

centre section was later covered over making what was in its day, a huge barn. If the barn doors are closed an alternative route to the right of the barn brings you to Crondon Hall farmhouse. Continue until you meet Margaretting **Bridleway 44**. Turn north-east on the bridleway past Crondon House and continue on the Green Lane, Chelmsford **Bridleway 46** to meet Margaretting Road on the south side of the bridge over the A12. Cross over the A12 and turn right onto Chelmsford **FP55** which crosses over the parish boundary to continue as Galleywood **FP46** for a short distance until it meets **Bridleway 80**.



Margaretting Road Crossing
Long term proposals are for a bridleway bridge over the A12 linking Chelmsford BR46 and BR54. This would also provide a useful link to Galleywood BR80.

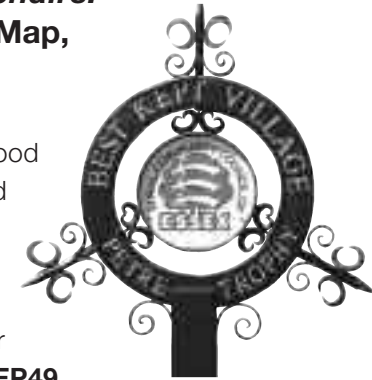
Return to Galleywood Common on **Bridleway 80** until it meets **Bridleway 79** by "Farthings". Turn left on **BR79** to Margaretting Road at Stables Day Care Nursery. Cross Margaretting Road and follow the old racecourse round to the end of your walk at the Horse and Groom public house.

Acknowledgements: Historical details from L Donald Jarvis "Stock – A Historical Survey of the Village" 1934 and Rev. Philip Morant "The History and Antiquities of the County of Essex" Volume 2. Photographs by permission of Malcolm Stuart (Crondon Hall) and Stan Church (Opening of A12). Walk devised by Malcolm Stuart. Layout by Matthew Johnson. © Galleywood Parish Council, September 2004. E&OE.



Crondon Hall Walk

6.2km – 2 hours. Not suitable for wheelchairs.
Mapping: Galleywood Parish Footpaths Map, OS Explorer™ 183, OS Landranger™ 167.



Start at the Horse & Groom public house on Galleywood Common. Walk north-east clockwise round the old race course to meet **FP49**, turn right passing through St Michael & All Angels churchyard and continue across The Common to the top of London Hill on Margaretting Road by the site of one Galleywood's former windmills. Cross Margaretting Road and continue on **FP49** passing round the site of a Napoleonic battery which defended the main London to Maldon highway.

Continue south across the Common crossing the Wood Farm approach road and continuing south over the lower Common on **FP81** crossing the drive to The Chase to meet the slip-road off the A12. Find your way across the A12 to the start of **FP75** off the slip-road to the London-bound carriageway. Take great care when crossing the A12 slip roads, there are no warning signs to oncoming traffic of walkers crossing.

Old Highways and Highwaymen

In the 17th and 18th centuries the roads were in an appalling state. Each district was supposed to be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the King's highway within its own borders but long stretches received little or no attention. Footpads and highwaymen abounded and Galleywood Common was a favourite place for staging a hold-up. Farmers journeying between Chelmsford and outlying villages during the 17th and 18th centuries usually travelled in company for their protection.

Dick Turpin is reported to have been very active in the neighbourhood and lived, at one time, between Stock and Widford.

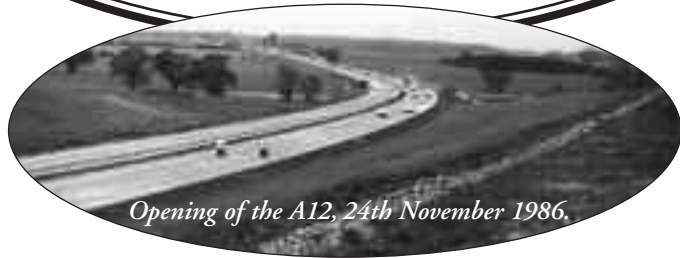


WALK
3

New Highways

The A12 bypass from Margarettong to Boreham was opened on 24th November 1986. This new road cut through many of the ancient rights of way and although some footpaths and bridle paths were successfully diverted, others were left in an unsatisfactory state. Some simply stop at the A12 boundary and others are diverted alongside it, making them unpleasant and noisy to walk.

Those footpaths (Galleywood numbers 26, 27, 75 and 81) which terminate at the B1007 and A130/A1114 roundabouts are left in a dangerous limbo with no clear direction to walkers as to how to proceed and no warning to drivers that walkers may be crossing the footpaths.



Opening of the A12, 24th November 1986.

Proceed south on **FP75** joining Stock **FP3** which takes you south-east across a cultivated field from Lady Grove Copse to Oldbarn where you join Stock **FP2**, the concreted farm track from The Ship on Stock Road to Crondon Hall. Like many old houses Crondon Hall has benefited from a new frontage, the line of which can easily be picked out on the side wall. It had been in the ecclesiastical parish of Galleywood since its formation in 1874, but was transferred to Stock parish in 1978.

Crondon Hall.

Continue west following the farm track Stock **FP2** passing through the farmyard at Crondon Hall. The official route of **FP2** passes through the middle of the barn straight ahead on the approach to Crondon Hall farmyard. This barn was built in 1920 on either side of the footpath, then a muddy dirt track. The



Crondon Hall

Crondon Hall is part of the manor of Crondon. This was a royal park until 2nd October 1545, when Henry VIII sold the manor to Sir William Petre for £160. The Petre family supported the Jesuit Order and established a Roman Catholic Mission for much of the 18th century at a time when it was dangerous to admit to being a Catholic.

Like many old houses Crondon Hall has benefited from a new frontage, the line of which can easily be picked out on the side wall.

In 1978 Crondon Hall, which had been in the ecclesiastical parish of Galleywood since its formation in 1874, was transferred to Stock parish.

