

I remember ...

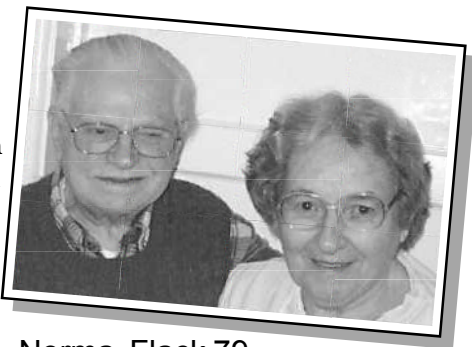
I was 14 when I came to live in Chelmsford. I'd been here every school holiday staying with my grandparents. My Grandmother bought the house, which is now *Pipers* at Galleyend, for £500 in 1925. We loved that house, us grandchildren, because I'd been used to living in the country. My dad was in the police but then he was moved to the outskirts of London and it was such a difference coming down here to stay with my grandmother. My cousins and I loved to get into that meadow with all the wild flowers and ponds, where they're building those terrible houses. There were only 600 people in the village when we first came here. No mains water, no sewerage, no gas or electricity. The oil man used to come round with the oil which we used for lighting and heating. My grandmother use to cook with oil on a little Valor cooker with an oven beside. She used to make beautiful cakes, gingerbread and all sorts.

We used to get off the bus at the top of Deadmans Lane, coming from Chelmsford - although sometimes we came down in the motor bike and sidecar. We walked down Deadmans Lane and were so excited when we saw the fir trees in grandmother's garden. We used to go up on the common and knew where all the primroses and cowslips were. Jill Bellamy said that I taught her to swim in the brick kiln pond but I don't remember that. I do remember going in there to rescue our dog that had got tangled up. He used to love swimming and got his collar caught up in the brambles and was thrashing about and I stripped down to my underclothes and went in and rescued him.

Herbert's father was with a family in Great Baddow and he was with the Essex foxhounds in Baddow Park. When they were exercising the hounds they used to come on to the common. There was a stile by the footpath at Galleyend where we used to go over into the meadow and there was a lovely pond which adjoined my grandmother's garden where we could see newts, moorhens and coots.

We had some lovely times there.

Extract from Norma's account in the Society's archives.



Norma Flack 79
with husband Herbert 89

PAST TIMES

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NUMBER 8

NOVEMBER 2004

The Social Occasion of the Year

As the traffic thunders along the Stock Road today it's difficult to picture the same scene reported in the cutting on the right from the local paper in 1910. We often hear the comment that Galleywood doesn't have the history of other more picturesque villages, but soon after the annual three day flat race meetings started here in 1759 the social scene on these occasions would have been the envy of many towns.

Hilda Grieve quotes another piece from 1787 in the *Essex Chronicle* in her book **THE SLEEPERS AND THE SHADOWS**

"The company at the assemblies was numerous and genteel; the ladies were beautiful, the elegance of their figure and the variety and richness of their dresses gave new lustre to their charms. Their affability and politeness left so strong an impression in the minds of the gentlemen, that the utmost harmony reigned"

Newspaper readers in those times no doubt regarded the verbose journalism with the same scepticism as we do today.

Essex Chronicle
July 27 1910

The weather on Tuesday and Wednesday being exceptionally favourable, a great number of persons of every description assembled on the race course. The grandstand was filled with company and exhibited a brilliant display of elegantly dressed ladies, most of the fashionable of the neighbourhood being present. The ball on Wednesday though graced by a select and fashionable company was not so distinguished by nearly so numerous an assemblage as on the previous evening but the theatre was tolerably filled. The pieces represented were *Man and Wife* and *Killing No Murder* which were exceedingly well received. The Hon. George Petre and Jonathan Wright were drunk to as Stewards for the ensuing year.

