill Farm is located, I gather that the entrance is on the *Margaretting Road* going down *London Hill* on the right hand side of the road. It is set back from the road and is, in fact, not far from the Heritage Centre.

### **DATE FOR YOUR DIARY**

**13<sup>th</sup> November 2013**

### **The Nuns and their School at New Hall.**

**Talk by Tony Tuckwell.**

And, of course, **Our Annual General Meeting.**