



Local Scouts
marching past the
United Reformed
Church for
St. George's Day
parade 1965



The Limes



Palmerston Lodge



Thomson's Radio & TV

Great Baddow

Walking Guide 2

High Street & Galleywood Road



BADDOW WALKS

Introduction

Baddow Walks has been prepared as part of The Historical Guide to Great Baddow. Four walks have been prepared starting from the centre of Great Baddow. They take the form of an architectural study of the buildings, with photographs and notes, and cover the following roads, (plus a few diversions):

1. Church Street, West Hanningfield Road and Vicarage Lane
2. High Street and Galleywood Road
3. Maldon Road, The Causeway & Bell Street
4. Baddow Road and Beehive Lane

Galleywood Road

We start our walk by the side of the White Horse Inn. First of all we can admire the view of St. Mary's Church from this point, as shown on the front of this guide.

Some 200 yards Southwest of the church is Baddow House, a large red brick mansion built in the 18th century. (See photo) *The west front is of three bays with a central, ornate doorcase, and the east frame has five bays. Either side of the central block are 19th century additions, themselves altered in the 20th century.* Originally the house stood in extensive, well-wooded grounds, above a landscaped stream, but sadly is now hemmed in by modern housing and is barely visible from either Vicarage Lane or Galleywood Road. We should just be able to see it from the gateway to 9 & 11 Galleywood Road. Prior to 1938, when it was bought by Jesse Pryke senior, it was owned by a seed company who used the gardens to test out their products. There were extensive greenhouses stretching in an arc to Vicarage Lane, some of which were partly underground. A magnificent vine occupied one of these greenhouses.

On the map of 1874 the stream which passed through the grounds flowed into two elongated lakes, and even during WW2 the stream was wide enough and deep enough to swim in after heavy rains. Mr. Pryke employed Italian POWs during the war years to clean out the rampant growth of bamboo and other plants, which threatened to impede the flow. There was even a waterfall a few yards upstream from where it disappears under Galleywood Road and enters a culvert that was originally built about 1800.



Baddow House



114 Charles Partridge, baker's roundsman for H. Carter and Sons of Great Baddow, who, in that small village also carried on the businesses of corn merchants, dairymen, provision merchants and confectioners (1909)

For many years it was associated with the medical profession being home to Walter Hart, a surgeon, at the end of the 19th century, and to Dr Lyster (father of the Dr.Lyster who owned Noakes Place) and Dr. Percy Spencer-Phillips in the 20th century. It now forms part of Thomson's Radio & TV business. Note the stables and loft to the right of the house where the doctor kept his pony and trap.

(The story goes that when young Dr Spencer-Philips came to Yews for his interview with old Dr.Lyster the latter was about to remove the appendix of a young lady in the surgery. He took the opportunity to test the mettle of his interviewee by asking Dr Spencer-Philips to conduct the operation for him. The challenge was accepted, the operation was successful, and Dr. Spencer-Philips stayed in the practice for the rest of his career.

Some years later he was also asked to attend a young gypsy woman who was giving birth while helping with the pea harvesting at Manor Farm. When he arrived in the field there was no sign of a woman in labour. She had apparently wrapped up the baby, strapped it on her back and carried on pea picking!)

Beside The Yews, on the junction of the High Street and Maldon Road, Thomsons TV & Video Shop was originally a pair of timber-framed cottages built circa 1700. (See photo). One of these buildings was a greengrocer's shop managed by Mrs Spencer-Phillips, wife of the doctor.

Conclusion

I hope you have enjoyed your walk, which forms part of an Historical Guide to Great Baddow. Please reserve a copy at your local library. Acknowledgement is hereby given to Mr.David Emery who furnished much of the architectural detail for this walk and to Mr.Alan Willis who provided many of the photographs.

A.Buckroyd July 2001
Revised August 2016

In September 1958 heavy rainfall occurred in the area and the downpour brought downstream several tons of autumn leaves, twigs, branches and other detritus which built up behind the wall near the start of this culvert. Eventually the wall gave way under the weight of water and a tidal wave spread through the High Street, causing much damage, though luckily there were no fatalities. The Essex Chronicle published stories of the many rescues carried out by villagers on that night. The stream has now been tamed, and flows meekly through the Millers Croft development. The culvert was also replaced, so hopefully there will be no recurrence of this disaster. After meandering round Manor Place & Manor House at the bottom of Maldon Road the stream joins up with the River Chelmer on Baddow Meads.

Jesse Pryke senior converted Baddow House into flats after WW2; his son, also called Jesse, converted them back into a single dwelling prior to selling the property about 1980 to Gavin Suttle, who subsequently converted the house into luxury flats. These conversions have preserved the building, and seem to me a much better fate than that which occurred to The Vineyards, Noakes Place and elsewhere in the village where a fine house has been demolished in the name of "progress".

