



## Offington Park Residents Association (OPRA)



### Your Residents' Association - nearly one year on...

Welcome to the third Offington Park Residents' Association (OPRA) newsletter - would you believe it's nearly the end of our first year?

In this newsletter we look at the current issues within Offington Park and take a look

back at the year, especially the successful social events.

We're keen to get everyone joining OPRA and becoming involved in being part of a community that cares and has fun together. That's why this newsletter is also looking for your ideas and support.

Please come and join us, whether you're a member or not, at our first Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday 11 September at Offington Park Methodist Church, starting at 7.30. You can find more information on page 2. See you there!



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Chairman's report/AGM



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Our first year



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Watch

**AGM  
Quiz  
and  
more...**

Page 7 - Coming soon

## Chairman's update

It's been four months since I last wrote to you all and Summer has finally arrived. Certainly a lot of the gardens have exploded in to colour.

There was another explosion of colour, this time in the form of chequered shirts at our first Barn Dance on Broadwater Green. Thank you to everyone who joined in the fun, either learning some moves or dancing away to the disco.

It was in fact the 40th anniversary of the flower show, but due to declining use the show organisers (who hire the marque) were thinking of making this their last year. Lets hope we can prompt them to continue and let OPRA share the costs. That way next year we can all have even more fun.

A big thanks to all the street representatives and committee who gave up a lot of time in arranging such a great night of entertainment. We even made a small profit. Where can you go these days for a £10 ticket price with entertainment, a free drink and food provided?

I'd like to take this opportunity to congratulate Louise Murphy on her election result, becoming Conservative councillor for Offington Park. Unfortunately, this means Louise will have to stand down from her role as OPRA Membership Secretary to avoid any conflict of interest. If you're interested in taking up this role please get in touch.

John Simkin, our newsletter editor, is also standing down. John gave us a fascinating look back at Offington with great historic information. He has left us with more for future editions, and we thank him and wish him well.

This new look newsletter has been pulled together by Paul Cox who will put his name forward to be editor at the next AGM. Paul has over six years experience working in a communications environment for a large national employer.

I find it hard to believe OPRA has been up and running for nearly a year. Please join us at our AGM and, if you want to, get involved!

This newsletter focusses on what we are working on and also looks back at the fun we've had in the first year of your residents association.

*See you at the AGM  
Chris*

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Join us for our first AGM

Thursday 11 September  
Starts 7.30

Allan Fletcher Hall  
Offington Park Methodist Church

#### AGENDA

- Welcome
- Chairman's Report
- Secretary's Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Nomination of officers
- Social committee update
- Any other business



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# What's been happening in Offington?

**New signage helping to keep your roads safer**



You may have seen some new signs along Offington Avenue in our speed-calming campaign. The signs can be seen on posts and on people's bins. The signs have to be placed at least ten properties apart and the property owner has to sign terms and conditions set by West Sussex Highways. We hope you'll notice the difference. We also asked if Offington Lane could be part of the scheme, but it was felt that it was a main road and not a cut through. This also applies to other roads leading off the Avenue.

Further traffic news, John Rogers West Sussex councillor, gained approval from Highways for double yellow lines on the corner bend at the east end of Offington Avenue. Further double yellow lines on the corners of Gorse Avenue will help improve visibility. Work is due to commence in January 2015.

In July, snails invaded the control box of the traffic lights on Broadwater Green causing them to short circuit, explode and be out of action for a week.

Thank you to everyone who called about the illegal Traveller occupancy on Broadwater Green. Your action helped to enable Worthing Council to swiftly issue an order to evict.

Our new benches are still waiting to be installed. Discussions are ongoing about who will fund the concrete bases.

*Until next time - Chris*

## HERITAGE TRAILS

Worthing Heritage Trails will reveal all the wonderful and unexpected aspects of our town's heritage. The first four walks are: (1) The Old Village and Regency Town; (2) Victorian Town and Civic Pride; (3) The Town and the Sea; (4) Parks and Gardens.

