



Newsletter - Introduction

Hello All,

You are receiving this newsletter because you have shown an interest or exchanged correspondence with the Orpington History Organisation in the past. If you do not wish to receive any further newsletters then please reply and we will take your contact information off the distribution list.

Phil's Update:

This seems to be the regular start of each newsletter so far this year... "So much, again, has happened since the last Newsletter!"

The last newsletter was issued mid to late June which seems a lifetime away. I've attempted to cram all the updates in this issue hence the three month span (normally it would be two).

Probably the most rewarding event or activity we took part in the summer was the Cray Festival. For those of you that follow us on Facebook and Twitter, you will know that the Festival was a resounding success. The Orpington History Organisation exhibited within the 'Heritage Zone' along with the Bromley Museum, The Friends of Hoblingwell and the Bromley Gypsy Traveller Project. We all had huge success in terms of people interacting, asking questions and looking at our various exhibits!

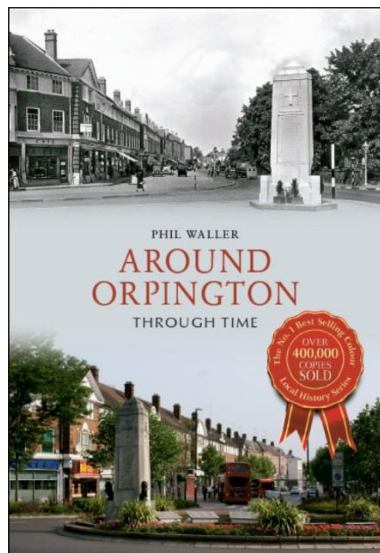
Please have a look at this link to see some of the images from the day.

- [Crayfest Official Images Page](#)
- [Orpington History Organisation Images](#)

Around Orpington Through Time

This is the formal name for my book which is now at print. It will be available to buy from the 28th October and a big fuss will be made by myself and the Orpington History Org – keep an eye on our website/Facebook/twitter pages for details of the launch events we are planning. We hope to announce a couple of launch and book signing events for November. Many members of the 'OHO' helped me produce this book and although it has my name as the publisher it really has been a team effort.

www.around-orpington.co.uk



The book has already been listed on a number of online book stores (UK and overseas). I would encourage you, if interested, to either place a 'pre-order' or wait a few more weeks for the publisher to distribute the books to local stores. I would also further suggest you might want to wait for the book signing or launch events where I will probably discount it and sign it with a personal message! ☺

The book is 96 pages of old and new images with a paragraph caption for each explaining what the images represent. The content covers all the former towns and villages of the old Orpington Urban District Council boundaries. There are some very unique, never seen before, images in this book which I hope you will all enjoy.

This is me with Mr Jo Johnson MP for Orpington who wrote the foreword.



Bromley Heritage and Arts Forum

Since the last newsletter the OHO attended another Bromley Heritage and Arts Group meeting. The first point is that the group is now known as a forum and has a slightly different new name 'Bromley Heritage and Arts Forum (Bhaf for short). As the Forum is still in 'set up' mode the most relevant updates for everyone that reads this newsletter is that there will be a new internet portal/or hub for all the member organisation/groups to publish all there updates and then in turn all the members and enthusiasts from those organisations/groups to be furnished with information from the wider London Borough of Bromley Heritage and Arts offer. Of course the OHO will be an important part of this. The portal will be up and running in the autumn. The other relevant update is that the focus of most of the heritage or history orientated organisations will turn to the remembrance and significance of 100 years since the start of the 1st World War. The OHO has a large amount of images of Orpington (and district) at this time and we will be working closely with the London Borough of Bromley Local Studies Department, The Bromley Museum and the Bromley Borough Local History Society.

If you have any images, stories, books etc. on any element of how the 1st World War touched our area please contact us – research@orpington-history.org

The Orpington Tweet Up!

We attended this straight after the Bhaf meeting and were a key note speaker. The Tweet Up (which as with the OHO) covers the former district has been set up to take place every couple of months. The themes change as do the attendees. The idea is to have a high level agenda with some speakers and topics and then allow the audience to participate and interact. The tweet up element is that parts of the session are tweeted on

Twitter and people can attend virtually! I'd encourage those of you that can to come along and also 'follow' ['Orpington Community'](#) (who run the events) and the hash tag #orptweetup!

The OHO plans to attend the next tweet up which will be on 20th November and held at the Bromley Museum at the Priory - [CLICK HERE](#)

The Bromley Borough Local History Society

Lastly, I want to encourage all new subscribers of this Newsletter (and those that might have missed this) to seriously consider joining the Bromley Borough Local History Society (BBLHS).

The 'BBLHS' is a Historical Society for the whole borough and have been in existence for many many years. Run by a formal Committee, the BBLHS has paid membership and a monthly magazine called Bromleag. The OHO coexists with those like (and especially) the BBLHS. At the moment our aims are similar but we are different horses for different courses. I would encourage anyone that has an interest in Local History Studies to look at the BBLHS website and sign up. The yearly fee is very good value for money. Each issue of 'Bromleag' is carefully and well put together with many articles on many elements of the Borough's heritage and past. I personally have a collection of Bromleag issues going back to 2004 and they make some considerable 'library' of local history facts!

BBLHS Website [<CLICK HERE>](#)

Things to look forward to in the coming months:

We will more than likely be arranging some exhibitions either alongside others or at our own venues. Please keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter updates on this.

We are going to try very hard to hold a social evening. The most successful events we have held are interactive ones. The combination of our 1000's of images available at a press of a button to be beamed up on a high resolution projector, quiz and a provided supper may prove to be the winning formula. Again, please keep an eye on our social media feeds.