GALLEYWOOD HISTORICAL SOCIETY

President Ron White Chairman David Stacy Vice Chairman Colin Baddock
Secretary Bob Villa Treasurer Graham Mundy Programme Director Ted Hawkins
Committee

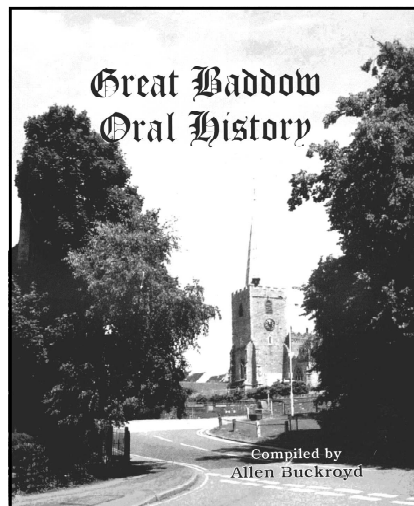
Madeleine Howard Pauline Potts Peter Roscoe David Stevenson John Turkentine Philip Walters

Our next meeting

Allen Buckroyd

is paying a return visit to bring us some highlights from his recent book of interviews with local residents of Great Baddow

This fascinating record recalls some of the history of the village, based on the lives of the people who have lived there in the last century. Interviews with a wide variety of current and former residents build a composite picture of everyday life in Great Baddow. The project was created by the Oral History Team of the Baddow and Galleywood U3A led by Allen Buckroyd



Wednesday 17 November 2004
Keene Hall Watchouse Road at 8 pm

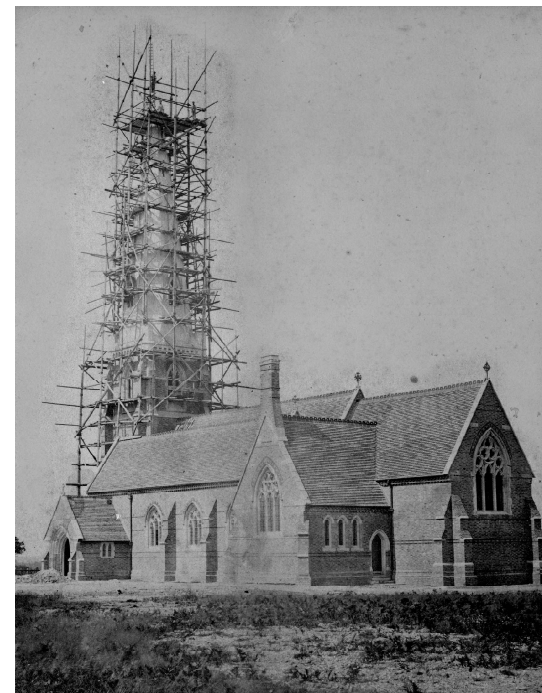
This meeting will be preceded by our
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DATES for your Diary

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|------------------------|---|
| 8 December 2004 | CHRISTMAS QUIZ NIGHT
Tickets available at our November meeting |
| 9 March 2005 | THE HISTORY OF THE ESSEX REGIMENT
Ian Hook
Keeper of the Essex Regiment Museum |
| 8 June | GALLEY HALL
Talk by Ted Hawkins |

St Michaels celebrates 130 years

ALONGSIDE the Parish Council's exhibition of Victorian Galleywood our parish church celebrated its 130th anniversary. Our picture shows that the tower and spire were the final stages of its construction in 1873. The conspicuous absence of trees shows how the Common has changed in character during the ensuing years.



Victorian Galleywood

THE parish exhibition in the Keene Hall attracted much interest. Visitors were greeted by an impressive display of agricultural tools from Allan Fowkes' collection. On their table in the centre of the hall, Albert and Maureen Southerden had assembled a collection of period artifacts and Albert was kept busy explaining the working of his acetylene bicycle lamps. John Turkentine displayed an old map showing the location of the Parish Boundary stones. Wendy Cummin showed off her researches into her family history and Terry Potter displayed his own family tree. Our own stand displayed a number of stories from the period, researched by Ted Hawkins and created much interest

The highlight of the show was the Victorian Parlour recreated by Jill Bellamy. The Ron White Room was transformed with fireplace and tiled hearth and fender, dresser displaying a full china dinner service, pictures from the period, bookshelves and table set for tea and a host of artifacts to complement the scene. Jill herself was dressed for the part, as were Chairman, John Turkentine, Vice Chairman, Janette Potter and Councillors and Jane Head, our Parish Clerk for whom much of the credit must go for a highly successful day.