

GLIMPSES OF GALLEYWOOD

SECOND EDITION

VILLAGE SIGN

Galleywood Racecourse
in its heyday

FOREWORD

by the Vicar, the Rev. A. G. Wiltet, B.A., B.D.

GLIMPSES

of

GALLEYWOOD

The success of her research and the response of people to her kindly persistence is due in large measure to her well known and enthusiastic interest in Galleywood life, evidenced, among other things, by her membership of our Church School's managing body.

The Parochial Church Council is most grateful to her for the long hours spent in research and recording. Not only in our Centenary Year but for many years to come this book will be read with interest by the people of Galleywood.

by

Muriel Sanders

First published 1973

Second Edition 1993

FOREWORD

by the Vicar, the Rev. A. G. Willett, B.A., B.D.

It was obviously an inspired suggestion at a Church Council meeting in 1971 that Miss Muriel Sanders should be asked to compile an account of the first century of Galleywood parish life. With Christian insight and a deep understanding of people, she has given to us not only authentic details of, but a genuine feeling for the life of Galleywood since 1873.

The success of her research and the response of people to her kindly persistence is due in large measure to her well known and enthusiastic interest in Galleywood life, evidenced, among other things, by her membership of our Church School's managing body.

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FOREWORD

By the Vicar, the Rev. A. G. Willis, B.A., B.D.

It was obviously an inspired suggestion that a Church Council meeting in 1877 that Mr. Mullis should be asked to compile an account of the first twenty years of Galleywood parish life. With Christian insight and a deep understanding of parish life and its growth to us not only historic details but a genuine feeling for the life of Galleywood.

The success of his research and the response of people to his kindly persistence is due in large measure to his well known and enthusiastic interest in everything the vicarage, among other things, is the responsibility of our Church Society's managing body.

The Parish Church Council is most grateful to him for the time spent in research and writing. Not only in our Centenary Year but in those years to come this little book will be read with interest by the people of Galleywood.

AUTHOR'S PREFACE

As its title hints, this booklet is not a study in depth of Galleywood but rather a miscellany of events and recollections, particularly during the years 1873-1973.

When invited by the Vicar to compile it for the Church's Centenary, I at first demurred, not being a native or even a resident of the parish. However, friendly help was forthcoming in unstinted measure and if there is any merit in the resultant publication it is due to those good people who bore with my incessant questioning and searched their memories at my request. To them and to those who loaned records and photographs or typed my scribbles and to John Parker for his cover design I offer my grateful thanks just as I offer these gleanings to readers, without guarantee but believing them to be accurate and true.

M.S.

PREFACE TO SECOND EDITION

Even a superficial reading of GLIMPSES OF GALLEYWOOD makes it abundantly clear that there have been great changes here since the Church was built in 1873. Those changes are still with us and the Galleywood Parish Council has wisely proposed that we keep this record updated by issuing a second edition.

Whilst we must beware of living in the past or sitting on our laurels, there is an increasing desire today with such mobile populations for people to want to know their roots. It is the past which so often helps us to understand and to appreciate the present and to give added significance to the value of our lives.

If this edition does any of this, it will have been worthwhile; if it records for posterity so many key events within our community it will be doubly worth the effort of the Galleywood Parish Council who have made this edition possible.

The Reverend Roger Wakely
Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels Church

GLIMPSES OF GALLEYWOOD first published in 1973 has been sought after and read by everyone interested in the history and life of Galleywood. A proposal by the Galleywood Parish Council to publish a second edition of this very popular booklet with an additional chapter 'Galleywood 20 Years On - 1993' was enthusiastically agreed by them and approved by the author, Muriel Sanders, and the Vicar of St. Michael and All Angels Church. The chapter updating the booklet to 1993 compiled by Parish Councillor Ted Hawkins and David Cook, a life trustee of the Keene Hall, has been incorporated in a new section called Part 2 and gives an account of many of the interesting events, activities and developments in Galleywood over the past 20 years.

The Galleywood Parish Council hope that this updated edition of the GLIMPSES OF GALLEYWOOD will be warmly welcomed and widely read.

Councillor Keith Liley
Chairman, Galleywood Parish Council

April 1993

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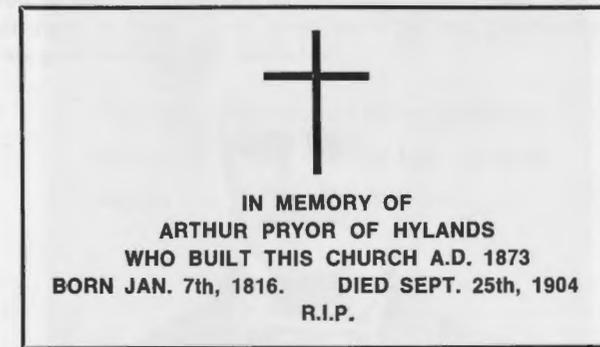
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PART 1

CHAPTER 1

ARTHUR PRYOR OF HYLANDS

In the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, Galleywood Common, Essex, there is a brass tablet on the north wall of the nave which reads :—

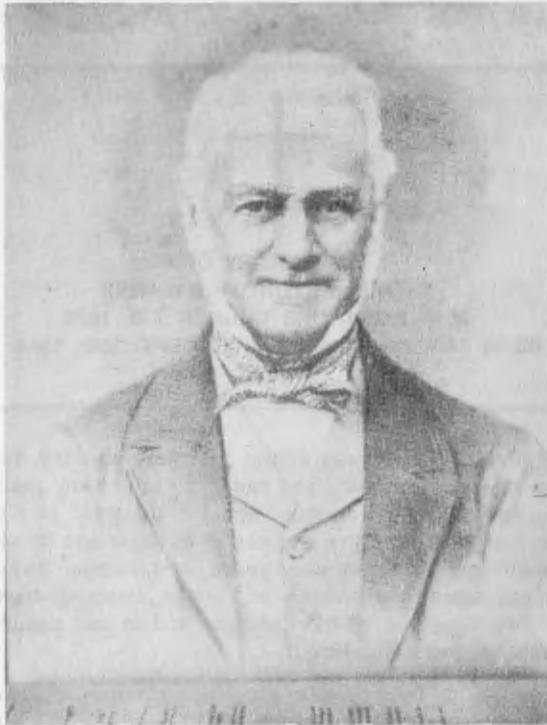


"Squire Pryor", as he was known to many, was the third son of Vickris Pryor of Baldock, Herts., and came to Essex many years after his marriage to Miss Elizabeth Sophia Dew, the daughter of his tutor. It would seem that he bought the mansion of Hylands and its park of 596 acres in order to live within easy reach of Liverpool Street Station, near which still stands the brewery of Truman, Hanbury, Buxton & Co. He was the first Chairman of the Company and in that capacity had to make frequent journeys to London.

Living happily at Hylands with their nine children, the couple took a great interest in the lives and wellbeing of people in the surrounding district through which they often rode in their horse-drawn carriage. Mrs. Pryor was a deeply religious woman and it was largely at her instigation that in 1862 her wealthy husband financed the erection of the Church of St. Mary, Widford, on the site of an earlier building.

The spiritual needs of the people of Galleywood were at that time being met by services either in the chapel-at-ease in the church school at The Eagle crossroads or in the small Methodist church in Well Lane. Influenced by his wife, Mr. Pryor soon put in hand a scheme to build a church high on Galleywood Common and visible for many miles around. He laid the foundation stone on 21st June, 1872, and was among 750 people who attended the consecration ceremony on 29th September, 1873. On that occasion a band of ringers from Benington, Herts, where Arthur

Pryor's second cousin, John Eade Pryor, was Rector, rang 5060 changes on the new peal of bells. To do this they made a round journey of some 70 miles in a four-in-hand belonging to their leader, Leonard Proctor, whose enthusiasm for campanology had by then superseded his earlier devotion to foxhunting. As there was no Diocese of Chelmsford until 1914, the service was conducted by the Bishop of Rochester and at its



Arthur Pryor 1816 - 1904

close the new Church of St. Michael and All Angels began its task of witnessing for the Christian faith alike to the faithful, the infidel, and those who couldn't care less.

Alas, any hopes that Mrs. Pryor cherished of attending Sunday services with her husband and family at Galleywood, as they were accustomed to do at Widford, were quickly abandoned. According to a relative, any such plans were laid aside after the very first Sunday service, before the incumbent had commenced duty. The visiting clergyman allegedly preached a sermon mildly in favour of purgatory and so horrified Mr.

Pryor, to whom "popery" was anathema, that he could never be persuaded to attend another service in the church on which he had spent £6,300!

As the tablet in the church tells us, Arthur Pryor lived to the ripe age of 88 years. His public engagements including laying the foundation stone of the Chelmsford and Essex hospital in 1882. Not many men have used their wealth to build and endow two churches in a district, and maybe a happy blending of humour with piety would have enabled him to smile when his irreverent descendants referred to the buildings as "Grandfather's Fire Insurance". He lived a full and useful life and was lately honoured in Galleywood when a road was named after him. Perhaps he could have no finer tribute to his character and personality than the words his grandson recently wrote:—

"I've heard throughout my life no hard thing
about him; all my relatives seem to have
adored him. I wish I'd known him".

THE HISTORY OF GREAT BADDOW AND THE PARISH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS, GALLEYWOOD, ESSEX. BY THE REV. J. H. B. ...



Map of the Parish of Galleywood, showing the boundaries of the parish of St. Michael and All Angels, Galleywood, Essex.

The map shows the parish boundaries of Galleywood, which are marked by a series of stones. The stones are numbered 1 to 10, and their positions are described in the text. The map also shows the River Wid, the railway, and the main roads of the parish.

CHAPTER 2

BIRTH OF A PARISH

Even today there is no civil parish of Galleywood which for administrative purposes is part of Great Baddow and appoints its representatives on Great Baddow Parish Council.

