

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.

So why the newsletter? Well we have been running online for 6 years now and since the launch (in 2012) of our new website and introduction of our page on FaceBook, the interaction and interest in the local history of Orpington and it's district has far exceeded our expectations.

Our 'Organisation' is now a collective of many members from many Local History and Genealogy Groups. Some of our key members have allowed their personal collections of images and memories to be published on the site -in some cases some of these items have never been published before. As I have mentioned, the success in the last year has been exceptional and we have members from across the World (mainly people that lived in the area and emigrated). In 2012 we received and replied to 318 individual enquiries from our website for assistance with local history, genealogy and general Orpington queries. Since our 'revamped' site was launched in Jan '12 we have had over 5000 unique visitors from all over the world and over 30000 page visits! That along with over 450 Face Book 'likes' makes us very happy that we took this approach and all the hard work all very worthwhile!

We now have over 700 Enthusiasts and it was agreed that a quarterly newsletter made available to all would be good idea and keep generating interest.

Website and Facebook News

Website [Click Here](#)– we have been updating small areas of the website including updating disclaimer information on the use of web page 'cookies'. This EU law now makes it mandatory for websites to inform viewers on what data is being collected. Our cookies feed our Google Analytics account (which we use to tell how viewers we have) and that's it. We have also had to remind viewers that they should really ask us if they are going to use or copy or images. Some images have never been scanned before let alone published on the 'www' so it is plain to see when they have been used and republished.

Facebook [Click Here](#) – We know this isn't everyone's cup of tea but it is a huge opportunity and one that we are glad we took up. There are now over 400 people following our updates and many of them interact with the updates. A recent post of information and photo of the Vanguard funeral procession was viewed by 4000+ people and drew in many more followers. People on Facebook will interact and comment on their own memories and post their own images etc. Some of the images posted on our page are very rare indeed.

Articles and items being worked on

[Click here for the link to the Articles Page](#)

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 and final fall from grace of his son Mr Cook Jnr.

- **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.
- **The Ramsden School for Boys** – We have recently received photos of the old school and with some other memories and items we are going to put an article together for this former local school.

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.

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.

Questions or Enquiries we are scratching our heads about.

- No one can accurately tell us when the Commodore closed its doors. What was the date and what was showing? There are lots of good guesses – around the very end of 1981 or in the very early months of 1982 but nothing accurate.
- We are looking to help one of our Dutch Enthusiasts on more information regarding Sergeant Frederick Valentine Francis Lane. He was the son of Charles James Valentine Lane and Esther Ellen Lane, of Orpington. He was 22 years old when he was killed on 12 October 1941.

Special Notices

Many of you in the catchment area of the News Shopper will have seen that Bob Ogley now has a regular article slot. Bob has always been an inspiration to some of us local history enthusiasts. Bob has written many books and has previously written in the Kentish Times and others on local history matters. Bob has given us his seal of approval and I'd like to think we'd all be giving ours to his! Here is a link to the News Shopper site and Bob explaining his newest venture.

[http://www.newshopper.co.uk/news/10150621.An introduction to Bob Ogley s SE London and Kent nostalgia column/](http://www.newshopper.co.uk/news/10150621.An%20introduction%20to%20Bob%20Ogley%20s%20SE%20London%20and%20Kent%20nostalgia%20column/)

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

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