

An obituary notice is often the first time that the full catalogue of a life is written. This tribute to one of our village's prominent citizens appeared in the Essex Chronicle on Friday 2 November 1934.

MR ALFRED DANIEL BRAZIER, the Galleywood representative on the Chelmsford Rural District Council, passed away on Tuesday after nine months' illness. He was 73 years of age.

Mr. Brazier, who resided at the Tea Gardens, formerly the Admiral Rous Inn, was born at Galleywood of a family which traces its descent back to Anthony Brazier, rector of Ingatestone in 1566. He joined the Metropolitan Police in 1881, and was promoted sergeant in 1888. During the severe winter of 1894 he was in charge of the Police Court Relief Fund in Southwark, and received a gold-mounted walking-stick from the people of the Borough in appreciation of his work. In 1896 he was made an Inspector, and in 1901 when the Duke of Connaught was made Grand Master of England, Mr. Brazier, being a Mason, was in charge of police arrangements at the Albert Hall, where the ceremony took place. Before a Home Office Commission in 1899, Mr. Brazier gave evidence as to the usefulness of the carrier pigeon in peace and war. He was on many occasions commended for work during his police career, and he was known for his good service to his late Majesty King Edward VII. In 1904 he was elected president of the Metropolitan Police Provident Fund which had a membership of 15,000. He retired from the Force on pension in 1906.

Returning to Galleywood he began a long career of local work. He was elected to the Parish Council in 1907, and in 1923 he headed the poll in the first election for a Galleywood representative to the Chelmsford Rural Council. He had held that seat ever since, winning the last election while ill in hospital. He was on six of the Council's committees, and had been chairman of the Chelmsford Joint Hospital Board. A member of the Poultry Club, he was also on the local executive of the Essex Farmers' Union and he was a member of the South London Fanciers' Association, the Galleywood Gardening Society, the Galleywood Cricket Club, and the Galleywood Football Club. He took a great interest in collecting specimens for various museums, and had numerous letters of thanks from the Natural History Museum for assistance rendered to them. Two years ago he celebrated his golden wedding. Mrs. Brazier survives, and there is one son and one daughter. Mr. Brazier must be described as an enthusiast. He had definite views, and maintained them fearlessly. By his death Galleywood has lost a hard worker and a great character.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Ron White **Chairman** David Stacy **Vice Chairman** Colin Baddock
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Comments or contributions to this Newsletter would be welcomed by the editor
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PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 6

MAY 2004

Just a Matter of Minutes

Sometimes the fascination of old records is found, not in the exciting moments of history, but in ordinary and mundane events. So when we stifle a yawn as the minute secretary ploughs through the humdrum details of a discussion that took place a few months ago, we might console ourselves with the thought that such stuff might bring joy to the heart of a reader a hundred or so years hence. Perhaps the following extract from the Great Baddow Parish Council Minutes of 1921 falls into this category.

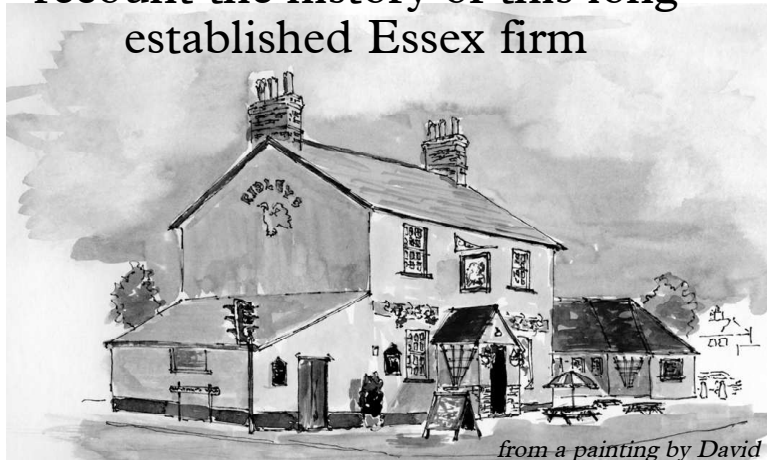
The clerk read a letter sent by Mr C B Snelling to the Education Sub Committee applying for £4.4s. for eight lectures given by him during the last session, and he also read a letter from the Clerk to the Sub Committee dated 2nd September 1920 asking for the Council's observations thereon as the committee understood that these lectures were to be given free of charge. Mr Snelling stated that he did say at first that he would give the lectures free, but afterwards found that lectures approved by the Education Committee were paid and that being so, stated at the next Council meeting that he should expect to be paid himself. After a full discussion it was proposed by Mr Marven and seconded by Mr Whiting that the Council recommend to the Education Sub Committee that Mr Snelling be paid for giving these lectures. On being put to the meeting the proposition was carried. Messrs Marven, Whiting, Howard and Amoss voting for it. The remainder of the Council not voting.

And why not? we may ask. Did some of them feel that a lecture by Mr Snelling was not really worth ten shillings and sixpence? The logic in his application seems sound enough, but the Council required a 'full discussion' to resolve the issue and even then some of them abstained from voting. This innocuous record may conceal far more than it reveals.

Our next meeting

The History of **RIDLEY'S BREWERY**

A speaker from the Brewery will recount the history of this long established Essex firm



from a painting by David Stacy

Wednesday 9 June 2004
Keene Hall Watchouse Road
at 8 pm

DATES for your Diary

22 September 2004

KING EDWARD VI GRAMMAR SCHOOL (KEGS) in Chelmsford, founded 450 years ago
A talk by LORD HANNINGFIELD DL who was born into a farming family in West Hanningfield and was a former pupil and foundation governor of the School

17 November 2004

THE ORAL HISTORY OF GT. BADDOW
Alan Buckroyd is paying a return visit to bring us some highlights from his recent book of interviews with some local residents.

This will be preceded by our Annual General Meeting



RACING PICTURE BRINGS BACK MEMORIES

When Ted Hawkins presented his talk on Golden Miller at our last meeting we were all impressed with his fine picture of the race crossing Margaretting Road. Prominent in the foreground were two women with a pram. We now know that the baby in that pram is not only still living in Galleywood; he was sitting in the audience at our meeting on 3 March this year!

RON EVE'S memory of that Race Day is naturally a little hazy - he was only around two years old at the time but he can clearly recall his time as a young boy in later years.

'An interesting and exciting time for Galleywood children in the Thirties would be the National Hunt Race Meetings that were held on Galleywood Common, during the Autumn, Winter and Spring months of each year if I remember correctly.

We always had a half day holiday on race days. It was a very colourful time; hundreds of people would come to Galleywood. Golden Miller I believe was stabled sometimes near the White Bear Public House. Cars and other forms of transport would line the side of the road from the Eagle Public House, down Watchouse Road to, and sometimes past the White Bear, which I suppose is about a 10 minute walk from the Eagle.

We would go up to near the Grandstands down to the start. Many is the time we would pick out the winner of the race just by the look and the number of the horse, but wouldn't be able to increase the size of our piggy banks by having a bet. We used to watch the bookies waving their arms about not realising what all these movements meant of course. All in all we enjoyed the hustle and bustle of the day's racing and went home tired out ready for our tea and bedtime.

In the summer the annual flower show and fun fair was held near the grandstands beside the racecourse and large marquees were erected to display the flowers. Competitions were organised for the children such as collecting the best bunch of wild flowers (a practice not allowed today!) and children's races were run near or on the racecourse. At Christmas the Galleywood Football Club (known as "The Woods") would hold a Christmas party for all Galleywood children in the old grandstand. A lovely tea was provided by the Football Club and then at the end of the party every child received a Christmas present.'