However, with the erection of the Church of St. Michael and All Angels, steps were taken for the formation of an ecclesiastical parish which was duly constituted by Order in Council on October 20th, 1874, and is four square miles in area. Realising that some of his parishioners were not quite clear about the boundaries, a former vicar gave in the Parish Magazine a useful summary, thus :—

“Our present parish was formed in 1874 of parts of four others — Moulsham, Great Baddow, West Hanningfield and Orsett Hamlet. Its boundaries are as follows :— Starting from where the railway crosses the River Wid opposite Hylands, the boundary line goes south following the river to a little past White’s Bridge, skirting Molehill Common and taking in Crondon Hall; from thence it follows the road to Cockshill Wood where it turns east and taking in Crondon Park goes to the old gravel pit on the Stock road. From this point the boundary is marked by a series of ten stones which bear the letters G.C.St.M.C.C. and are numbered consecutively. Stone 1 stands at Calves Common from which an almost straight line runs through Temple Farm to Hill Farm, thus taking in “The Ship” and the cottages near and also the whole of Bakers Lane. Stones Nos. 2 and 3 are just behind “The Ship” and No 4 at Hill Farm. Here the line goes north to Great Seabrights taking in Galley End where Stones Nos. 5, 6 and 7 may be seen. From Great Seabrights the boundary runs along Deadman’s Lane (Stone No. 8) and across Beehive Lane to Tilekiln Farm (No. 9) — which, however, it does not include — and thence past the Pumping Station (No. 10) and across the fields to the bridge from which we started”.

The lettering on the boundary stones is an abbreviation of “Galleywood Common St. Michael’s Consolidated Chapelry”.

White’s Bridge, to which reference is made, was built over the River Wid in 1770 and it should be borne in mind that the Great Baddow — Margaretting Road over the bridge was once a main stage-coach route to London. Today the bridge faces a sterner engineering test from the surprisingly heavy traffic frequently passing over it.

Probably Galleywood gets its name from Saxon days when “gavol” or rent was paid for the wood around the settlement, as this form of

tax was usual. A less likely suggested derivation is Gallows in the wood. It is interesting to compare the different spelling of the place name through the centuries :—

1250	GAVELWODE	
1307	GAWELWOD	
1419	GAWELLWOD(E)	GAWLEWOD(E)
1450	GALLEWOODHETH	GALLWODHETH
1612	GAVELWOOD COMMON	GALLWOOD COMMON
1662	GALLOW COMMON	
1777	GALLYWOOD COMMON	
1839	GALLY WOOD	

The population at the formation of the ecclesiastical parish is not stated, but in 1882 it was 817. By 1901 it had dropped to 774 and rose to 861 in 1911. The figure for 1921 was 1,010 which increased to 1,072 in 1931. Today it is over 7,000.

CHAPTER 3

THE CHURCH OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

The beautiful church in brick and stone which Arthur Pryor gave to Galleywood was designed in the Early Decorated style of architecture by Piers St. Aubyn, born 1815, who in his lifetime rebuilt or restored many churches in Devon and Cornwall. Messrs. Putnam and Fotheringham of London were the builders and the work was completed in 364 days. It would seem likely that the site was given by the Lord of the Manor and that building materials were conveyed by rail to the now disused siding in Private Road.

Erected on a site which is 277 feet above sea level and given a tower and spire with a combined height of 131 feet, the church dominates the surrounding countryside, as its donor no doubt intended. Inside there is an atmosphere of space and height, due to Piers St. Aubyn's skill in design and the absence of any clutter of tombs or memorials or, indeed, overmuch stained glass. The edifice consists of a chancel, nave, three aisles, two transepts, a south porch and a pinnacled square tower containing eight bells, surmounted by an octagonal spire in Douling Stone (from Somerset).

The following dimensions may be of interest :—

Chancel	34 feet long, 17 feet wide, 30 feet high
Nave	64 " " 18 " " 34 " "
Side aisles	64 " " 11½ " " 34 " "
South porch	10 feet square
Tower	18 feet square, 57 feet high
Spire	74 feet high

Originally there was provision for 400 sittings but today there remains a space from which two front pews were removed in November, 1940. This was done to give standing room for coffins on the sad occasion of the funeral service for victims of a wartime bombing incident in Skinners Lane when five people died, including a little girl.

Many find inspiration in the large stained glass East Window, recently cleaned and restored after vandalism. It is the only window of coloured

glass in the church and was designed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell in three panels featuring, left to right, The Annunciation, Christ seated in glory, Peter's deliverance from prison. Immediately below, the reredos, designed by Burrow, depicts Christ and ministering angels, four on each side.

Flanking the east window are two attractive circular gold panels with capitals signifying JESUS CHRIST, although their meaning may well have puzzled all but Greek scholars.

With the passage of time, various improvements have been made and many were facilitated by the generosity of wellwishers, particularly Mrs. J. H. Keene. It was she who in 1933 arranged for the old acetylene lighting plant, installed in 1908, to be replaced by electric light. In 1966 the church was re-wired and fluorescent tubes and tungsten spot lamps installed at a cost of £540.

A tower screen was added in 1955 in memory of Miss Helen Godwin. The pulpit-handrail was replaced in 1944 by the Vicar in memory of his first wife, Evangeline, and after his death a clergy stall in light oak was given by his widow, Mrs. Hilda Roughton, to commemorate his long ministry. Other gifts included churchwarden's staves, oak seats for the churchyard, silk bookmarks, a piano, flower vases and stands, a lectern bible and the Communion Table book rests, linen and cloth, and, in 1972, additional chalice and paten. In 1956, oak church gates were erected and dedicated as a token of gratitude to Mrs. Keene and are notable for the delightfully carved little owls sitting solemnly upon them.

The original heating apparatus had to be replaced in 1914 and was in turn superseded by an oil heating system in 1957. It is interesting to recall that in the early days of the church there was a fireplace in the vestry!

The organ, now valued at over £9,000, was formerly in Slough Parish Church and was bought in 1924 for £100. Mr. R. Mead of Chelmsford, who was organist at the time, made several improvements to the instrument which had 23 stops, including a 16 ft. violone on the pedal. In 1953, it was rebuilt and the console re-sited through the generosity of Mrs. Keene's sister, Mrs. Adams, thus enabling it to give continuing pleasure and inspiration to the congregation.

Little has so far been said about the belfry and the ring of eight bells which formed part of Mr. Pryor's gift. For the purpose of campanology, Galleywood ranks as a Major tower in which most methods can be rung and a memorable peal was on Saturday, 27th May, 1882, when there were 5,040 changes in 2 hours 50 minutes, Holts Ten Part Peal of Grand-sire Triples.

In 1926 the bells were rehung on ball bearings, the ball frame strengthened and sallie guides put in the belfry at a cost of £147. At the subsequent service for the rehanging of the bells about 50 ringers attended from all parts of the Chelmsford diocese, including Mr. C. H.



Howard, Master of the Essex Association of Change Ringers. In an interesting address, he recalled the time when Galleywood was the centre of

change ringing in the district and said the bells were still recognised as some of the most musical in the county. They weigh from six to 14 hundredweights. By 1962 it was found essential to replace the bell frame with a steel one and to reposition and retune the bells. The work cost £1,000.

Many bellringers, young and old, male and female, have been trained at Galleywood under the respective Masters of the Tower, not least of whom was Mr. W. Barrett from 1945-70. They have given dedicated service and doubtless had many a tale to tell of their experiences. Rumour has it that an earlier Vicar, in conflict with his bellringers, took personal and drastic steps to put the bells out of action but this tantalizing story remains uncorroborated. On another occasion the bells were joyfully peal-ringing for a Harvest Thanksgiving service when the stay of the 7th bell broke, allowing the bell to go over. The rope was wrenched out of the ringer's hands and flew out of the belfry to lash furiously around the decorated font, whereupon the remaining ringers quickly set their bells and left with their luckless companion, whose bell had to ring itself down.

More than once volunteers had to clear the belfry of straw, sticks and other rubbish brought in by jackdaws or pigeons and fix wire netting to make further intrusion more difficult. The church itself was at one time invaded by bats.

As for the churchyard, surely many a visitor has drawn inspiration and comfort from its beautiful surroundings of trees, meadows, and the Common, sometimes ablaze with gorse and resounding with the Jubilate of the birds. This, too, was part of Mr. Pryor's gift.

Patronage of the benefice was originally his and passed to later owners of Hylands, Sir Daniel Gooch and Mr. C. E. Ridley. The latter had it conveyed to the Church Pastoral Aid Society, the present owners, in 1917.

Worship at St. Michael's continues in the evangelical tradition. Emphasis is on Bible truth, simplicity of expression and maximum participation by the congregation. While Christian truth never changes, social customs, attitudes and thought forms do and so a changing pattern of worship to suit all age groups is developing.

CHAPTER 4

VICARS OF GALLEYWOOD

During the first century of its existence the Church of St. Michael and All Angels has had six Vicars, of whom two each stayed for over thirty years. There are one or two people in the village today who have known all in turn and who have searched their memories to describe the earlier incumbents, included in the following list, viz :—

Rev. H. G. de Lisle, 1873-1907

Rev. E. N. Dew, 1907-1917

Rev. J. H. Keen, 1917-1921

Rev. F. A. Roughton, 1921-1958

Rev. E. C. Lendon, 1958-1968

Rev. A. G. Willett, 1968-

All lived in the rambling vicarage in Stock Road which is being replaced by a modern purpose-built house near the Vicarage Hall and obviously the demands upon them grew with the expanding population and the increasing pace of life.

Mr. de Lisle has been described as "a tall, benign man with kindly eyes, an abundance of hair and a long beard". He and his wife had a daughter and three sons, two of whom were tragically drowned in rough seas at Broadstairs and were buried at Galleywood. This sad event is recorded on a tablet placed on the south wall of the chancel years later by Miss de Lisle in memory of her parents and brothers. Her father died in Guernsey in 1911, aged 76.

