

Lockdown News: May 2020

Society News

It is unlikely that the Society will be able to meet again until September. We obviously have to follow government guidelines but will keep you informed if anything changes. As mentioned in the last email, subscriptions will be delayed by the number of meetings missed. It has been decided that we will send out emails during this time and circulate any news which we feel will be of interest to members. If you have any interesting material for the next newsletter, please let me know.

Sidcup History News

ECHO Project Banners

We are very pleased to launch the second phase of our 'Famous People of Sidcup' banners in Sidcup High Street. If you are self-isolating and aren't able to see them straight away, here are some pictures for you. There will be a new accompanying leaflet in due course.



'Famous People of Sidcup' is a celebration of the national achievements and local contributions of a selection of individuals in the Lamorbey and Sidcup district. Our first group of banners were launched in May 2019 and are still displayed in the High Street and in Station Road.

The new banners in the High Street depict:

- Nevil Shute Norway - novelist and engineer
- Frederick Matthias Alexander - originator of the Alexander Technique
- 1st Baron Bexley - politician who lived at Foots Cray Place
- Trevor Rhone - playwright who studied at Rose Bruford College
- Helen Grace Culverwell Marsh-Lambert - writer and illustrator
- Tasman Millington, OBE - official of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission

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Sidcup Jigsaw Club

Many of you will remember the name William Maurice Crombie, the eldest of the three sons of Dr and Mrs Crombie, who died during the flu pandemic in 1919. During the Second World War his widow, Grace, organised a jigsaw club for (mostly) local people. There appear to have been 18 members and for each puzzle a fixed loan schedule was set up, as can be seen in the photo, below right. This puzzle, "Little Miss Empire", was on loan between December 1943 and August 1944. After passing through the hands of locals, it was returned to Grace Crombie who then despatched it to Whatton in Nottinghamshire, whence it went on to Horsham, Surrey and finally Uckfield, Sussex before returning to three more Sidcup residents. Finally it passed back to Mrs Crombie and has stayed in the family ever since.

There are a number of these jigsaws, which should one day soon find their way to the Society, courtesy of Hugo Crombie, Grace's grandson. Once we have done our research on them the aim is to pass them to the Bexley Museums Service. It is a lovely snapshot of how people helped each other during the war.

Although we are again in a time of great stress, this particular form of help would probably not work nowadays as jigsaws are pretty cheap.



Sidcup News

On the evening of 2nd May the Charcoal public house (formerly the Charcoal Burner) was on fire. The film on the internet showed quite a large blaze but it turns out that it was just an outbuilding at the back of the pub. The photo from next morning shows that the main building is still intact, although it is known to be smoked damaged.