Next to the White Horse Inn is Gowers (no. 4 Galleywood Road), a *Grade III listed building of late 16C origin, extensively modernised. It is weatherboarded at the East End and re-fronted in brick. Modern addition at rear. 3-window range of double hung sashes with glazing bars, small pediment doorcase. The roofs are tiled and half-hipped.* (See photo).

Nearby is No. 10 Galleywood Road, a *neat little 18th century timber-framed cottage with 2 dormers, roof tiled and half hipped E and W., (built around 1750) and the remaining half of a pair.* (See Photo) These cottages are thought to have been rented by workers at Baddow Brewery during the latter 19th century.

On the right hand side of Galleywood Road near the 1st left hand bend in Plumtree Avenue is Hollywood, now a private house with interesting pargetting (decorative exterior plaster-work). This dates back to the 18th century and used to be a farmhouse.



Baddow House



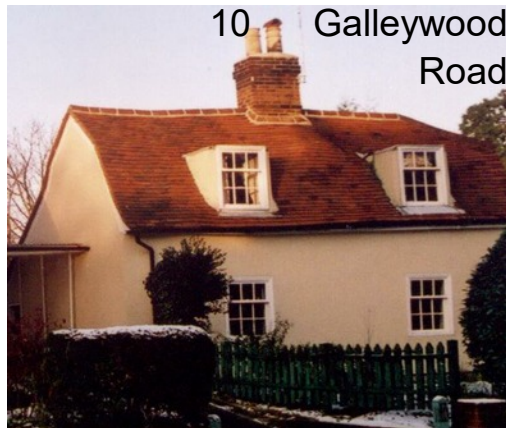
Gowers



Brick Walls



Pump Hill



10 Galleywood Road



Cub scouts marchpast St. George's Day 1965



United Reformed Church 2001



Seabrights Barn, rear



Rothmans

Opposite Rothmans is the United Reformed Church, part of which was built in the 19th century as a Congregational Chapel, with additions in the late 20th century. (See photo). Just north of this is The Limes, a timber framed building with a fine 18th century symmetrical plastered front. (See photo).

North east of the Limes stood the Vineyards House, sadly demolished and replaced about 1968 by the monstrous and incongruous pile of shops, flats and offices also called The Vineyards. In architectural circles this pile has made Great Baddow infamous as an example of a “disastrous development out of keeping with its surroundings”. However, the shops provide an essential retail service to the village, and are not unattractive from the right angle. The house itself was a substantial red brick block with various wings and extensions. Between 1946 and 1961 the house was a hotel, and was used regularly by The Marconi Co. to house engineers working at the Baddow Research Labs. In 2016 the office block has been demolished and is being replaced by flats. (The Vineyards will feature more comprehensively in Walk No.3)

Opposite the “whirlygig” approach to the Vineyards shops is the surgery of the village medical practice, and alongside an award winning development called Palmerston Lodge, which is a block of retirement flats. They have been tastefully designed, and even the electricity substation is housed in an attractive beehive shaped building. (See photo).

Directly west of the Vineyards, back on the High Street, stands The Yews (No.6), which is owned by Alan Thomson. *Early 19C building, in grey gault brickwork with grey slate roof; 3-window range of double hung sashes with glazing bars; Ground floor windows in arched recesses. Central Ionic doorcase with steps and handrail; Good E.19C detailing internally.*

Back on Galleywood Road note the fine stone milestone outside number 49 telling us that it is 29 miles to London. (See photo). This stone existed long before the houses in this road. This road was formerly called London Road, being the main route from Maldon to London. In 1755 the Maldon Fly (stagecoach) came this way to link up at Shenfield with the Colchester to London stagecoach. At one time there was a stagecoach service all the way from Maldon to London, which took two days each way.

All along both sides of Galleywood Road until Readers Corner we have a wide variety of good quality houses, mostly detached properties standing in their own grounds. The odd number houses were all built on land that formed part of Baddow House until after the SWW when much of the land was leased to local farmers. One field became the playing fields for Eastern Electric Co. As the demand for land increased in the 50s and 60s plots were sold off for development, and the houses on Galleywood Road, Pertwee Drive & Craiston Way are typical of that period.

Much further out along Galleywood Road is Great Seabrights. (See photo). In the 12th century William Sebright held this estate and his descendants continued to live there until the 16th century. The principal architectural interest here is the huge timber framed barn, which has been converted into a restaurant. The interior woodwork gives some idea of how it would have looked originally. Some of the old brick wall also remains. Note the size of the bricks and the style of bricklaying compared to modern walls.

Note Deadman’s Lane hereabouts which joins Galleywood Road to Beehive Lane. I wonder what gruesome events gave rise to this dramatic name?

Let us return now to the High Street.

High Street

Sadly this section contains references to many buildings which no longer exist. The High Street is the heart of the village, but suffered considerably between 1945 and 2000 as the village grew in size and as traffic levels increased. The threat of unsympathetic development is always with us these days.