The second Vicar, Mr. Dew, was High Church in outlook, used incense in the church and heard confessions. His congregation dwindled and towards the end of his incumbency he wrote sadly in the parish magazine — "Bad customs die hard and one of the bad customs of this place is the neglect of Sunday and Sunday worship. My predecessor found it the same". Supported by his wife, he nevertheless tried to serve his parishioners by organising various social activities but eventually announced his resignation of the living.

Mr. Keen, an elderly clergyman of short stature, was the next incumbent and he visited every house in the parish once in three months, often accompanied by his wife. His journeys were frequently made on a tricycle. As he was a lover and student of nature, the vicarage garden became a sort of wild life sanctuary during his stay. He retired to live

in Tunbridge Wells and died at the great age of 98.

It is said of Mr. Roughton, the fourth Vicar, that in times of great sorrow and bereavement, no one could bring more comfort. He was a man of deep faith and conviction who preached many fierce and fearless sermons and his uncompromising attitude towards certain local activities undoubtedly challenged some but alienated other parishioners. A few years after the death of his wife, he made a happy second marriage to a popular member of his choir, Miss Hilda Landon, who gave him great support throughout the remainder of his long and conscientious ministry. He died in Galleywood shortly after his resignation and is the only Vicar to be buried there.

Mr. Lendon came to the parish with his wife and a young family of four, bringing the enthusiasm generated by their company and a naturally warm personality. His wartime service in the Royal Air Force made him a popular chaplain of the local branch of the British Legion and he was also markedly successful in his efforts to revive church activities among children and young people generally. On him fell much of the responsibility for organising the building of St. Michael's Junior Church School before he resigned the living to become Vicar of Dagenham.

When Mr. Willett came from Bristol to Galleywood he amused the then Bishop of Chelmsford by tolling the church bell 21 times at his induction, thereby possibly creating a record. Like his predecessor, he served in the Armed Forces during the war, in a Field Ambulance of the Royal Army Medical Corps, and he, too, has undertaken the chaplaincy of the Royal British Legion's local branch. A married man with a small son and daughter, he has the background of a happy home life to support him in the various challenges of a fast-growing parish, and it is he, the sixth Vicar, with the help of the parish's first curate, the Rev. Richard Sutton, who has the honour of presiding over the centenary celebrations of Arthur Pryor's church.

Each erudite incumbent in his day naturally experienced different needs, pressures, opportunities and achievements, but an over-riding demand on all was summarised by St. Paul in words which appear with a fine relevance on the memorial window to a conscientious old priest in a village church not far from Galleywood:—

"It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful".

CHAPTER 5

DAY SCHOOLS

There has been a Church Day School in Galleywood ever since early in the nineteenth century when the Vicar of Great Baddow arranged for a small group of children to be taught "reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic and religion" in a cottage room. Later a house was built on the Common and let to the parish for use as a school at a rent of four guineas yearly; records reveal that in 1831 a Mrs. Dunwoody was teaching 41 children there for an annual salary of £16. In 1838 a school for 90 children was erected on land given by the Lord of the Manor at the Eagle crossroads, at a cost of £772.0.5½, which was raised by public subscription. It served as a chapel-at-ease on Sundays when its bell tolled before the services just as it had summoned the children on weekdays. Miss S. Grutchfield was its first Head Teacher and lived in the small house erected in the grounds and interestingly described on the Tithe Map as "Sarah Grutchfield's garden".

Under the Education Act of 1870, the building was recognised as a "National School" whereby ratepayers became responsible for maintenance charges and the trustees had to maintain the building.

Not surprising, H.M. Inspector of Schools directed in 1908 that a water supply should be provided and a well was sunk. Better window arrangements were also demanded and the total cost was £32 which was initially met by the Vicar as no school funds existed. After repeated appeals in the Parish Magazine, the money was raised and one such appeal sadly reminds us of the difference between the lives of many children of that generation and those of today:—

"Childhood only comes once and we should do all in our power to make the surroundings of our children bright and happy. Boys and girls are nowadays withdrawn from school and sent to work at 13. They have acquired but a smattering of knowledge and many of them are unfit for manual labour. If their schooldays must be short, let them at any rate be able to look back at them with pleasure, perhaps gratitude, as the happiest period of their lives".

By 1912 substantial alterations to the school were necessary to bring it up to standard and for a time it seemed that the cost of £175 would never be raised. However, the generosity of Sir Daniel and Lady Gooch of Hylands saved the school as they met the deficit of £30. Accommo-

ation was then available for 155 children and Miss E. Taylor was Headmistress.

In 1928 the deeds of the school were transferred from Great Baddow to the Vicar and churchwardens of Galleywood and in the same year Mr. J. W. Smith began his eminently successful service of 26 years as Headmaster, to be succeeded in that capacity by Mr. A. F. Sprange, the present Headmaster of the Junior School.

Galleywood's Lady Bountiful, Mrs. Keene, met the full cost of two classrooms which were added in 1935 and numbers gradually rose even though senior children had been transferred in 1946 to local Secondary Schools, so that in 1950 the Managers were glad to accept the permission of the Parish Council for the school to use the Keene Hall. Oil heating was installed in the school in 1957 and the following year new lavatory accommodation including hot water was added at a cost of £2,240. Ever rising numbers necessitated the erection of two demountable classrooms in 1963 and the imperative need for new premises was finally demonstrated when in 1965 one class had to be taught in the Vicarage Hall which had been acquired by the Parochial Church Council in secondhand condition shortly before.

As early as 1961 plans had been discussed to meet the impact of a growing population upon local schools and it had been decided to replace both Baddow and Galleywood Church Schools by two new buildings in Barnard Road, Galleywood, one to be a Church Junior School for 320 and used as a place of worship on Sundays, and the other a County Infants' School for 240. The Infants' School opened in September, 1966, and the Junior School a year later. In each, children are being taught well beyond the four Rs. by qualified and enthusiastic staff, some of whom supervise College of Education students. Already there is pressure on the accommodation at both schools as more and more houses are built, and demountable classrooms are being added.

It should not be forgotten that but for the foresight and faith of the church authorities in undertaking to be responsible for a Junior School, the old and outworn premises at the Eagle crossroads might still be in use for children aged 7 to 11. The County Education Committee had no plans to build for juniors at the same time as they erected the Infants' School nor indeed for some time ahead. A considerable amount of money had to be borrowed by the Church for the Junior School building, but generous giving and enthusiastic fund-raising efforts by parishioners and church people brought the repayment of the debt in sight. The Parochial Church Council has decided to clear the debt by realising £2,500 of its invested assets.

It is interesting to speculate about the children who attended the old school before the turn of the century and whose lives differed so greatly from those of children today. They walked to and from school on rough tracks and roads in black stockings and stout black boots tipped

with iron "blakeys" to give longer wear and the older ones might sometimes help the tinies along with pick-a-back rides. The girls' dresses were long, thick and invariably of a dark colour which would not "show the dirt" and over them they wore pinafores and perhaps sported a ribbon in their hair. Boys had large white celluloid collars over their thick dark jackets with small bow ties and the trousers of older boys were fastened



St. Michael's C.E. Junior School

just below the knees. Both boys and girls sometimes wore warm navy blue guernseys. All children carried their food to school, and in fact the first mention of school dinners at Galleywood was not until the summer of 1942. Games could be played on the daily walks if a number of children journeyed together and in good weather they were often occasions of fun and laughter. Crowded conditions and strict discipline prevailed in the classroom when the children arrived but there was often a warm relationship between the youngsters and "Teacher" even though the latter wielded the cane without inhibitions about such a commonplace practice.

The twentieth century saw a gradual improvement in conditions generally although there were for some time frequent exclusions of children from school because of dirty heads, impetigo or measles and school nurses visited many times a term. Today it is rare for a child to be excluded for any purpose whatsoever.

Records reveal a widening of the school's curriculum by successive references to lessons at one centre or another on such subjects as cooking, gardening, handicraft, metalwork, woodwork, laundering and swimming and in 1930 the first organised school visit took place to St. Paul's Cathedral and the Houses of Parliament. In 1925 there is proud comment on the award of Jasper Jeffery scholarships to two girls for Chelmsford County High School and in 1936 two boys were the first to qualify from Galleywood School for admission to the Mid-Essex Technical College Junior School. One of them, David Cook, later became a much respected school manager and churchwarden and thus was able to make his own contribution to plans for the excellent Junior Church School which stands alongside the equally successful County Infants' School in Barnard Road today.

CHAPTER 6

THE COMMON AND ITS RACECOURSE

Galleywood Common is 175 pleasant acres in extent and in 1942 it was conveyed to Chelmsford Rural District Council for £2,000 when the Council convened to maintain it in perpetuity for the benefit of the inhabitants of the surrounding locality. It is an area of natural beauty with its trees of oak, elm, ash, hornbeam and copper beech, its bracken and gorse and the intriguing hollows and sandpits for children's diversions provided they are alert to the proximity of adders. A colourful sight to this day is when a meet of the Essex Union Hunt is held on the Common.

For centuries its main claim to fame was the racecourse, but it has seen many other happenings. On April 24th, 1806, a duel with pistols was fought close by the windmill then standing on the Common between Lt. Torrens' and Surgeon Fisher of the 6th Regiment of Foot, resulting in Lt. Torren's death the following day. Another untimely death occurred at a later date when the wife of Samuel Crozier of the Admiral Rous inn on the Common was murdered by being pushed downstairs and was buried in the churchyard. Subsequent rumours led to the disinterment of her body and the arrest of her husband who was tried, convicted of her murder and executed at Chelmsford Prison on 5th December, 1899.

