



THE ODSOC UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2011

Compiled and edited by Barbara Igra

GREETINGS FELLOW MEMBERS

Here is my first ODSOC UPDATE since becoming Chairman in November. It is also the first time it has been sent electronically to members who have given us their email addresses. Other members will of course continue to receive their Newsletters by post. I hope you all had a good summer and are looking forward to our winter programme.

First, apologies, somehow two errors occurred in the dates on our programme cards so please amend as follows: September meeting is on Friday 16th and December is on Friday 9th.

Friday September 16th. FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE, A HAMPSIRE LIFE AND DEATH. Her family home was at Embley Park, Romsey, but it is now a school where our speaker, Dr. Ross Foster, is Head of History.

Friday, October 14th. MEDIEVAL LEPROSY: EXCAVATIONS AT ST. MARY MAGDALEN HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER. Our speaker, Dr. Julie Wileman, is the Finds Officer at the excavations and she will tell us about what life was like there for the inmates. Perhaps a gruesome subject but I have heard this talk and found it fascinating.

Fri. November 11th. HISTORY OF BRAMSHILL HOUSE (now the Police College). The speaker, Diana White, knows the house well as in her teaching days she often conducted school parties around the house.

Friday December 9th. OUR CHRISTMAS EVENT. This year our theme will be "1000 Years of Odiham History" with a dinner and talk by John Champion about this history. John is born and bred here and his family connections go back 100 years. Final details will be sent to you in October so KEEP DECEMBER 9th FREE.

VISIT TO WESSEX FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVES, WINCHESTER.

Monday, October 24th, 2.30 p.m. Members £4, Non-members £5.

The archives have moving sound images and recordings relating to the South of England and also a collection of photographic equipment. You will hear how some of this is stored and view some of the archive material in their cinema.

Contact Philip Riley on email: wincombecottage2@gmail.com or phone 01256 702109
Names must be in by September 30th.

THE FUTURE OF OUR HIGH STREET.

High Streets are much in the news at the moment with the government survey led by Mary Portas. There will be more about this in the next edition of the Journal which will be with you in October.

Last year when I was unable to drive due to a wrist in plaster I realised that despite a diminishing High Street, Odiham could still meet most of my basic needs. In and around the High Street we still have Doctors, Dentists, Opticians, Vets, Chemist, Food Store, Post Office, Newsagents, Hardware/Electrical shop, Hair and Beauty, Library, Accountants, Solicitors, etc.

There is a great diversity of views on what can be done to retain a vibrant High Street but on one thing I am sure we all agree on is that:

RESIDENTS MUST USE THE LOCAL SHOPS AND OTHER FACILITIES.

MEMBERSHIP

The Committee has decided that as from this September, all non-members attending Speaker programmes will be charged £2 per visit. It was felt that members were at a disadvantage if non-members are able to attend free and it is in line with most other organisations.

The benefits of membership are:

- 7 Speaker evenings free (including a glass of wine)
- Priority booking and lower costs for visits, walks and special events such as the Christmas event.
- Half-yearly Odiham Journals (charge to non-members - £3.75)

PLEASE ENCOURAGE YOUR NEIGHBOURS AND FRIENDS TO JOIN.

HERITAGE DAY on September 11th. The Society will have displays in The George Hotel on Sunday 11th from 10.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m. and there will be guided tours of historic Odiham. It is also Battle of Britain Day.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Will Mouger first joined our Committee some 15 years and for many of those years he has been Membership Secretary. He now wishes to retire from that post and I am

pleased to say that Ann Plummer, a newcomer to our Committee, has agreed to take over by the end of September so that all will be in place for renewals.

We are very grateful to Will for all his hard work in this important role,

JOURNAL ADVERTISING.

For the past two years Delly Howard has been doing a magnificent job in attracting advertising to our Journal - a very much needed source of income to cover Journal costs. Due to the pressure of other commitments she will be giving this up after the next issue of the Journal.

