

**Lockdown News: March 2021**

**The next Society Meeting will be held on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at 7.30p.m. on Zoom**

**Joanna Friel will be talking about Chislehurst's World War 2**

Along with the stories relating to the Chislehurst Caves shelter from the blitz, Joanna will talk about the role of the big houses locally, Norland nannies, bombed out schools and houses, and the escapades of the Home Guard at Scadbury among other places. There will be some sad stories, but uplifting tales too, of life on the home front. Illustrated with 40 minutes of slides. Questions and comments will be most welcome.

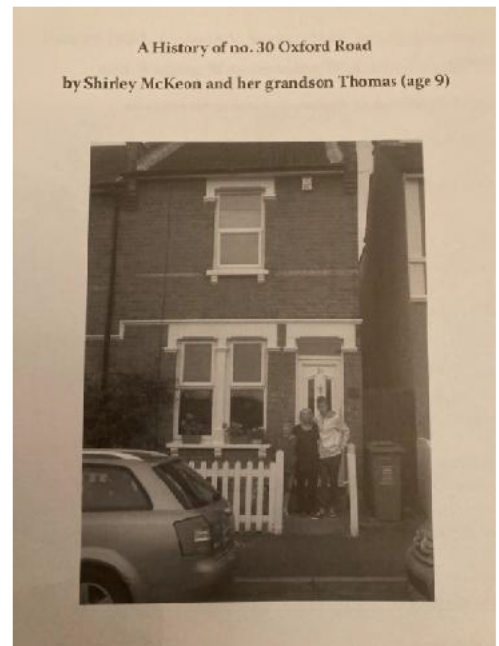
As usual, please would you let us know if you wish to join us on Zoom by emailing Jennifer [REDACTED]

**The History of my House, 30 Oxford Road, Sidcup by Shirley McKeon**

In 2013 with my grandson Tom, I took part in a project led by Bexley Archaeological Group, supported by Local Studies and funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It was called "All Our Stories, The Stories of Our Streets and Houses", which included a small archaeological dig in my garden. Subsequently the stories of all those who took part was published in a book. Here is a brief summary of my findings.

*Outside my house with my grandsons  
(From the book All Our Stories, Bexley Archaeological Group 2013)*

A map dating around 1830 shows where Oxford Road now lies there was an orchard without any buildings and the only road nearby was Sidcup Hill. However, by the mid-1860s the development of roads and houses in the surrounding area began, including the railway in 1866.



It took about 15 years from 1890 for the County Roads development to be built including Oxford Road. My House was built in 1904 by F J Knight and Son as part of Rusthall Cottages.

*Plaque for date and Rusthall cottages  
(Personal photo)*

The first owner of my house was a Mr E Jones and the first tenant was the family of Edward Holloway who was a memorial stone mason and worked from home. According to the 1911 census the occupants were Edward Holloway, his wife Sarah and three children. In the following years they had a further three children. According to the Sidcup Street Directory, they were still living in the house in 1940. The eldest son, Percy, worked in the family business and the younger son,

Leonard, worked as a Houseboy which was a servant probably for one of the larger houses in the area. The other four children were girls and their employment status unclear. Sarah Holloway was documented as unemployed.

30 Oxford Road is an end of terrace, originally two living rooms, a kitchen and three bedrooms. It took until 1972 for the third bedroom to be converted to a bathroom. Presently many of the original features remain, including original fireplaces and floorboards.

*51 Oxford Road 1918, the nearest I could find to my house  
(Bexley Local Studies)*

According to the Rate Books, in 1934 the rateable value was £3 10d and by 2013 it had risen to £1431.51p. Even taking inflation into account, this is a steep increase.

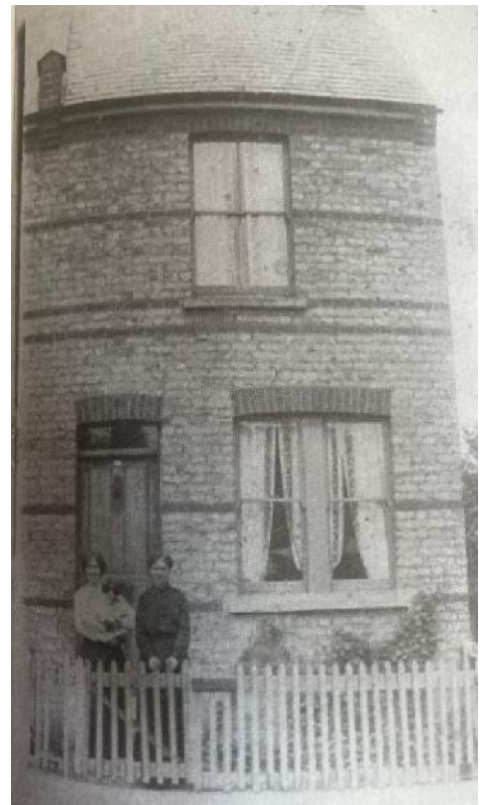
Interestingly the findings of the dig reflected the life within the house such as blue and white china, smoked glass and pieces of masonry.

A Primary School was built opposite my house in 1908 to accommodate the growing population. It was known as Chislehurst and Sidcup Hill Council School and it was rebuilt as Orchard Primary School in 2003.



*Chislehurst and Sidcup Hill School circa 1913-1918  
(Bexley Local Studies)*

It was fascinating to discover the history of my house and street. Revisiting this project has whetted my appetite for further research.....



*The County Roads 1908  
(Old Ordnance Survey Maps, Sidcup,  
The Godfrey edition)*