Many varieties of birds and animals make the Common their habitat and at one time local boys collected and sold the eggs of pheasants and partridges. Unfortunately news of this birds' paradise spread further afield and until the practice was stopped men came from Whitechapel to catch linnets and goldfinches with nets and decoy birds, for subsequent sale in East London. Another reprehensible use of the Common was to turn unwanted cats and dogs loose upon it, with scant regard for their sufferings. In happier vein, a resident has spoken of his boyhood when he and others tended cows on the Common from nearby farms and earned about 3/6d. a week for their labours from dawn to the hottest part of the day when the cows were driven home.

Some years after the First World War, on the afternoon of Easter Sunday when a stiff wind was blowing, fire broke out on the Common near to the Church. Fortunately its course was blown away from the building towards London Hill but flames sometimes thirty feet high caused havoc to trees, gorse and bracken and also burnt out the forge then standing across the road near Mill House. At that time no fire engines were available but villagers managed to save two haystacks and just as the roaring flames reached a house named Chequers the wind veered in the opposite direction and the fire petered out. In 1956 an extensive

fire on the Common was blown towards the Church by a west wind but brought under control by the Fire Service. Because of the obvious risk Chelmsford Rural District Council subsequently gave permission for a firebreak 30 yards from the Church which is today less vulnerable as a result.

Gipsies often encamped on the Common with their horses, caravans and dogs and at times there was evidence that wayfarers had slept in the church porch. In fact on one occasion an intruder penetrated into the vestry and made up a comfortable bed on cassocks and surplices!

In 1893 a golf course of nine holes was laid out on the Common; all the hazards were natural, some being the remains of entrenchments thrown up when it was feared that Napoleon was about to invade. The outer defences against Bonaparte were between the top of London Hill and the Church. A clubhouse was built on to the Horse and Groom public house and local boys earned pocket-money as caddies until new links at Widford made the Galleywood course redundant.



Steeplechasing, Circa early 1920's

The racecourse on the Common had three claims to fame in that it was probably patronized by Charles II, "Old Rowley" — it became the only course in England to encircle a village church — and it had a killing uphill finish. Although actual records of flat racing at Galleywood over a 3-mile course begin with the year 1759 there is every reason to believe

that meetings were held much earlier. In 1770 George III gave 100 guineas as prize money in a race for 4-year-old mares carrying 8½ stone and there was a Queen's Royal plate of 100 guineas from 1759 to 1876. In 1890 a new racecourse with a new grandstand was formed; it crossed the main road twice and a bye road, each covered with tan made from oak bark, and all traffic was stopped during races.

Flat racing gave place to steeplechasing and Galleywood Races became a great local occasion. Twice yearly a two-day meeting was held, the first mainly attended by the gentry and the second by farm-workers and Chelmsford townspeople. Livery stables and domestic accommodation were available at nearby inns and farms, including Galley Hall. When Admiral Rous patronised a meeting he had a private stand alongside the course and thus gave his name to the site building later used as an inn. Because of the danger to children from unfamiliar traffic, the school closed on race days and the general excitement was probably akin to that which prevailed at eighteenth century meetings when there were prize fights and cock fights in the sandpits for the entertainment of racegoers. The children frequently picked up coins dropped by dishonest bookmakers when they welshed with their takings.

Steeplechasing at Galleywood came to an end in 1935 although there was pony racing on the course for a few years longer, until the outbreak of war. The national economic crisis affected attendances and meetings also suffered from the fact that crowds could watch and bet without making any contribution towards running expenses. However, the grandstand was not dismantled but remained to serve as the venue for many village activities until the generosity of Mrs. Keene produced the Keene Hall.

Today, in 1973, the Common is ordinarily a quiet and unspoiled area, populated on fine weekends and Bank Holidays by hundreds who arrive by car, bicycle or on foot bringing children, deck chairs, dogs, kites, bats, balls, picnic baskets and bottles of pop. Except when a part was ploughed to increase food production during the Second World War and immediately afterwards, it has been wholly available to the public for recreational purposes and without it Galleywood would be a place of less attraction and interest.



CHAPTER 7

WORLD WARS AND THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

A terse entry in the Parish Magazine shortly after the close of the 1914-18 war gives some idea of its impact on the parish :—

“On the last Sunday afternoon of the old year we had a memorial service for Galleywood men who had fallen in the war. In the course of his sermon the Vicar read the names of all 11 brave brothers who gave their lives for us. About 148 Galleywood men in all had joined up during the war”.

Just as the Common had been used as the site for artillery when the country was preparing for Napoleon's expected invasion, so in 1914 25-pounders were dug in opposite the grandstand as a defence against Germany's Zeppelins, the monster airships, although they never went into action as those in Great Baddow did. Other guns were parked on what is now Chaplins Close. Men from the Warwickshire Regiment were stationed in the village, many in barracks at the rear of the mill on the Common, with some officers and their horses at Mill House. The grandstand was used as a camp for Army stores and just across the country the Royal Flying Corps had temporary accommodation at Widford in corrugated iron hangars.

Many older parishioners retain personal memories of that dreadful conflict and the suffering engendered by trench warfare in Flanders. Before hostilities ended even the schoolchildren of Galleywood were enrolled on the Home Front when at the request of the Food Controller and with the approval of the Education Committee, they and their teachers picked blackberries on three afternoons a week. 867 pounds were sold to the Government at 3d. a pound, for the use of the troops.

The day after fighting ceased on November 11, 1918, a Thanksgiving Service was held in the Church, attended by a large congregation. Nine months later a Welcome Home Dinner was given to men who had served in the Forces while their wives and sweethearts were entertained at tea to which all the schoolchildren were invited.

World War 2 brought more soldiers to be billeted in Galleywood for a time. They were mainly in the Keene Hall with their officers in Woodlands in Stock Road. Evacuated children also came to live in the village and when the school opened for the autumn term in 1939, 48 newly-arrived boys and girls joined the classes. Air raid warnings became a

part of everyday life and on September 3rd, 1940, there was heavy bombing and machine gun fire just beyond the village and aeroplanes could be seen to crash. As already mentioned five people were killed by bombs in Skinners Lane on October 31st, 1940, and again on the morning of December 3rd, 1940, a string of bombs fell across the parish. A German bomber crashed in flames with its dead pilot in the fields behind Carlton House in April, 1943, and the crew, who had bailed out earlier, were taken prisoner.

In common with many a British village Galleywood lived out its wartime saga of blood and tears, toil and sweat, heroism, humour, endurance and, above all, dedication to a common cause. The tale abounds with words to stir the memory — Home Guard, Civil Defence, Special Constabulary, blackout, Morrison shelters, rationing, barrage balloons, searchlights, Spitfires, Hurricanes, Heinkels, Messerschmidts, Blitz, doodle-bugs, rockets, U-boats and the like. The children played their part, girls knitted for the men on minesweepers and the school as a unit "adopted" H.M.S. MASHONA, a destroyer of the 6th Flotilla, for the purpose of correspondents and comforts. On at least three occasions Petty Officers from the ship visited the school to thank the children for their interest and they presented a model of the ship. To the great grief of her Galleywood friends, H.M.S. MASHONA was sunk in the Atlantic in 1941 and a memorial service was held in church on May 30th, the day after news of the disaster was received. Subsequently H.M.S. ASHANTI was "adopted" by the school and at the end of the war the officers and crew presented a large model of the ship and the Ashanti Cup, now a trophy.

Because so many churches received bomb damage an appeal was made in the Parish Magazine in March, 1941, for vigilance in guarding St. Michael's during air attacks, particularly in regard to incendiary bombs. Ready-filled sandbags were placed in the porch, vestry, tower belfry and behind the organ and two large tanks of water stood in the belfry. Fortunately there was never any necessity to use them.

Victory by the Allies over the Axis powers was formally proclaimed on May 8th, 1945, to be followed by the surrender of Japan three months later. After long enforced silence, the bells of St. Michael's rang jubilantly once more on May 9th to a total of 4½ hours and thanksgiving services were held in the church that day and again on the following Sunday. Another joyous peal rang out from the tower on August 15th when Japan fell. Some months later the Singing Fellowship under Miss Wadley gave a special concert in the form of a Victory Programme. So ended hostilities, and today wooden memorial tablets to the fallen in both World Wars hang on the church's south wall while innumerable men and women carry around their physical, emotional and mental scars of those brave and terrible years.

A natural development from World War 1 was the formation of the British Legion in 1921, to be honoured subsequently with the prefix Royal.

Records show Galleywood as a sub-section of the Chelmsford branch in 1935 but the membership strength was such that the Galleywood branch was formed in September, 1937, and has flourished consistently. A number of original members still live in the village, including the ever-active Vice-President, Mr. A. W. Lodge, who as a very young man lost a leg in the service of his country. He is one of three members of the Branch to be awarded the Legion's Gold Badge, one of the highest tributes for outstanding service, the others thus honoured being the late Mr. J. Eve



Army Convoy through Galleywood 1914 - 1918

and the late Mr. G. H. Landon. A founder member, the late Mr. A. Brazier, was the first Branch member to receive a County Certificate of Merit for services rendered, while mention must also be made of Mr. F. Cook, a founder member, who, with the late Mrs. L. C. Keene, was awarded life membership for outstanding services.

To obtain funds for charitable obligations, the Branch organised whist drives, dances and annual dinners, and in 1959 a grand fête with film stars and a Beauty Queen raised a substantial amount towards the purchase of the Headquarters' building at the corner of Watchouse Road and The Street. Meetings were previously held in the Keene Hall or, since 1950, the old Grandstand on the racecourse. Many people gave donations or made interest-free loans towards the Headquarters' project

and the members themselves undertook necessary interior work to save expense. Extensive enlargements were carried out in 1972.

In 1938 the Branch formed a Rifle Club and built their own range on the Common. Then, in 1944, as a practical measure of their interest in servicemen, they bought a bicycle which was kept at Chelmsford Police Station for the use of service personnel arriving on leave after the last bus had left. Gifts were sent at Christmas during the war to all men and women in the armed forces and benevolent work at that season remains a high priority, although it continues throughout the year whenever need is shown.