We are very appreciative to Delly for all the revenue she has produced for us.

AN UPDATE ON ODIHAM COMMON FROM PHILIP RILEY.

He writes: Following the adoption, by Hart, of the Odiham Management Plan last autumn, a Steering Committee has been formed comprising representatives of the Council, the Parish, Natural England, local residents associations, the Biodiversity Group, the Open Spaces Society, the National Trust and the Odiham Society. The role of the Steering Group is to oversee the implementation of the Plan and to consider and make recommendations on management issues and practices. This summer ground clearance was carried out on the south western boundary of the common to prevent the incursion of brushwood and other vegetation. The work involved the creation of bunds which appear unsightly. These will be moved later this year but some soil banks will be retained as habitats for insects and small creatures. In the autumn work will commence on widening some of the rides. This will encourage regeneration and will promote biodiversity. Haloing will also be undertaken to protect veteran trees and to allow lichens and invertebrates to thrive.

HOW ABOUT HELPING THE COMMITTEE TO CONTINUE ITS WORK?

There is quite a lot going on in the Society at the moment and the members of the committee can only give so much of their time. We need non-committee members to help us with the following:

Minute Secretary - our monthly meetings take place at The George on the first Thursday of each month at 7.15 and last about two hours.

Journal Advertising. To take over from Delly Howard and get in advertising from local business etc. This is something you can do when convenient for you and at your own pace.

If you have any special skills or interests that might be helpful to the Society do please contact barbara.igra@virginmedia.com or phone 01256 704912

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY APPEAL. A talk by local military historian Sir Christopher Wallace on 'The Victoria Cross and Odiham's two recipients'

is to be given in aid of this appeal at The Cross Barn, Odiham on Thursday, 27th October, 7.00 pm for 7.30 pm. Tickets, which include a glass of wine, are £15 and are on sale at The Dress Agency, 76 High Street, Odiham and Katherine Jane, Fountains Mall, Odiham. We are sure this talk will be of interest to our members.

IN PREVIOUS UPDATES WE HAVE PROFILED A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE. THIS TIME WE ARE PROFILING SUE SMITH, OUR VERY HARD WORKING HONORARY SECRETARY AND LEADER OF THE WAR MEMORIAL PROJECT.

Sue took over the role of Honorary Secretary Of the Odiham Society from Moira Kelsey in January 2010, having previously been Minutes Secretary for several years. She has been a member of the Society since 1996. Her interest in the history of Odiham and North Warnborough stems from her family's connection with the parish which stretches back to her great-great-grandfather's arrival from Dogmersfield in the mid-19th century. As a child Sue spent many weekends and school holidays with her grandfather, William Crumplin, a local builder, and her great aunt, his sister, Anne (k/a Nance) Savage, in Dunleys Hill, Odiham. She later lived in North Warnborough and Odiham for a number of years.

She was educated at Aldershot County High School and latterly studied with the Open University, gaining a first class honours degree in 1996. Sue worked for Hampshire County Council over a 29 year period, initially at Talavera Junior School, Aldershot, and then with Social Services, where she was employed in various posts. These included Area Resources Manager, Records Manager and departmental representative on the Council's Enterprise Project (the introduction of a new finance, procurement and HR IT system for all Council departments). Her last role before retirement was Project Officer for a government funded information sharing initiative from the White Paper, *Every Child Matters*, which led to the introduction of the Children Act 2005. Her role involved liaison with all agencies and organisations with a responsibility for working with children in need or at risk and organising joint training for the staff who had contact with these children. At the same time, Sue undertook research in social history with the Open University, completing a thesis, which gained her a PhD in 2006.

Since retirement, Sue has continued historical research in various topics and studied archaeology on a part-time basis at Reading University. In addition to her role with the Odiham Society, she is also Honorary Secretary of the Family and Community Historical Research Society. Currently, Sue is researching the history of those named on the Odiham War Memorial as a leader of the joint Odiham Society/Royal British Legion project team.