

Lockdown News: February 2021

Good wishes to all our members. I would like to say welcome to 2021 and let us hope it proves to be a better year. I hope by now many of you have been vaccinated against the virus although I know there are a few youngsters among you. Your turn will come.

The committee and I hope that the society will be able to meet up again in a few months but at the moment we have to rely on Zoom. Thank you to all those who have supported it.



There is little to report apart from the fact that my birthday is in January as is Katherine's!!! Anybody else? Perhaps more interesting is that one of our famous Sidcup personalities Douglas Macmillan, died in January 1969. A man who had more impact in dealing with cancer than he could have imagined. He set up the National Society of Cancer Relief, in 1911, now known as Macmillan Cancer Support. He was not a medical man but saw the impact and hardship for families caused by cancer death. His father had died from cancer of the oesophagus. He came from London to live in Knoll Road, Sidcup, in 1924 with his first wife,

Margaret Miller. She died in 1957 and her grave can be found behind Foots Cray Baptist Church. He ran his fledgling society from Knoll Road for several years until premises were found in London. Douglas stayed in Knoll Road for 40 years



So why did Douglas come to Sidcup? Katherine and I have researched his life for many years and we think there were family members in the locality. There was an excellent rail service so he could get to London to work for the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and Sidcup was then considered a rural environment, which he loved. The high gabled, newly built Edwardian house overlooked orchards and the Cray Valley.



Knoll Road was a 'new' road built around 1900, the line of the road following the original field boundary line. The 1909 map of Sidcup shows the 12 semi-detached houses on the north side of the road built by local Erith builder Frank Enness with the signature burr front walls. These walls were made from local bricks which had become unusable for house building as they had fused together in kilns as a result of over-hot firing.

One other building in the road at the time was the prep boarding school Merton Court, opened by John Pearce in 1899, and named after the college he attended at Oxford University. It is now considered Sidcup's oldest private school.

Every road has some sort of history and I find the history in my road fascinating. Do any members have interesting stories from their roads? We would love to hear about them.

Denise Baldwin, Chair, Lamorbey & Sidcup Local History Society



The next Society Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2nd February at 7.30p.m. on Zoom

David Sleep will be talking about Eltham Palace

David will be focusing on the origins of the Eltham Palace site, its development as a Royal Palace in the Medieval and early Tudor period and the personalities associated with its history. Its decline as a royal home, the romantic ruin of the 18th and 19th centuries and its revival in the 20th century as the 'finest Art Deco interior in England' that has made it one of the treasures in the collection of historical properties managed by English Heritage.

From a personnel perspective he will discuss his own passion that he has for Eltham Palace and his experience of volunteering and working at this unique site over many years.

As usual, please would you let us know if you wish to join us on Zoom by emailing Jennifer [REDACTED]

Zoom and other history talks. Information from Imogen Corrigan

Would you be interested in joining on-line lectures that are coming up? Now that most of us are in lock-down again, I wondered if the members of your society would be interested in attending the annual Canterbury History Weekend which will be held via *Teams* on Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 March. A poster giving details is attached. The Weekend's theme alternates every year between Medieval and Tudors/Stuarts and in 2021 it is the turn of the Tudor/Stuart period of history.

The Centre for Kent History and Heritage has a vibrant programme during the year anyway and it may be that your members would be interested in other lectures they are offering. The link for the latest blog by Dr Sheila Sweetinburgh should be accessible by entering 'kent history and heritage blogs' in your search engine and this gives more information, especially about the lunchtime lecture series. I recommend signing up for Sheila's weekly blog anyway.

Some of you will know that I offer lectures via Zoom (and many have been kind enough to book one). If you are new to it or unsure about whether or not it is for you, I am more than happy to run an introductory session for you and/or your committee so that you can see what is involved. There is no charge for a familiarisation session and nor is there any requirement to book a lecture, although it's nice if you do. I have a web site which lists all my lectures and has a short video clip about zoom lecturing on it. This can be found at www.medieval-lecture.com.

My husband, Gordon Corrigan, also lectures via zoom. His subjects can be found on the page I have generously given him on my web site, or on <https://gordoncorrigan.com> ('Gordon Corrigan lectures'). His web site also gives access to his Pay Per View lectures which may be of interest to your members and are a bargain at £5 a lecture. Some of you will know him because he has written 9 books and done quite a lot of television work.

I hope you are all keeping extremely well. It will soon be Spring! With best wishes, Imogen (Corrigan)

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CENTRE FOR KENT HISTORY & HERITAGE

Tudors and Stuarts Weekend
Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th March 2021
Online via Microsoft TEAMS

Please choose from a programme of eleven live online lectures by exciting and expert speakers such as Professors Alec Ryrie, Lena Orlin, and Andy Wood. Welcome back brilliant speakers Dr Amy Blakeway and Professors Glenn Richardson and Keith McLay. Greet leading international scholars, including Dr Onyeka Nubia and Professors Pamela King and Matthew Johnson - all talking about research close to their hearts.

Two short films are included **FREE** when you buy a ticket

Tickets for each talk cost £7.50 per person or buy a Weekend Ticket for all talks for £60

To book www.canterbury.ac.uk/tudors-stuarts or email artsandculture@canterbury.ac.uk

The History Weekend aims to raise money for the Ian Coulson Memorial Postgraduate Award Fund that helps students at Canterbury Christ Church University research Kent history topics.

Canterbury Christ Church University