The Women's Section of the Galleywood Branch was formed in 1947 and joins in the annual Remembrance Day parade at the church. An indication of the strength of the local Branch is given by the large numbers of both sections on parade each year.

CHAPTER 8

NONCONFORMITY IN GALLEYWOOD

Evidence of nonconformist Christian worship in Galleywood can be traced back to 1818 under Wesleyan inspiration and leadership but it came to an end in 1829. In 1845 a local farmer, John Keyes, made his house on the Common available for services and it was so used until 1852. About that time, an unnamed young scissors-grinder and his friend conducted open air services in the vicinity and they were so well attended that it was agreed to transfer them to a room in the old grandstand on the racecourse, that is to say, the building subsequently superseded by a modern structure. At some later stage this arrangement ended in favour of services in an old farmhouse, believed to be Glebe Farm alongside Stock Road. However, this proved inconvenient and eventually the existing Methodist chapel in Well Lane was built at a cost of £190 on land forming part of Galley Hall Farm.

The opening services were held on October 21st, 1860, thirteen years before St. Michael's Church was available for alternative forms of Christian worship, but all did not go well. In fact in December, 1871, the Primitive Methodist Quarterly Meeting received a report that "the Galleywood Common chapel is in a dilapidated and distressed state and has been a burden and a drag to the station ever since it was built. It has cost the station much more to keep it than the society is worth to the station and from the scantiness and poverty of the population is not likely ever to be any help to us".

Nevertheless, permission to sell the building was withheld and services with a sparse and needy congregation continued year after year. Before the turn of the century a great effort was made to improve the premises and by 1900 it was possible to add a porch, vestry and boiler house, as seen today. Services at the little chapel have continued in the nonconformist tradition and recent years have seen the forging of a closer bond between parishioners of nonconformist and orthodox persuasions.

The present Minister in Galleywood is the Rev. R. Hancock.

CHAPTER 9

PARISH CHARITIES

"As cold as charity" is a description to make one apprehensive, yet before there was a welfare state in England there was certainly need for philanthropy. When Galleywood and Great Baddow were largely rural areas, many people lived at subsistence level and often had large families to feed from meagre wages. Winters in those days could be especially hard and cruel for old and young alike and although many English churches administered their own Sick and Poor Fund from Sunday collections, extra material assistance was most welcome.

In such conditions it was customary for men and women of means and goodwill to make some provision during their lifetime or in their wills for people or organisations likely to appreciate practical help in one direction or another. As a result the Vicar and Churchwardens today administer four Charities solely applicable to Galleywood and six others shared with Great Baddow but they sometimes find difficulty in carrying out the precise intentions of the donors in the different circumstances of the present time. For instance, people eligible for an allowance of coal may now be living in flats or houses heated by electricity, oil or gas. On the other hand, local schoolchildren derive real benefit from a charity shared with Great Baddow for educational purposes and some other charities are still giving positive assistance to parishioners.

The four charities solely applicable to Galleywood are :—

(1) Mrs. L. C. Keene's "Children and Coals" Fund :—

(a) One half for coal at Christmas for the poor

(b) One quarter for a summer outing or treat for the Sunday School children

(c) One quarter for a Christmas party for schoolchildren

from an investment of £2,626.

(2) The John Henry Keene Fund :—

(a) One half for the church

(b) One half for the sick and poor

from an investment of £1,200.

(3) The Markland Barnard Fund :—

for bread and meat for deserving widows of 50 years and upwards residing in the Galleywood district

from an investment of £100.

(4) The right to occupy six of the Keene Memorial Homes in Chelmsford.

The six Charities shared with Great Baddow are :—

(5) A share in the Jasper Jeffery charity for educational purposes.

- (6) A one-third right to almshouses in Vicarage Road, Great Baddow.
- (7) A share, 45 cwts., about Christmastide in coal from the Boggis-Gilson Fund.
- (8) A share in the Marshall, Straight and Trundle Bread Fund.
- (9) A share in the Pugh-Innes Fund for the sick and poor.
- (10) A share in Rev. John Bramston's Fund for Day or Sunday Schools.

The name Keene appears again and again in twentieth century Galleywood history. John Keene of Carlton House was a wealthy director of the Pearl Insurance Company and both he and his wife associated themselves actively with church and parish life. After her husband's death, Mrs. Keene gave generous financial help to many projects which she



Galleywood Flower Show, Circa 1925

considered worthwhile and the family name is perpetuated in the Keene Hall, which she built in 1937, and again in Keene Way. Markland Barnard was another public spirited resident of Galleywood, remembered years later in the naming of Barnard Road and Marklands Close. Special mention should also be made of John Bramston as he was the Vicar of Great Baddow whose concern for the education of Galleywood children led to the hiring of a small room as the first school in the early years of the nineteenth century.

CHAPTER 10

INNS, FARMS AND WINDMILLS

Tired workers from farms and windmills could find relaxation and entertainment in one or other of the dozen inns which were to be found in Galleywood and without the two nearby windmills it would have been far more difficult for farmers to get their corn ground after harvest. The periodic demands of racegoers for hospitality and stabling accommodation undoubtedly accounted for such a large number of public houses in a rural area and today only The Eagle, The White Bear, The Horse and Groom and the rebuilt Running Mare remain.

The last named was originally known as The Running Stream because from the pond just outside, a stream ran along Slades Lane and thence into a ditch by the football field to join another stream crossing Galleywood Road by Stomps Garage. In 1803 a local newspaper mentioned The Running Mare as the place where a poor woman sought shelter after being robbed by two soldiers of 13/- which she had earned selling home-made sausages. Maybe they were from the Uttlesford and Clavering Cavalry encamped that year on the Common while George III's Generals



The Old Running Mare, Circa 1914

kept a wary eye on Napoleon and were inspected by the Duke of York there. Anyway the thieves were not caught but escaped into surrounding woods.

The Ship Inn on the parish boundary towards Stock owes its name to its connection with stage coaches which ran to the port of Tilbury. Records reveal that it was in existence around 1540 as a woodman's hut and it has been a hostelry since 1610. Opposite The White Bear, of which the licensees are known from at least 1867, there once stood The Blue Lion, so named to commemorate the link of the titled Mildmay family with the district as a blue lion was depicted on their coat of arms. This inn functioned from 1839 to 1882 and contained much stabling for horses.

There are records of licensees at The Eagle from 1874 and a reference to The Wheatsheaf in 1867. In Lower Green stood The Welcome and The Carpenter's Arms — the former closed over 60 years ago. The Elephant and Castle is now Castle House, a dwellingplace in Stock Road, while The Royal Oak was on the site of No. 663 in Galleywood Road. In Galley End stands a weather-boarded house which was formerly an inn of puzzling title, The New Found Out, and near it is the 29-mile milestone to London. A notable member of the Jockey Club and a prominent owner of racehorses gave his name to The Admiral Rous alongside the race-course. It became a Tea Room about the time of World War 1, but during its days as an inn saw not only the murder described earlier but also many lively gatherings of racegoers, many of whom drove down from London in four-in-hand coaches. There are accounts in 1869 and 1870 of occasions of great merriment when gargantuan quantities of champagne, chicken and ham were consumed, followed by free fights as onlookers scrambled for the remains of the feasts.

In bygone days Galleywood was almost exclusively a farming area but with one or two important exceptions there are now numerous small dwellingplaces or plans for them on most of the acres which were formerly tilled or grazed. It may be of interest to record names of past and present farms in casual sequence, thus:— Attwoods, Bearmans, Branwoods, Gardeners, Mascalls, Great Seabrights, Skinners, Cannon Lays, Sewells, Wood, Glebe, Parklands, Rignalls, Oakmans, Ponds, Bexfields, Spots, Pyms, Lodge, Temple, Walters, Crondon Hall, Crondon Park, Forest Lodge, Goat Hall, Galley Hall. Some were large farms and others of only modest acreage but they have inevitably been decimated by the housing, industrial and educational needs of the twentieth century.

The new schools stand on fields which one John Attwood is known to have farmed in 1274; on part of Bearmans Farm where Stephen Barne-man lived in 1413 is the recently-opened Sports Ground of Chelmsford Borough Council. Alsander le Skynnere was at Skinners Farm in 1328 and Rannulph le Gardener owned Gardeners Farm off Beehive Lane in 1285. John Braynwoode lived at Branwoods Farm in 1345. According to the Court Rolls, Great Seabrights Farm was called Sabrightes in 1338,



Former Windmill in Ponds Road



Former Windmill on the Common

Sabryts Hall in 1544 and Sawbridge in 1777. Canonesgrove was the name of Cannon Lays in 1338 and about that time Sewells Farm in Galley End was known as Swallesfrith.

Before World War 2 the owner of Spots Farm in Ponds Road hired out threshing machines at harvest time when such services were much in demand; at less busy seasons the employees worked elsewhere, for example, at the local brickyard. The introduction of more modern farm machinery meant that the need for threshing machines diminished and following the death of the founder, the business was moved to another village and enlarged to include other contract farming activities.

In the same way Galleywood's two windmills had their day and were used no more when their primary duty of grinding the farmers' corn was



Old School and the Eagle Inn, Circa 1907

taken over by flour mills. By that time the livery stables were no longer being used by racegoers and consequently there was no heavy local demand for oats, bran and straw, as formerly. One mill was situated in a meadow by Brick House in the vicinity of Ponds Road and the other stood high on the Common near Mill House, a familiar landmark, as was the forge hard by. Patient horses pulled grinding stones in their circular tracks when the mills were busy and inside the men worked rhythmically. A fixed steam engine was in time installed in the mill on the Common for use on windless days, but with the passage of time all work stopped and the mills gradually deteriorated until they were demolished.

