

## **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.*

The success of the last newsletter was so overwhelming we have had to get some help to process all the correspondence that has flooded our email system and our FaceBook page. I personally could not have wished for anything like this!

I need to introduce myself to the 1500 odd new fans and recipients of this newsletter and reintroduce myself to the small band of enthusiasts that helped me set this up in the first place. So my name is Phil Waller and I am a local lad through and through. I went to school at Tubbenden Primary, The Ramsden Secondary School for Boys and then on to the University of Greenwich. I played Rugby for some time in my younger days for Westcombe Park. My interest in local history started one day in 1989 when I was looking through the local studies department in the old Orpington Reference Library. I was fascinated by the historic images and postcards of the area. I bought the 'Book of Orpington' (which is now out of print), I was then hooked and the rest is history (pardon the pun)... I've been gathering articles, books, postcards, images, attending events and visiting many people in the area ever since. I set the website up about 5 years ago as an extension to my hobby and then found that I wasn't the only person interested. The current website is a year or so old now and contains mine and many other contributions from fans of The Orpington History Organisation. The recent FaceBook take up has been phenomenal, we are nearly approaching 1500 'likes' and the interaction, anecdotes and articles shown, discussed and debated has made it all worthwhile to me. I will always champion Orpington and I think it gets a rough deal most of the time. Historically there is so much to learn and that is why do this and get such enjoyment out of it.

Thank you

Phil

## **Website and Facebook News**

**Website** [Click Here](#) –

Our website still continues to grow 50000 pages viewed and 7000 visits We've tidied up some sections and added 5 new articles, in the articles section.

**Facebook** [Click Here](#) –

Facebook has nearly 1400 Likes which has gone far beyond our wildest expectations. This means any time I post an article it can be seen by 120000 people! The memories being shared on the Facebook page are extraordinary and underpin the whole ethos of the Organisation. The Facebook page is open to all and you don't even need a Facebook account to have a look around. If you haven't already done so, please do so as you are missing out!

I have some new names to share who are helping me with the Facebook Page:

- Lyn Harden

- Linda Letherby
- Sally Pennington
- Tania Todd
- Andrew Longman
- Gary Pratten
- Tom Yeeles
- and yours truly

## 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 **Nine** new articles on the website.

- **The Ramsden School for Boys** – This is one of my own pieces of work but contributed to by many – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Cray Wanderers FC** – An article on our website that gives a potted history and then takes you to the Cray Wanderers History Site – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **District Local Churches** – This article resides on the Facebook page Churches – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **The Farnborough Engineering Co Ltd** – This also resides on the Facebook page - [CLICK HERE](#)
- **George V Silver Jubilee 1935** – Again on Facebook page - [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Orpington Cenotaph and Memorial** – Again on the Facebook page – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Orpington Village Hall** - Again on the Facebook page – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Orpington and District Young Persons Groups** - Again on the Facebook page – [CLICK HERE](#)
- **Orpington Hospital** – yes.. again on the Facebook page – [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 on 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 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.

We are also 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.

## **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 the questions we asked about so thank you ever so much to the people that contacted us about the Closure of the Commodore and the Soldier from Orpington whose name was being researched by the chap in Holland.

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

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

We have processed about another 50 items of correspondence via email since the last newsletter!

There are too many to list but most either confirm someone's suspicions or an old historical story. Some will end a rumour or far-fetched version of the truth. We were happy to supply a picture of the Black Horse PH to the Staff there when an important member left. Oddly we were asked if we could give someone a job in the Tip Top Bakery.. I politely said no.

## **Special Notices**

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

I am pleased and honoured to announce I am writing a book in the spring and it will be on the shelves of all the bookshops and a copy in the British Library by the Summer.

I have signed a contract with a publisher and I am sure you will all be eagerly awaiting the first issue of 'Around Orpington'.

There will certainly be more on this as I make progress.

### **William Cook and Son**

The great, great granddaughter of William Cook has made contact with us and I am helping her establish some family history locations in the area. I am hoping she will endorse our article on the Cooks.

## **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](#).



Orpington-History.org

Follow us on:



follow us on  
twitter