The latest publication will be the Tarring Trail - an estimated 90 minutes walk. It includes Tarring High Street one of the most historic streets in Worthing, with buildings dating back to the late medieval period.

For more information, see: [www.iwalk.org.uk/worthing-heritage-trails](http://www.iwalk.org.uk/worthing-heritage-trails)

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## Only Fools and 3 Courses - £40 per person

Come and join us for the event of the year, which combines fine food and comedy action. Marlene and Boycie are hosting a Gala dinner, but will things go to plan with Del, Rodney and Uncle Albert on the guest list? Cushty!  
*Sunday 28th September, Monday 29th September, Sunday 26th October, Monday 27th October, Monday 17th November & Monday 24th November*



## Opera at CasaCiro - £33.50 per person

Come and enjoy a glass of Prosecco and a three course meal while Cameo Opera sing some beautiful arias in between courses from the world of opera including; La Boheme, Don Giovanni, The Barber of Seville and Carmen. *Monday 22nd September, Sunday 30th November, Sunday 7th December, Monday 8th December.*

## West End Dinner Show - £33.50 per person

Enjoy a three course dinner and be serenaded between courses with magical moments from West End and Broadway musicals; including Les Miserables, Phantom of the Opera, Cats, West Side Story and My Fair Lady. *Sunday 7th September, Sunday 19th October, Sunday 16th November, Sunday 30th November, Sunday 7th December & Monday 8th December*



Dates to be confirmed for 'Faulty Towers' and 'Noise Next Door'



Finally, if you are the organised type and already planning your Christmas festivities with work colleagues or friends our  
**CasaCiro Christmas Menu**  
is now available online, please go to:  
**[www.casaciro.co.uk](http://www.casaciro.co.uk)**

# OPRA - OUR FIRST YEAR



Cheese & Wine Party  
December 2013



## Thomas A Becket Quiz Night

### Mitch's Top 5 Questions

1. Who performs the resounding "waggle-dance"?
2. What is the heavenly Greek word for messenger?
3. Which famous street in London takes its name from a croquet-like game played in the 17th century?
4. The 1,267 ft. Devils Tower in Wyoming plays an alluring role in which 1977 sci-fi film?
5. What kind of weapon is found on the flag of the Barbados?

Answers on the next page



We look forward to seeing  
you at our next event



## Barn Dance - June 2014



*"We enjoyed the night and thought that it massively exceeded our expectations"*

**Lawrence**

*"Such an enjoyable event. I hope you think about staging a re-run next year."* **Kathy**



### Quiz Answers

1. Honey bees
2. Angel
3. Pall Mall
4. Close Encounters of the Third Kind
5. Trident



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**HEDGEHOGS - your garden friend**

Hedgehog numbers are in serious decline, and in Offington Park we are fortunate to have them in our gardens. Here's some top hedgehog tips:

**FEEDING:** Use shallow dishes for dog food and water in a quiet corner of your garden. Do not feed hedgehogs bread and milk.

**SLUG PELLETS:** Do not use Metaldehyde slug pellets as these can kill hedgehogs.

**PONDS AND DRAINS:** Provide slopes or ladders in ponds as escape routes. Keep drains and other holes covered.

**NETTING:** Keep netting around 30cms above the ground to allow hedgehogs to pass under it.

**BONFIRES:** Use an incinerator or move the pile to be burned before setting fire to it.

**FENCES AND WALLS:** Leave holes in or under fences and walls. Hedgehogs can travel up to two miles per night

**COMPOST HEAPS:** Take care when moving a compost heap as it's an ideal nesting place for hedgehogs.

**WILD PATCHES:** Leave some areas of the garden wild, piles of leaves are ideal nesting places for hedgehogs.

Learn more at: The British Hedgehog Preservation Society at [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)

## Neighbourhood watch update

Since May, we have received four Community Bulletins from the Police, in which nine offences were recorded in Offington Park:

- illegal access to a commercial property (nothing was stolen);
- four thefts from vehicles - two bags were stolen and tools and a mobile phone were taken from vans; and
- four break-ins to sheds - three of these being part of a single incident in which nothing was stolen; and one where a lawnmower was stolen.