CHAPTER 11

TIMES REMEMBERED

Country life for ordinary people at the turn of the century differed amazingly from rural living today in its customs and simplicity. No one had ever heard such words as television, discotheque, margarine, combine harvester, hippie, hovercraft, airport or aeronaut; by contrast how many of today's children know the meaning of terms like pigstie, haha, cornstooks, hurdy-gurdy, sampler, box iron, antimacassar, higgler or tallyman, all then commonly used. Does a child in Galleywood today find it difficult to believe that at the rear of Strathmore Bakery is a very old bakehouse where the mixing vat was actually turned by dogs in harness not so very long ago?

In the district, as elsewhere, the average wage of a farm labourer in 1879 was 12/- a week with a free tied cottage and possibly free milk for his family. Bread, pork, often from his own pig, and vegetables formed his staple diet, with occasional beer and baccy in the short hours of leisure. Cottage women supplemented their husband's wages by picking peas and potatoes in season and gleaning corn after threshing machines had left the field. They spent most of their earnings on clothing for the family which they bought from tallymen or pedlars hawking their goods from door to door. The men worked long hours ploughing, sowing, hoeing, milking, haymaking, harvesting, lambing, sheepshearing, hedging, ditching, thatching and tending farm animals, especially their sturdy horses with names like Boxer, Prince, Captain, Daisy, Bonnie or Blossom. After a tiring day they were glad to ride back to the farm on their horses' backs dressed in stout corduroy with a colourful neckerchief and a sack over their shoulders if rain was falling.

Children looked forward to visits by the hurdy-gurdy man, perhaps with a little monkey perched on his barrel organ, or a knife and scissors grinder might call, not to mention the tallyman with his attractive wares or even a gipsy selling wooden pegs. When darkness fell oil lamps were lit and in spite of the absence of main water and fire services it was usual to go to bed by candlelight.

In fact main water did not come to Galleywood until 1930. Before that time water was drawn from pumps, the weight of two pails often being taken by a wooden "yoke" fitted around neck and shoulders. The well opposite the Methodist chapel in Well Lane was in constant use and a pipe from it took water to Lower Green. It still exists and although it has been emptied for cleaning, it filled again in less than an hour.

Refuse collection was by horse and cart until 1934 when a more modern system was put into operation. 1935 saw the arrival of electricity

in the parish and the provision of street lights and in 1959 main drainage became available. It was then that farmland began to be sold for building purposes and the urbanisation of the district loomed. A remorselessly increasing population demanded more and more inroads into the countryside from which hedges, trees and fields began to disappear and nightingales sang no more at night. Horses and bicycles provided the only means of transport for years. Many farmers and shopkeepers had their own ponies and traps, and at least two people in the village hired out their equipages, charging about 2/6d. for taking four passengers to and from Chelmsford with waiting time for shopping. Use was also made of an elderly carrier who came from Stock with a heavy horse and a covered cart into which passengers piled. He pulled up occasionally to accept parcels for delivery and when business was brisk to the point of overcrowding he himself sat on the shaft of the vehicle. Later in the day he returned from Chelmsford with passengers and different parcels, usually proceeding at walking pace or at most a slow trot. It was not until 1916 that steam buses, with open tops and seats with black tarpaulin covers, first ran from Chelmsford to Galleywood under the control of Mr. Clarkson of Woodlands, a director of Clarksons Steam Car Company of London and thereafter transport facilities speedily expanded.

Although a balloon might occasionally be sighted, probably no one in the village had seen an aeroplane until the pioneer Graham White flew over in 1910 to land in the grounds of Hylands prior to his marriage in Widford Church the following day. After tea he again flew around for a time to entertain excited onlookers and eventually came down on the lawn of the mansion with the aid of car headlights.

There is news of postal facilities in Galleywood from 1863 onwards when one David Taylor was in charge of a sub-office. By 1882 letters were being delivered at 8 a.m. and despatched at 6 p.m. and by 1885 postal orders could be purchased but not paid out. During World War 1 the sub-post office was in Barton's baker's shop, today known as Rothel Cottage, and it was there that some sad war telegrams arrived.

In its time Galleywood was a fairly important centre of brickmaking and the goods siding in Private Road was built to bring fuel to Carrs Brickyard adjoining the railway. Much of the old school was built with bricks made in the village. Incidentally coal was sold from the yard at 1/- per cwt. and other merchants hawked it round the district at the incredible price of 10d. per cwt. Years later there were brickworks on the southern part of the Common where hand-made red and stock bricks were turned out and sometimes there were complaints about excessive smoke from the kiln. The available patches of gravel including one opposite Stomps Garage were eventually worked out and the last brickworks closed down.

Until 1919 there were no nursing services in the parish although a rather ingenuous attempt to help the sick had been made just before

World War 1 when an announcement appeared in the Parish Magazine that a blanket could be borrowed for a deposit of 1/- but that only five pairs were available! However, the advent of the parish nurse was nigh and in August, 1919, a scheme was devised for sharing her services with Widford. The entry in the Parish Magazine is illuminating — "Her charges would be 1d. a week, 1/- a quarter or 4/- a year. For a maternity case the charge would be 21/-. Our £50 towards her £100 a year might be made up without much difficulty as follows:— Government grant £15, nurse's probable earnings as midwife £10, say 130 subscribers of 4/- a year £26, total £51".

Alas, the church's concern for the welfare of parishioners as illustrated by the announcement of available nursing services was not always matched by a similar determination on the part of the parishioners to support the church. An instance of this once occurred when the congregation miserably failed to attend the annual church meeting to elect officers for the following year and only the Vicar, the two outgoing churchwardens and a newspaper reporter were present. With the stout assistance of the last named in seconding each churchwarden's proposal for the re-election of his colleague, a delicate situation was successfully surmounted!

One of the highlights of past years was the annual choir outing to Clacton which began with the men and boys walking to Chelmsford railway station to pick up the train selected for the journey. The name of each boy was sewn inside his jacket "just in case" and he carried his carefully-hoarded pocket money for a spending spree. Some of it might well have been acquired from blowing the church organ at 3d. a time — this was the instrument which was sold to Chignal St. James in the course of time. At night the tired revellers found a hired waggon waiting for them at the railway station as fortunately they were not expected to walk home.

The annual flower show on the site of the grandstand was first organised by the Cottage Garden Society in 1912 and taken over by the newly formed Horticultural Society in 1924. It drew crowds to the Common and special buses ran to and from Chelmsford for the occasion which was enlivened by the attendance of a Fair. Good prizes were available for winners of competitions in the poultry, rabbit, horticultural and other sections and in sporting events. Men practised for weeks ahead for the honour of winning the Marven Challenge Shield in the tug-of-war and another outstanding contest was the 2-mile race round the racecourse in which a wellknown churchwarden and farmer of today competed without, it is believed, much success.

That same man of repute, Charles Cottey of Wood Farm, who was recently awarded the M.B.E. for public services locally, revived an old custom in September, 1948, by giving a Harvest Supper in the Keene Hall for 80 of his friends, farm employees and their families. To arrange a convivial gathering of this sort was an old country practice in many

districts as a way of thanking all who had assisted in the harvest and its revival at Galleywood was noteworthy.

A pleasant occasion of a different order is recorded as having taken place at a public meeting in the school on October 17th, 1917, when the Vicar and audience honoured a member of the police force, Constable Gipson. During his fifteen years' service in the neighbourhood the officer had established excellent public relations and had taken considerable interest in social activities. The parishioners therefore decided to mark his transfer to Clacton by presenting him with a purse containing £15.10.0 as an expression of goodwill and in presenting it the Vicar added his own special thanks for Constable Gipson's sparetime labours in the churchyard.

In such ways passed the even tenor of the country round and no one in Galleywood had ever heard of nuclear warfare, of supermarkets and pop groups, nor believed that man would shortly walk on the moon!

CHAPTER 12

GALLEYWOOD IN 1973

A stroll round Galleywood today and a perceptive eye can produce many examples in buildings of the passage of time. Although there are exceptions, the oldest houses are mainly in Well Lane and Lower Green and all show considerable variation in design and building material, some dating from the sixteenth century. In direct contrast are the mass produced box-type houses and unlovely blocks of flats erected in the last decade while in Bakers Lane are the two caravan sites which appeared shortly after World War 2.

Both Goat Hall and Galley Hall are sixteenth century buildings and at one time the latter was said to be haunted. Mill House was erected in the following century. Brick House near Galley Hall was built around 1810 and takes its name from the fact that it was the first house in the area to be constructed with Galleywood brick. Well House is deemed worthy of inclusion in the nation's Statutory List of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest. Also noteworthy is Wild Wood Cottage in Galley End dating from around 1640-1680 and built by one Louis Monsant in peculiar style. It was often his practice, as here, to provide a watertight roof by inverting an old boat on the walls and covering it with pitch; during recent conversions the main keel and ribs of the boat were revealed and barnacles and other shell fish were clearly visible. A similar roof may be seen in The Street.

Apart from private houses in ever-increasing numbers, the village possesses the Keene Hall, built in 1937, the reconditioned Vicarage Hall, a Scout Hut in Chaplin Close soon to be superseded by a new hut in the Watchouse Road recreation ground, the Royal British Legion enlarged Headquarters, a new parade of shops in Watchouse Road with a new County Branch Library adjacent and a County Youth Centre in the old school at The Eagle crossroads. In the past year or so the Rural District Council have built bungalows and a flatlet building (Cotley House) in Watchouse Road, and Chelmsford Borough Council have provided a block of flats for the elderly in Bekeswell Place. The village's two new schools are easily recognisable on vantage ground in Barnard Road. On Sundays the Church School is regularly used for Family Services and is a convenient place of worship for residents on the surrounding housing estates.

Off Chaplin Close are 45 allotment plots, each of 10 rod area, administered by the six trustees of the Cottage Garden Society by whom the site was purchased for £165 in 1923 with money loaned by local wellwishers, interest free and soon repaid. Allotments had previously been available on a field alongside the Margareting Road where houses and the former Co-operative Stores now stand. The plots are in constant demand and even today the modest rent is only 50p. yearly. Other activities of the

former Cottage Garden Society have been taken over by the Horticultural Society.