Near the church at the centre of the village, standing at the corner of the High Street and Galleywood Road, is the White Horse Inn which is a Grade II listed building. (See photo). *This is of 17C origin, but possibly incorporating some earlier work, and with much later alterations in 18C/19C. It has a plastered front, 4-window range of double hung sashes and a large ground floor bay. Note the original 17th century chimneystack with grouped diagonal shafts at south. Internally, much exposed timberwork is evident.* It is believed that there are tunnels under the inn leading under the High Street to the Munnions.

No. 76, adjoining the inn and now part of the White Horse was formerly a separate residence called Bancroft House. It enjoys Grade II listing, being a 16C house with 18C plastered front, the roofs tiled. 2-window range of double hung sashes with glazing bars, Doric porch with decorated frieze, modillion cornice and 6 panelled door with semi-circular fanlight. Internally there are magnificent 16C moulded beams, and indications of a long wall jetty to the front.

Nos. 72, 74, 74a High Street are also Grade II listed having 18C/19C fronts on remnants of earlier frames. Plastered with tiled roofs, a 2-window range of double hung sashes with glazing bars and with 2 ground floor shop bays. One of these houses was a Cobbler's shop around 1920, owned by Bobby Jackson (related to the Jacksons who owned the village garage in Church Street). These days we would say he was 'vertically challenged', but his diminutive height made him a figure of fun with local children, and when they teased him he was known to run after them and throw the odd boot in their direction.

Adjoining this is a late Georgian fronted house but at the north end of the group (No 68, now the Essex Carpet Centre) is a very interesting building probably dating back to the 15th or 16th century. *The front floor is jettied out along the entire street front and there are*

They relied on the power of prayer. Their chapel still stands in Bell Street between Russell's Restaurant and Russell's delicatessen and is used by St.Mary's Church. Mr.Collins was the village Carrier with his own horse and cart, and for a small fee he would collect villager's shopping from Chelmsford if they left a sign in their window. Later he bought a fine motorcar that was available for hire for weddings and other events. He lived in The Hollies opposite Pump Hill, now called Brickwalls (see photos). *The house dates from the early years of the 19th century, is of red brick and has a blind central window on the first floor.*

Library. Councillor Paul White, Chairman of Essex County Council, opened the new village library in 1991. It was purpose built to replace the former library in the Bell Centre in Bell Street, a wooden building of great practicality but little architectural value.

Recently two dwellings have been built below the Bell Centre and Reading Room in keeping with the older buildings. The London plane tree outside the library near the bottom of Pump Hill is a village landmark, dated 1450.

Next we find Rothmans which probably takes its name from one William Rotheman, mentioned in 1345. This handsome Grade II listed building itself is 16C, with later wing to W. Much altered in 18C and 19C; 2 storeys and attics; front faced in brick. W and S sides have 3 hipped dormers with moulded casements. Wood projecting eaves, 5-window range to E front of double hung sashes with glazing bars. Modern shop front on ground floor. Remains of old chimneystack and original roof timbering. High quality 17C detailing internally includes staircase, panelling and a door. 18C panelling and internal doorcases. Very fine 18C garden walls and a summer house with wooden Tuscan columns. (See photos). Home to John S. Crabb in the 19th century, the same family as the brewery. Rothmans fronting the High Street now includes a B&B, with a children's nursery in the yard. The shop was once Copsey's Butchers and Fishmongers, and an abattoir occupied part of the yard, with fields behind to graze the beasts bought in Chelmsford's weekly livestock market until they needed to be killed. Apparently an icehouse still exists under the summerhouse where, before the advent of refrigerators, ice was cut up during the winter and stored underground for use in the summer. Kingfisher Lodge flats and maisonettes were built at the rear of Rothmans a few years ago.



Miss Bryant's Shop



Now Essex Carpet Centre



The White Horse

15th Century
Haunted Barn



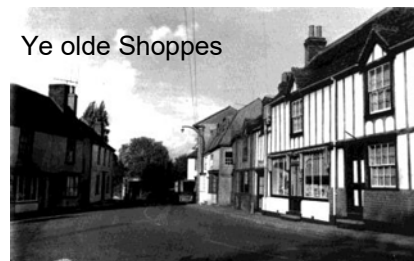
The Bell
Inn



Well House Farm



Ye olde Shoppes



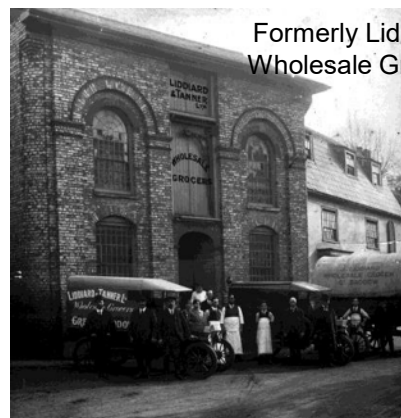
Top of High Street



Foxholes Road



Formerly Liddiard & Tanner's
Wholesale Grocers, now offices.



Formerly
Dace's
Pianos