The Orpington History organisation aims to bring together like minded local history enthusiasts and provide a hub, a host of contacts and wealth of information for everyone. As the months go by, more and more local historians collaborate with us and the depth and breadth of the organisation grows. We are very happy to report we have history experts from Chelsfield and Pratts Bottom that have recently put their names and knowledge forward.

Finally, if you would like to join us and help out (wherever possible) you would be welcome. We really just require enthusiasm, energy and a small amount of time. As the OHO has grown so has the demand been on the organising team. More the merrier. Please contact me for further info.

Thanks,

Phil.

Website and Facebook News

Website [Click Here](#) –

Our website still continues to grow - 60000 pages viewed and 11000 visits. All website metrics are **up by 300%** like for like on the same period last year.

There may be a refresh over the autumn/winter to our popular timeline. We have had so much correspondence that it warrants an update. For those of you who are familiar with it I will more than likely have to correct the typo that tells of Charles De Gaulle's exploits as Petts Wood refuge!

Facebook [Click Here](#) –

Facebook has **2100 Likes!** We held a very popular competition for our 2000th 'like' to receive a signed copy of our book 'Around Orpington Through Time'. The lucky winner will receive their book when it is available.

As we have mentioned before Facebook continues to be where all the interaction takes place. We've added many images and stories and that in turn has created 100s of comments and anecdotes.

If you haven't seen it I would urge you to do so. The Facebook page is open to all and you don't even need a Facebook account to have a look around.

Articles and items being worked on

[Click here for the link to the Articles Page](#) on the main Orpington History Website.

I am pleased to say that we have completed **four** new articles on the website – that's twelve since January!

- **The Ramsden Estate** – Sally Pennington from the OHO has written this article on the Ramsden Estate. [CLICK HERE](#)
- **The 50th Anniversary of the Orpington Scooter Mods** – The Orpington Scooter Mods were formed 50 years ago this year. [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Buses of the District** – Images of buses on the roads in the district stir memories and it's also 30 years this year since Metrobus was formed. [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Farms Around the District** – Orpington was once surrounded by huge farms. This Facebook article has a number of images and captions [CLICK HERE](#)

We have a number of online articles being worked on at the moment. As with all hobbies and interests, these things only get completed when time can be spent on them.

- **The Sixties** – An article containing a full list of all the shops in the High St in 1967 with a 'now and then' comparison
- **William Cook and Son** – This promises to be a huge article with some, never seen before, images on the accurate history of the Cook Family. Covering the rags to riches of Mr Cook snr and his Buffs to the family falling out with Mr William Henry Cook
- **D. W. Gayfer** – One of our enthusiast's, the grandson of Mr Gayfer, has provided us with many new items and images to produce an article on the town's Jeweller and Watchmaker
- **Elton's Butchers** – One of the only surviving businesses from the old town is the Majestic Catering Butchers. They carry on a tradition of butchery in the same building Mr Elton did many years ago
- **Tripes Farm** – We have more items to add to the already published article
- **Orpington Amateur Boxing Club** – We are pulling together an article on the 'Orpington ABC' from recent articles and images recently sent in
- **Orpington May Queen, Town Carnival and Donkey Derby** – We want to make sure this annual event never gets forgotten and maybe someone will be inspired to set the carnival etc. up again

- **Farnborough** – We have many images to show of Farnborough. One of our Facebook Admins (Tania) is going to put a potted history together and use as many images as possible to bring it to life
- **Cray Valley Technical High School/ Kemnal Technology College** – This well-known local school, on Crittalls corner is 60 years old next year! Andrew, one of our Facebook Admins created an article and displayed it at the Orpington Showcase – we will digitalise it to be viewed on the website.
- **Now and Then Section of the website** – One of our Enthusiasts, Trevor, has produced a number of recent ‘now and then’ images which we will be uploading to the website very soon

As I reported in the last newsletter we are still working on cataloguing, and publishing on the website, many photos and postcards that we have obtained recently.

If anyone would like to assist us and help or even create their own article, please let us know – research@orpington-history.org

Lost and Found

[Click here for the link to the Lost and Found Images Page](#)

This is a regular feature for the page on the website where we encourage viewers to look at images that we cannot easily identify or date. You never know you might be able to help here. We finally got to the bottom of the misprinted Tower Road/Court Road postcard!

WANTED - Questions or Enquiries we are scratching our heads about and items we are looking out for.

Since the last newsletter we certainly got answers to some of the questions we asked about so thank you ever so much to the people that contacted us! The quest continues on on-going activities and new ones!

We are currently looking for information/images on the following:

- **St Paul's Cray, Downe, Knockholt and Cudham** – Our image collection for these parts of the district are a bit low in comparison to the other more populous areas
- Information on the **Cook Family** and the Poultry Farms they ran. We are pulling together an extensive article on this
- **Colour Images of Orpington and the District** from as early back as possible
- **Memories and images of the Carnival, May Day procession and Donkey Derbies** held in Goddington Park
- **Downe House School** – Located formerly in Downe then moved to the very Southern end of Orpington High Street. We are after any images and articles on this school long since gone
- **Lower Road Allotments** – There is an interesting history of these allotments and how they have been handed down from Lord of the Manor to local authority. One of our Enthusiasts is looking into this. If you have any information please get in touch



Help, assistance and guidance we have given

We have processed about another 56 items of correspondence via email since the last newsletter!

And finally....

Please let us know if you want to get involved in anything to do with the Orpington History Organisation. We are looking for like-minded volunteers to help administer our website, work on articles and spread the word by handing our 'flyers' to shops and community notice boards to display our website etc. Contact Phil on this email address (research@orpington-history.org).

Please use the links contained in the images below and click on them to be taken to the website, Facebook or twitter pages.

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Any feedback is welcome.

We also publish this newsletter [online here](#). You can also find older issues on this page



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