A branch of the Women's Institute has been active in Galleywood for very many years and has contributed in full measure to village life both in war and peace. Today it shares activities and influence with the Townswomen's Guild of much later origin. A separate band of women with skill and patience arrange fresh flowers in the church week by week and once or twice the building has been decorated with flowers throughout, on the occasion of a Flower Festival. People from the village and well beyond have queued to view a scene of inspiration and beauty created by flowers artistically arranged to illustrate an agreed biblical theme and the generous contributions of admiring visitors have swelled church funds.

There has been a Football Club in the Parish for well over half a century and the Cricket Club was formed at the conclusion of World War 1 with a grant of £15 from the Army Canteen Fund, a similar amount being given to the already flourishing Football Club. Scouts, Cubs, Girl Guides and Brownies usually have enrolment waiting lists and parade with their leaders in St. Michael's Church on occasions such as St. George's Day and the Remembrance Service each November. The Darby and Joan Club fulfils a real need for people at the other end of life and its organisers are unwearied in their efforts to promote entertainment and relaxation.

The list of social activities in Galleywood is, in fact, encouragingly long and includes the Flower Club, the Keene Players, the Social Club, the Modern Sequence Dance Club, the Ladies' Keep Fit Classes and the company of Whist Players. The Magnet Club or County Youth Centre in the old school is a new departure which perhaps has not yet realised its full potential. At present activities include a Young Adults' Club, a Youth Club and, during the day, Play Group facilities.

Year by year modern Galleywood with its new roads, new houses, attractive gardens, new residents and semi-urban culture, takes over from the old village that Arthur Pryor knew when he built his church. On fields over which birds once careened in crazy and joyful aerobatics now stand homes in rows of ordered profusion and on the few remaining farms attested herds graze or combines throw out bales of straw where farm-workers in their day pitched the lovely stooks of corn. Some regret for the quiet past is natural but contributes little to the demands of the impelling present; indeed the dangers of a static society were noted by Tennyson :—

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new
And God fulfils Himself in many ways
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world".

So the Church of St. Michael and All Angels celebrates its centenary in ever-changing and challenging times, standing on the high Common in perpetual witness of the Christian faith before a growing and often in-different population. Achievement and disappointment will doubtless continue to mark its path ahead but in all eventualities the words of St. John will eternally proclaim the creed of triumph and assurance :—

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith".

PART 2

CHAPTER 13

GALLEYWOOD 20 YEARS ON – 1993

St. Michael and All Angels Church celebrated its Centenary on 29th September, 1973 with a special thanksgiving service by the Rev. Allen Willett and the Bishop of Chelmsford, the Rt. Rev. John Trillo – a truly memorable and historic occasion. The three day Flower Festival by members from the Church and village organisations illustrating the Centenary theme "Jesus, the same yesterday, today and for ever" was a great success attracting over 3,000 visitors admiring the magnificent flower arrangements.

A special peal of 5,088 changes lasting three hours was rung on the bells of the Church proclaiming the Centenary and creating a link with the consecration ceremony in 1873 when a similar peal was rung.

During the Centenary celebrations there was a fascinating Exhibition at the Keene Hall of 'Old Galleywood' including photographs of the famous historic racecourse on Galleywood Common. A splendid Pageant with the theme "Pupils' Progress – One Hundred Years of Education" was presented by St. Michael's Church of England Junior School in a marquee on the School's playing fields. It was thoroughly enjoyed by over 500 people including Peter Pryor, grandson of Arthur Pryor who built St. Michael's Church. The children and teachers dressed in Victorian costume, chanted multiplication tables, sang Victorian songs and performed typical school drills contrasting these with scenes of modern school life.

Galleywood became a civil parish on 1st April, 1987. Prior to that date it was part of the Great Baddow civil parish. In May, 1987 nine local Parish Councillors were elected by the residents of Galleywood to form the first Galleywood Parish Council and Councillor Keith Liley, a Chelmsford Borough Councillor and former Great Baddow Parish Councillor, became the first Chairman of the Council. In anticipation of Galleywood becoming a civil parish, the Keene Hall was extensively modernised in 1986 to provide accommodation for the Parish Clerk's office. Parish Council, Planning and other committee meetings are held in the Keene Hall and are open to the public. Parishioners may raise any questions on village matters at Parish Council meetings. So 113 years after Galleywood was constituted an ecclesiastical parish in 1874 it was granted the status of a civil parish in 1987.

Charles Cottey, MBE., of Wood Farm, known affectionately as 'Mr. Galleywood' died in 1988 aged 84. His long service to the Chelmsford Council was recognised in 1984 when he was elected an Honorary Alderman. He was a local Parish Councillor for 34 years, a member of the Rural District

Council for 21 years and a Governor on many local schools over a period of 40 years. Cottey House, the warden-controlled housing for the elderly in Watchouse Road, was named after him to commemorate his huge contribution to housing in the community and in particular to this development in Galleywood. He was also a Special Constable for 30 years having enrolled during the General Strike in 1926. Devoted to the church, he served as a Churchwarden at St. Michael's Church for 30 years. At his funeral service the Church was full to capacity to pay tribute to this outstanding man and give thanks for his work in the community.

Over these 20 years St. Michael's Church has established another worship centre at St. Michael's School' called 'Family Hour' which, as its name suggests, caters for young families. This work has proved very successful and the school hall is often bursting at the seams. On an average Sunday there are some four hundred attendances in all at services in the Church and in the School. The fabric of the Church is in good order and parts of the interior layout of the Church have been redesigned and carpeted, to have more flexibility with worship, to be able to rearrange easily on special occasions and to have a fellowship area at the back of the Church. After a long period of waiting the Church Council decided to retille the roof and many friends of the Church and parishioners alike rose generously and sacrificially to find the funds.

The Reverend Roger Wakely became Vicar of St. Michael & All Angels Church on 17th September, 1987. He is the seventh Vicar of Galleywood and succeeded the Reverend Canon Allen Willett who, after 19 years with the Parish, took partial retirement in the Diocese of Peterborough in January, 1987. Married with two children, the Reverend Roger Wakely came to Galleywood from the Diocese of Leicester where he was Rector of seven country churches. He graduated from the Southwark Ordination Course in 1970 and his career has included several valuable years as a school teacher, deputy head and a school chaplain.

To the delight of Methodists in the village, the little Wesleyan Chapel in Well Lane has been registered for marriages since 1984 and these have proved to be popular in this small and homely atmosphere. Membership of the Chapel has recently increased to about 30 and there is an encouraging growth in Sunday School attendance. Special services such as Harvest Festivals and Christmas Carol services attract near-capacity congregations of around 60. The links with the Anglican congregation are a treasured feature of the life of the Chapel and shared services are arranged two or three times every year. Much has been done in recent years to maintain and improve the Chapel especially the remodelling of the entrance steps and the constructing of a ramp to assist the disabled. The Chapel is part of the Chelmsford Methodist Circuit in the London North East Methodist district and the present Minister is the Reverend Harold Fisher.

The 1980's saw the growth of public concern over nature preservation. Galleywood Common – still a popular place for recreation – was suffering from the invasion of the motor car. The increasing popularity of horse riding was damaging the grassland while young motor cyclists were finding the woodland paths an ideal practice ground for their off-road techniques. The Galleywood Common Association was formed to focus attention on these threats to the environment and in 1988 the Chelmsford Borough Council, responsible for the management of the Common, commissioned a survey of Galleywood Common by the Essex Naturalist Trust. This comprehensive report, in addition to listing a great many varieties of plants – some of them rare – produced a detailed plan for management.

The Management Plan, subsequently put in place by the Chelmsford Borough Council, recognised the need to control this habitat, both as a place of recreation and host to a wide variety of plant species. Posts and ditches were installed to restrict cars to approved parking places and some new bridle paths constructed to allow horse riders access to the Gallops by Stock Road. Left to its own devices, the area would fall prey to the advance of trees and shrubs, so some limited clearing was commenced to encourage the regeneration of heather and gorse. Volunteers put in many hours work clearing the pond in the woodland near the racecourse whilst others cleared overhanging trees from some of the bog areas. Responding to the public mood for the protection of things natural, the Borough Council adopted a controlled mowing schedule to allow wildflowers to develop in some of the grassland.

Changing patterns of life will no doubt put pressure on this open space but the Common seems set to continue as a valuable amenity and area of natural beauty for the Parish of Galleywood.

The Galleywood Carnival continues to be a popular annual event since it was first held in July, 1978 following the successful Fete organised for the Queen's Silver Jubilee in June, 1977. A field at Wood Farm in close proximity to the Common was generously made available for the Carnival by Charles Cottey and is still the venue today by kind permission of his son, Douglas Cottey and family. The Carnival and Procession through Galleywood provides a very enjoyable afternoon of entertainment, interest, competition, fun and fund raising for charity with a most colourful Flower Show organised by the Galleywood Horticultural Society. The Tug-of-War 'Marvens' Challenge Shield first competed for in 1923 has been a highlight of the Galleywood Carnival since 1979.

Galleywood now proudly displays a beautiful Village Sign near the Library in the shopping precinct. Specially commissioned by the Galleywood Parish Council in 1990 it is double sided and engraved in wood featuring Galleywood Common in its heyday with racehorses and jockeys in brilliant colours, the Keene Hall and the spire of St. Michael's Church seen as a landmark for miles around.

The Keene Hall continues to be in considerable demand by village organisations, associations and by parishioners and others for all kinds of functions. Last year the tiled roof was completely renovated. The gardens surrounding the Keene Hall and Twitten Green, the open space between The Street and Ponds Road, are very attractively maintained. With thanks to all the community-minded people in the village, Galleywood received the Award of Highly Commended in 1991 in the Best Kept Village competition organised by the Rural Community Council of Essex.

