

## **Newsletter June/July 2013 - 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:**

I am at risk of repeating myself again but so much has happened since the last newsletter. The 'OHO' has really gone from strength to strength attending more events and gaining more Enthusiasts!

In this newsletter I want to promote up and coming events as well as what has happened in the past couple of months.

### **The Orpington History Organisation Exhibition at the Orpington Town Centre '1<sup>st</sup> Orpington' Showcase.**

As mentioned in the last newsletter the OHO were about to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> Orpington Showcase. Well we did and it was a resounding success for us. We have only really been used to small events and talks. We had a large exhibition stand, we spoke to over 250 people and the 6 hours we were in place went so fast. We have gained a number of useful contact names and numbers and the offer of access to a number of private local history collections. I'd like to thank Sally, Pam, Cathy, Andrew, Tom, Ken and Wally for volunteering to give their time up and 'man the stand'! You can see the success in picture

[click here!](#)

### **The London Borough of Bromley Heritage and Arts Group**

Again, as mentioned in the last newsletter. The OHO has become a member of the new London Borough of Bromley Heritage and Arts Group with me as the first Chairman. The Group has been formed of many like-minded Heritage and Arts organisations and institutions around the borough along with representatives from the Borough's Museum and Library Local Studies Services. We also have representation from English Heritage and the National Trust. The group has been formed to support the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) activities that on-going as part of 'The Priory Revisited'. The main idea is that there is one group for Heritage and Arts organisations and institutions that can be used as a communications channel, think tank for ideas, consultation/advice for on-going and future projects and a single point of contact for future HLF activities (working with the HLF stakeholders themselves). The next meeting of the Heritage and Arts Group is the 17<sup>th</sup> July and I will update all OHO enthusiasts through this newsletter and Facebook with progress.

### **The Priory Revisited and Lubbock's Legacy**

As part of our involvement with the Heritage and Arts Group we were invited to a private showing, at The Bromley Museum, of two new exhibitions; The Priory Revisited and Lubbock's Legacy. It was a very informative evening with a good talk on the plans and intentions of 'The Priory Revisited' project and a superb tour of the Priory by the Bromley Museum Curator Marie-Louise Kerr. I encourage everyone that reads this newsletter to look at what is happening at the Priory and the Museum. There is a genuine opportunity for everyone to give their views and get behind the exciting future of the Borough's most significant building and the Borough's best free to all Museum!

The relevance of the exhibition of 'Lubbock's Legacy is to show off the significant achievements of this local man along with some of the artefacts that the Museum holds. It was a pleasure for us to meet Sir John Lubbock's great grandson Lyulph Lubbock (son of Lord Avebury also known as Eric Lubbock).

- Priory Revisited – [Click Here](#)
- The Bromley Museum – [Click Here](#)
- Our Facebook update after the private viewing – [Click Here](#)
- Some background on Sir John Lubbock and the High Elms Estate – [Click Here](#)

The Museum are regularly tweeting their activities and events. If you use Twitter it is a 'must' to follow them! **@BromleyMuseum** (on Twitter).

### **Our recent visit to the Croft Tea Room.**

There is a real gem of a place tucked away on St Mary Cray High Street in the area locally know as Reynolds Cross. The Croft Tea Room is a multi-award winning community based tea room and a shop selling locally sourced food items. One of the main features of the Croft Tea Room is the schedule of talks given by many knowledgeable volunteers on a Friday afternoon with tea, sandwiches and cake all for a fiver! The OHO has been supporting Trevor Mulligan, a local author, in providing some images and promoting the sale of his book 'Rediscovering The Orpington Car'. Trevor was invited to the Croft Tea Room to give a talk on the history of the car and his book. Trevor asked me to give a talk on Orpington and District in the first few decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century at the time of Smith and Milroy (the car's manufacturers). The talk was given to a packed house on the 7<sup>th</sup> June. Carole at the Croft Team Rooms has invited me and other OHO Enthusiasts to give further talks.

If any of our Enthusiasts or Volunteers would like to give a talk at the Croft Tea Room on behalf of the OHO please let me know.

Here are some photos of the event [<CLICK HERE>](#)

Here is a link to the Croft Tea Room website [<CLICK HERE>](#)

Here is the email address for the Croft Tea Room newsletter email that Carole regularly updates with up and coming events.

### **The Cray Festival – 6<sup>th</sup> July**

The Cray Festival is coming. Those of you that live in the District will have probably seen the advertising in shop windows, on lampposts, in local press and on the internet. This event promises to be the biggest and best for many a year. There is a Heritage Zone within the festival that the Orpington History Organisation is sponsoring and hosting with other Heritage Groups. We will be showing many of the exhibits that people saw at the last town centre showcase but this time we will be bringing a very high powered HD projection system that we will beam our images and articles onto.. This includes the films that created so much interest last time. Another feature, using the display, will be the ability for people to ask us for images to be 'beamed up' on the screen. We have nearly 1000 images from all over the Orpington District.

Of course the Heritage Zone is just a part of the Festival. It really does look like an event that will succeed and be talked about long after but for now we all need to get behind this and get there on the day!

Please see this link [<CLICK HERE>](#) to the Cray Festival website and be sure to follow their twitter and Facebook updates

If you want to volunteer and join the rest of the OHO Team on the day please email me.

## The Orpington Community

We have begun collaborating more with some of the new groups that have emerged through Social Media. The 'Orpington Community' Twitter and Facebook pages set up by Green St Green Society Secretary Margot have gone from strength to strength. The Orpington Community covers the same area as the OHO, typically the old Orpington Urban District Council Boundaries. Social Media Channels like this will be crucial in becoming part of a network of local communication channels as more and more people access social media such as Twitter and Facebook. Typically The Orpington Community tweets and retweets local events and activity news, Margot has spent a lot of time building up a huge list that is followed and then retweeted or forwarded in to the Orpington Community followers. If you don't follow 'The Orpington Community' I suggest you do. [<CLICK HERE>](#)

## The Bromley Borough Local History Society

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>](#)

## Around Orpington Book

I've been openly talking about my forthcoming book. Progress is going well and we are still tracking a publication date of late summer. We have all the old images (96 of them) in place and I am now taking time, when I can, to go around the area and take the modern day equivalent pictures!

Lastly before the normal Newsletter items I want to announce a historic event that took place in The Princess Royal University Hospital on the 11<sup>th</sup> May. Charles Philip MacMillan Waller was born. Yes mine and my partners brand new little boy! I was toying with naming him John William George Lubbock Cook Allen Waller (naming just a few of our local historical names) but I was frowned at! Everyone is doing well and 'Charlie' is already 5 weeks old!

Thanks,

Phil.

## Regular Newsletter Items

### Website and Facebook News

*Website* [Click Here](#) –

Our website still continues to grow – 9000 pages views since the last newsletter (April 25<sup>th</sup>) and 1600 visits. All website metrics are **up by 160%** on the same period last year!

*Facebook* [Click Here](#) –

Facebook has **1800 Likes** (100 more since the last newsletter). Our potential 'reach' to people out there on Facebook has reached **278,000!** The interaction generated by all the posts that we make still continues day in day out. 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.

We have completed [one](#) new article on the website – we are very close to another 3 so keep looking on the website!

- **St Mary Cray, Orpington and Chelsfield Railways** – We have a large amount of images for this very popular area - [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
- **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
- **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 20 items of correspondence via email since the last newsletter!

### Special Notices

All special notices have been included in 'Phil's Update' for this issue of the 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.

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



Orpington-History.org

Follow us on:



follow us on  
twitter