



Newsletter – Spring/Early Summer 2014 - 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:

So a new year started and with all the will in the world it has taken until now to get the first newsletter for 2014 out. This is mainly because we have all been very busy and as I type I am currently in New Zealand on an extended holiday! The theme of this newsletter summarises achievements from last year and what we have planned for this year. In essence I have combined two newsletters in this one edition to get us back on track.

Success and Achievement

The OHO broke all records, last year, month by month in terms of numbers of new Enthusiasts, visits to our website and interaction within our social media channels. The success continues to this day and when you think that the comparison to the same metrics last year are based on 2012 also being hugely successful, we find ourselves in a very good place.

In April of 2013 the OHO were approached to join the newly formed Bromley Heritage and Arts Forum alongside a formidable list of Heritage Arts groups and organisations in the Borough. To top it off Phil Waller was invited to be BHAFs first Chairman.

2013 saw the OHO being further recognised, by many other Orpington and District Community groups as a point of contact for Orpington and District local history references.

The OHO attended a number of talks and exhibitions going 'on the road' for the first time with its own display and exhibition materials. The OHO also continued to give reference material to many individuals and groups researching various local history subjects.

We have received a number of remarkable and historically significant image collections and documents from across the District. The main aim is to catalogue and digitally preserve all these items and to share openly.

I started work on the Book 'Around Orpington Through Time' in April and by August it was at the printers and by the end of October in the shops! The first print has been completely bought up (which technically makes it a best seller!) and the second print is currently underway. The success and interest we have had with the book has been totally overwhelming and our creative juices are working on the next project!

www.around-orpington.co.uk

The coming year

We've been considering some objectives this year and rather than bite off more than we can chew, we'd rather have a smaller number and do a good job.

So in no order of preference 2014 is focusing on the following:

1. Catalogue and archive all the outstanding images and documents we have on loan (big old task);
2. Work with the LBB Local Studies and Archives Team on a Borough wide project to commemorate the centenary of the First World War and improve our collaboration with other Bromley Heritage and Arts Forum member;
3. Attend and give a number of talks at other organisation and groups meetings (6 already booked);
4. Attend and lead the Heritage Zone at the 2014 Cray Festival;
5. Hold a social evening (possibly an interactive showing + local quiz + fish and chip supper) at the Temple Church.

If we can accomplish those and build on our merry band of experts and helpers then it will be a good year.

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 - 120000 pages viewed and 22000 visits. All website metrics are **up by 300%** like for like on the same period last year. A new stat to share is that people on the website spend an average time of around 10 minutes looking at images and articles etc.

There may be a refresh over the spring/summer to our site and the ever popular timeline. We have had so much correspondence that it warrants an update.

Facebook [Click Here](#)

Facebook has almost **2500 Likes!** 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.

Twitter [Click Here](#)

We haven't mentioned Twitter but that part of the Organisation is very healthy with 407 followers. The twitter feed is automatically updated with the newsfeed from Facebook.

Articles and items being worked on

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

It's been a little quiet on this front for the past few months. Most attention has been given to promoting our book and having a great festive break.

Even though it may appear to have been slow we have managed to fire up some new Facebook Articles which will be added to in the coming months

- **Cray Wanderers** – We have been given a number of rare images of the 'Wands' playing and the need to celebrate this historic local Football Club was much to not do something above. [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Town and Village Folders** – On the Facebook page, there are now folders for the image collections on each location. [CLICK HERE](#)

As I reported in the previous two newsletters 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 another section that will be refreshed over the coming months so I apologise if some of the images have been answered. Don't despair as there are a huge number of images to be added so periodically check the page.

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

As always after an issue of the newsletter this section drums up a large amount of interest and response. A number of enquires have been answered a number are ongoing and we have some new ones!

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

- Images, memories and articles on **Ontario/Orpington Hospital** – 1st World War period – As part of our collaboration with the Bromley Local Studies and Archive Department we are working on the 'Caring for Casualties of the First World War in Bromley' project
- **St Paul's Cray, Downe, Knockholt and Cudham** – Our image collection for these parts of the district still needs new material so if you have any images or articles you would like to share please let us know.
- Information on the **Cook Family** and the Poultry Farms they ran. We intend on completing a very in-depth article on this later in the year so would still like to hear from anyone that has information on the Cooks.
- **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
- **Cray Cycle Speedway/Cray Tigers** – Cycle Raceway at Cockmannings Farm.



Help, assistance and guidance we have given

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

Events

We use our events schedule on Facebook to display what events we are arranging or attending. Please refer to these as there is more detail on the published events and sometimes dates and times can change and we are current arranging a few more that haven't got dates or venues yet!

[Click Here](#)

At the time of this newsletter the events schedule is currently outlined as follows:

- Monday 19th May through to the 19th July – Bromley Museum (at the Priory Orpington) - Orpington's Forgotten Man: George Allen of Sunnyside.
- Friday 23rd May @ 3pm – Croft Tea Rooms – 1967 – Orpington High Street in this year.
- Tuesday 3rd of June @19:45 – Bromley Borough Local History Society – Orpington High Street then and now.
- Thursday 12th June @19:30 – St Paul's Cray Residents Association – General Local History Talk.
- Saturday 5th July @12:00 – The 2014 Cray Festival – Heritage Zone.
- Friday 25th July @ 3pm – Croft Tea Rooms – Famous people from the Orpington District.

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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