There has been a rise in vehicle crime and, indeed, in burglaries - 17 were recorded in Worthing during June, the highest recorded this year! This increase prompted Chief Inspector Jo Banks to encourage Neighbourhood Watch members to develop the investigative skill-set that PCSOs are now expected to acquire. Meanwhile, please do not leave valuables in cars and make sure that you lock both cars and sheds.

Digital Outreach Ltd (a joint venture social enterprise set up by Age UK, Community Service Volunteers and CEL Group) are about to launch the UK's roll-out of 4G services in our area. This may cause disruption to TV services but free help is available through <https://at800.tv/find-out-more/the-problem/>. For further information, please contact me at: [tim@freeolamail.com](mailto:tim@freeolamail.com).

You can get the latest local crime related advice and updates at [www.sussex.police.uk](http://www.sussex.police.uk) - Search for "Community messaging" and sign up.

*Tim Drew*



## Thanks to...

**Haskins** who donated an extra large planter to go alongside one of our benches. "We are always delighted to support our local community with the development of gardens"

*Nick Joad, General Manager, Haskins Garden Centres Ltd*



**Thomas A Becket Public House** who hosted our excellent pub quiz with nearly 50 residents and social committee meetings

**Tesco, Bookers Cash & Carry** and **Adams vegetable wholesalers** for donating our amazing raffle prizes.



Special thanks to **Cameron Parfitt** for his photos of the social events in this Newsletter

## History Column: Offington: 1066-1086

After his coronation in 1066, William the Conqueror claimed that all the land in England now belonged to him, retaining about a fifth of this land for his own use. The rest was distributed to those men who had helped him defeat Harold at the Battle of Hastings. The 170 tenants-in-chief (or barons) had to provide armed men on horseback for military service. The number of knights a baron had to provide depended on the size of land he had been given.

Sussex was divided into six regions (Rapes): Chichester, Arundel, Bramber, Lewes, Pevensey and Hastings. Offington now came under the control of William de Braose, who took control of the Rape of Bramber. De Braose built Bramber Castle, to guard the strategically important harbour at Steyning.

In return for the land provided by his leader, William de Braose, had to promise to provide the king with knights. In order to supply these knights, barons had to divide their land up into smaller units called manors. These manors were then passed on to men who promised to serve as knights when the king needed them.

The name Offington dates back to Anglo-Saxon times and means Offa's farmstead. At the time of the writing of the Domesday Book in 1086, William de Braose had granted Offington to William FitzNorman. It was measured at two hides. "There is one plough in demesne. Nothing more. It is and was worth 26 shillings." It was clearly a small and unimportant manor. There is great debate about the size of this ancient measurement but local historian, Henfrey Smail, writing in 1950, estimates that the Offington manor was between 180 and 240 acres.

# COMING SOON

- 11 September - AGM - Offington Park Methodist Church
- 1 October - Pub Quiz - Thomas A Becket
- 10 December - Christmas Pub Quiz - Thomas A Becket

Look out for

- Christmas cheese and wine event
- OPRA Web-site

## We want your ideas...

We are keen to provide a range of social events so that all ages in Offington Park can come together. You've seen what we have already achieved in our first year. It would be great if you can be inspired to get involved too.

Have you got any social events you would like to be involved with, or even organise?

There's some great ideas that we think our members may enjoy - but we need your help in setting them up and running them. Here's some we've already thought of:

Book Club - Knit & Natter - Walking Club (with or without your dogs) - Cycling Club

Please share your thoughts with us, we'd love to hear from you.

**Contact: Paul Cox - 07985 265738**



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