

## 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:

So much, again, has happened since the last Newsletter!

The first piece of exciting news is we are taking part in the '**1<sup>st</sup> Orpington Showcase**' which is being held in and around the Walnuts Shopping Centre on Saturday the 4<sup>th</sup> May 10am to 4pm. We have been given a 'pop up shop' (the old Gamleys shop) where we can set our tables out and some of our Collections. We will be there with some of our enthusiasts'. We'd love to see people, take and answer questions **and take on more volunteers!** Please come down and support us! Here is a link to the [Orpington 1<sup>st</sup> /TownTalk website](#) and a link here to our [Facebook page](#).

The second, but equally exciting piece of news is that the Orpington History Organisation was asked to attend the first meeting of the **London Borough of Bromley Heritage and Arts Group**. The 'OHO' is now a member of this new group and I am the Chairperson for the next meeting! 😊 The meeting was attended extremely well by a number of Heritage, Arts and Cultural groups from all over the Borough. As activities start to come from the output of the groups meetings, I will ensure I update you all via the newsletter and through our Facebook and Twitter feeds. Exciting times and I feel extremely proud and honoured to be involved.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that I was drafting a book to be ready by the late summer - well all is going to plan! We are carrying out a campaign and drive to ask for peoples images and pictures. Some I could include in the book. Please get in touch if you think you have something interested that you would like to see in print. Full acknowledgement, by name, to the owner will be made. Please email: [research@orpington-history.org](mailto:research@orpington-history.org)

Thanks,

Phil.

## Website and Facebook News

**Website** [Click Here](#) –

Our website still continues to grow - 60000 pages viewed and 9000 visits. All website metrics are **up by 600%** on the year!

**Facebook** [Click Here](#) –

Facebook has **1700 Likes** which as I have said before has gone far beyond our wildest expectations. Our potential 'reach' to people out there on Facebook has reached 247,000! The interaction generated by all the posts that we make still continues day in day out. The positive feedback I have personally received by people that 'know me' but didn't know I had started all of this has been very kind. 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!

- **Great Houses of the District - Past and Present.** – We've started to gather and post pictures of great houses from the district, this included many that have survived to this day – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **The Crofton Oak** – We have had some images of the former Crofton Oak and when it was hit by a lorry in the 1960s and subsequently taken down – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Aerial Photos and Maps** – Always popular. We have a fair number of aerial images and we are periodically adding one or two to this article/album. The interaction we get from these images is huge – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **The Mysterious Skeet Hill Circle** – We thought we'd found some kind of ancient circle in the crops of this farm. Have a look at what we discovered with the help of our Facebook followers! - [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 feuding 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 business 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 'OrpingtonABC' from recent articles and images recent 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 is going to create an article
- **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
- **The Ramsden Estate** – Not what you might initially think. The history of this area goes much further back than the 1950s housing estate. Sally, another Facebook Admin, is pulling this together for future publication

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](mailto:research@orpington-history.org)

## Lost and Found

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

We have a 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 ongoing 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 of the 1960s and the Mods and Rockers** – there will be a huge article on that this year
- **Memories and images of the Carnival, May Day procession and Donkey Derbys** held in Goddington Park
- Any images or memories of the **Orphanages at St Annes and St Josephs** and any memories of the Holy Innocents complex before the housing estate was built
- **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

 Orpington-History.org

**WE NEED**

**YOUR IMAGES**

Any images - pictures, postcards, photos, maps and articles!  
Especially colour images from the 70s, 80s and 90s.

Please email them to:  
[research@orpington-history.org](mailto:research@orpington-history.org)

**ENJOY SHARING YOUR LOCAL HISTORY**  
**GOD SAVE THE QUEEN**

## **Help, assistance and guidance we have given**

We have processed about another 20 items of correspondence via email since the last newsletter!

## **Special Notices**

### **A new book on Orpington:**

As mentioned last month I am creating a book called 'Around Orpington'. The contract etc. has been signed with the publishers and I expect the book to be on the shelves of Waterstones, WH Smiths and similar shops by August/September 2013. I wanted to state from the off that the drive for this book is not commercial. I am doing it because we haven't had anything like this for 30 years. Any money that is made (and trust me the authors royalties are minimal) will go into our pot that is used to buy collections and marketing materials. All images will have carefully created narratives and clearly acknowledge where they have come from if they are not owned by us.

### **William Cook and Son**

I mentioned in the last newsletter that I had been contacted by the Great Great Granddaughter of William Cook. I have since been able to take her on a potted tour of Orpington and St Mary Cray and showed her as many related places and items as possible. One part of this tour was not expected. We took a chance and knocked on the door of Walden's Manor (William Cook's 'Orpington House') and the lady owner, once we introduced ourselves, kindly gave us a tour! I will be going back to take pictures that are sure to feature in the article. For anyone that is interested in where we visited:

- Where Tower House and William Cooks first poultry farm was located
- Where Orpington House/ Walden's Manor is and where Walden's farm was
- Where Elm Dene in Derry Downs is located - William Henry Cook's house
- The grave of Jane and William Cook in St Mary Cray Cemetery
- Where Grays's farm was and where William Henry Cook set up the Model Poultry Farm
- Tubbenden Lane, the former location of William Henry Cook's final farm, where his house was and where the mile marker is still standing that is seen in all the popular images.

We have also gathered a number of images of the Cooks Farms that we were not aware of. They have been sent in by readers of the newsletter. If you have any please email them to us. [research@orpington-history.org](mailto:research@orpington-history.org)

## **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?.

Please use the links contained in the images below and click 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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