GALLEYWOOD PARISH COUNCIL 1987 - 1991



By courtesy of Leslie Brand

Left to right – back row: Councillors J. Wyatt, G. Allen, E. Hawkins, I. Gray, D. Stevenson.

Front row: Councillor R. Thorne, Clerk to the Council, Mrs D. Raybould, Councillors K. Liley (Chairman), M. Grimwade, R. Harman (Vice Chairman).

The Galleywood Women's Institute and the Galleywood Evening Townswomen's Guild continue to play a very active role in the village. They hold regular monthly meetings in the Keene Hall with speakers on a wide variety of topics and always give full and enthusiastic support to community events in Galleywood. In 1988 Galleywood's Darby and Joan Club for senior citizens celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a special Birthday

Lunch. On that occasion the celebration cake was cut by the oldest member, Mrs. Ethel Hindes, who two years later reached her century.

Galleywood Community Care Association was formed in 1978 to serve the folk in Galleywood who find themselves in need of short term neighbourly help. It is an entirely voluntary organisation of willing helpers from the village who act as 'good neighbours' in providing all kinds of temporary practical assistance in cases of ill-health, disability, age or convalescence. The Rev. Allen Willett, the then Vicar of Galleywood, was a prime mover in setting up this service. In 1989 the Association opened a 'coffee shop' in the lounge of Bekeswell Place, Barnard Road, for the elderly residents living there and for others who might wish to call in for a break and a chat whilst passing or shopping.

Galleywood has a flourishing Art Club, formed in 1987, which meets weekly in the Vicarage Hall, Beehive Lane with 50 full members and 50 associate members. Although the Galleywood Art Club seeks to encourage art for pleasure the work produced is of excellent quality covering all media including oils, watercolour, pastels and acrylics and is highly regarded in the village. Art Exhibitions and Craft Fayres are frequently held by the Club attracting a large following and considerable sums of money have been raised for charitable purposes from the sale of its paintings. The Chairman, Ray Fullerton, has been the driving force in setting up and running this very successful Club.

Galley Hall, the sixteenth century building, was demolished in the mid 1970's to make way for an attractive development of over 100 houses built by Countryside Properties Limited. The development is called Galleywood Paddocks and stands between Ponds Road and Galleywood Common. It received a number of design awards at the time. On the other hand the sixteenth century Seabrights Barn, which had fallen into disrepair over the years, was imaginatively converted into a large family inn and restaurant retaining its very attractive beams and features.

After a great deal of local opposition, the route of Chelmsford's A12 southern by-pass runs through the bottom of Galleywood Common and other outlying areas of southern Galleywood. Although an infringement of the rural nature of the village it does afford a quick and convenient access to both London and the coast.

No tears were shed when the unsightly blocks of flats built in the 1960's at Homemead off Barnard Road were demolished during 1990. They were a typical example of the much-criticised system-style flats built at that time using huge pre-fabricated concrete blocks. The flats and houses which have taken their place are pleasantly designed in traditional brick.

In 1987, the 1st Galleywood Scout Group celebrated 60 years of scouting in Galleywood. From humble beginnings in 1927, the Scout Hut in Jubilee Park, specially built in 1973 and since extended twice, houses one of the largest scout groups in the district with 130 young people – 22 Scouts,

60 Cubs and 48 Beavers (boys of 6–8 years). The Scouts aims to encourage the physical, mental and spiritual development of the young and help them to take a responsible place in society – their activities have now been extended to include canoeing, abseiling, climbing and archery. The 1st Galleywood Guide Company also holds its meetings in the Scout Hut which helps to foster links with the scouting movement. Under the present leadership the membership of the Guides has rocketed from a low of 8 in 1989 to 33 today and a close relationship has been formed with the 2 local brownie packs.

St. Michael's Church of England Junior School and the Galleywood County Infants School at the same site in Barnard Road work in close liaison with each other and enjoy a very good reputation. Attendance at these schools reached a peak of around 700 in the mid-1970's with an array of re-locatable classrooms but has steadily reduced since to around 440 in 1992 mainly due to the slowing down of development in Galleywood. Both schools benefit from very active and supportive Parent Associations. Thriftwood School, situated at the junction of Beehive Lane and Slades Lane, was opened as a purpose-built special school in 1975 for children with moderate learning difficulties who come from a wide area to the south and east of Chelmsford. At present there are 126 pupils aged 4 to 16 on the roll. Links have been established with the local community by entertaining the elderly residents at Cottley House and participating in the annual Education Sunday service alongside the Junior and Infants Schools at St. Michael's Church. The pupils at Thriftwood School are encouraged to take an interest in their very pleasant local environment and to maintain a high standard of behaviour and respect for others, both in and out of school.

The Galleywood Short Mat Bowls has been a remarkable success story. Early in 1989 the Galleywood Parish Council organised and sponsored an afternoon demonstration of Short Mat Bowls in the Keene Hall. On that same afternoon the 20 villagers attending the demonstration immediately agreed to form the Galleywood Short Mat Bowls Club and proceeded to elect its first officers. The first club night was held at the beginning of May, 1989 in the Galleywood County Infants School and within three weeks there was a waiting list for membership. The purchase of the mats, bowls and other equipment was made possible with the help of interest free loans from the Galleywood Parish Council and from club members and these loans were repaid by the Club at the end of its first year. The Club now meets on Tuesday and Thursday evenings each week in the School and on Wednesday afternoons in the Keene Hall as well as on most Mondays for matches and competitions. Two teams have been entered in the local leagues and the Club is affiliated to both the Essex and the English Short Mat Bowls Associations.

Broadly speaking, most of the 6,500 people in the civil parish of Galleywood live in a fairly built-up envelope of land within or adjacent to the following – Pipers Tye down along Brook Lane as far as Bridle Way back to Rignals Lane, along Lower Green to Ponds Road, then Stock

Road to Beehive Lane, down Skinners Lane, Keene Way and Walters Close and then along Watchouse Road back to Pipers Tye. This area is approximately one third of the civil Parish of Galleywood and the remainder comprises Galleywood Common, Chelmer Park, Jubilee Park and other land predominantly within the Green Belt area and currently subject to an overriding constraint on development.

In order to make the countryside more available to the public, especially those with disabilities and the elderly, a small area of land was chosen in 1990 as a Country Promenade. This is located in an area off Brook Lane where a seat has been installed with a small parking area. It commands beautiful views over the southern part of Galleywood and the surrounding district and is the first of its kind in the Chelmsford area. The Country Promenade was made available by the Chelmsford Borough Council in consultation with the Galleywood Parish Council and with the kind cooperation of the local farmers.

Alongside the Country Promenade the Galleywood Parish Council managed to purchase a piece of ancient woodland called The Spinney comprising about two thirds of an acre. This woodland is surrounded by arable land and an orchard. The native trees are roughly 50 to 100 years of age and comprise oak, ash and hornbeam. There is a wild service tree growing on the east edge of the pond within the woodland and other trees and shrubs include field maple, elm, hazel, elder, dogwood, holly, hawthorn and blackthorn. Paths have been constructed through the woodland specially designed to assist people in wheelchairs, the ambulant disabled, elderly people and parents with children in pushchairs. A long 'dipping platform' is being built by the side of the pond for children who wish to learn more about pond life.

The Galleywood Branch of the Royal British Legion celebrated its fiftieth anniversary with a Golden Jubilee Dinner and Dance at the Keene Hall on 19th September, 1987. Between 1921 when the Royal British Legion was formed until 1937 Galleywood was a sub-section of the Chelmsford Branch. Although the membership of ex-service men and women is now only 57 it nevertheless continues to play an active role especially in the Poppy Day Appeal and in the Remembrance Day Parade and Service at St. Michael's Church. The Galleywood Branch has recently installed a Roll of Honour in the Headquarters Room in The Street, Galleywood in memory of the Galleywood men who died in the Two World Wars and a short service of dedication was held in October, 1992.

In the 1980's local communities all over the country were encouraged by the police to become involved in crime prevention by forming neighbourhood watch schemes to help counteract local crime and protect properties against vandalism and burglary. Large numbers of local people attended a public meeting in 1988 convened by the Galleywood Parish Council in liaison with the police when a Galleywood neighbourhood watch scheme was set up on a village basis. With numerous street co-ordinators covering a large

number of properties in Galleywood it operates very successfully through a village co-ordinator.

About 12 years ago Carlton Farm, in Beehive Lane, changed over from cattle and pigs to horses and the farm is now run as a riding school and a livery yard. Covering thirty acres of land, the Carlton Equestrian Centre is very well equipped and conveniently situated for these activities. Over the past three years the partners managing the Centre have improved the standards and facilities and with a better qualified staff offer more services to the horse riding fraternity – it is open for inspection at any time by the British Horse Society and the Association of British Riding Schools. Horse riding as a leisure pursuit is on the increase and, as well as offering riding lessons, clients are educated in horse care and management, riding on the roads and on the rules of the countryside as they apply to horse riders. A recent survey in 1990 estimated that at least 200 horses were kept within a mile radius of Galleywood. Currently horse riding lessons are given to about 200 adults and children, with some of the children as young as three years of age. The Carlton Equestrian Centre maintains that there is probably no better way to enjoy the local countryside than from the back of a horse!

During the past 20 years more farms in Galleywood have amalgamated. One of the oldest farming families in Galleywood are the Howards who have been at Parklands Farm, Lower Green for just over 100 years. For the last few years Ken and Madeleine Howard and their family have given local people, especially young children, a great deal of pleasure by having an open day at the farm to view the flock of about two hundred sheep with their newly-born lambs in the big lambing shed.

Over the next 20 years into the twenty-first century we may see many changes in our way of life but it seems likely that Galleywood will continue to be a very pleasant village in which to live.