

SIDCUP'S

GREAT WAR

A LIVING PAGEANT



A COMMUNITY
EVENT
FOR ALL AGES



SATURDAY JUNE 18TH 2016

SIDCUP HIGH STREET 10AM TO 4PM

• PROGRAMME •

FOREWORD

It is fitting and appropriate that we should mark the role Sidcup played during the Great War and the impact that the horrors of the battlefield had on this community. The names of Sidcup's lost sons who had walked our streets, lived in our houses and then made the ultimate sacrifice are immortalised on the war memorial. But our town had another role to play, at the vanguard of medical science with the opening in 1917 of what was later to become Queen Mary's Hospital. In these buildings, ground-breaking techniques for facial reconstructive surgery were pioneered under the leadership of Sir Harold Gillies, the man widely recognised as the father of modern plastic surgery.

And the medical staff at the Queen's Hospital went further, considering, perhaps for the first time, the long term psychological effects of those disfigured by warfare, in methods of treatment and care that underpin the work undertaken by medical professionals in support of today's armed forces.

The Great War wrenched men and women from their families; fathers sent to the frontline to confront the enemy, mothers volunteering as nurses with Voluntary Aid Detachments at home and abroad. Millions never returned. The tragedy of the Great War has left a scar on virtually every village, town and city in the UK and across Europe, including here in Sidcup. It is therefore important that, with this festival and others planned up and down the country, we commemorate the lives of those who gave theirs for our freedom and pay tribute to their courage and resilience.

As we look back on the events of the Great War and commemorate the life stories of those that endured them, we must remember not only the role that our town played in this terrible conflict, but also the utter devastation and human tragedy of war and conflict. As fighting continues around the world, we must remember those that face suffering at the hands of others and the sacrifice so many people from Sidcup made to protect the freedoms that we enjoy today.

James Brokenshire MP, Old Bexley & Sidcup

INTRODUCTION

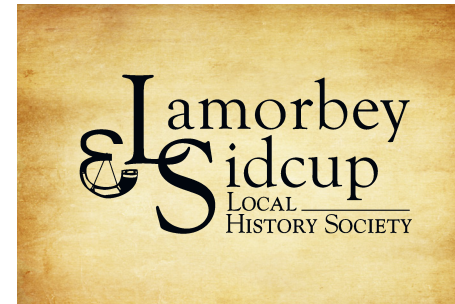
Welcome to *Sidcup's Great War: A Living Pageant*. Over the past two years we have heard a lot about the Great War nationally and the profound effect it had on this country. Today, thanks to the Lamorbey and Sidcup Local History Society and its many partners and supporters, we commemorate the effect that the Great War had locally on Sidcup, a story hitherto largely untold. Sidcup played its part, not only in providing men for the Forces (over 260 gave their lives) and the pioneering work carried out in plastic surgery at The Queen's (now Queen Mary's) Hospital, but in many other ways such as the establishment of voluntary aid detachments and auxiliary hospitals.

A great many fascinating events, entertaining and educational, are on offer today in the heart of Sidcup. Thanks are due to a great many individuals and organisations for these but especial thanks are due to Denise Baldwin, Chair of the Lamorbey and Sidcup Local History Society and its Pageant Committee, the driving force behind this ambitious programme of events.

Thanks to a generous grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund the Society will be continuing over the next year to investigate and organise activities relating to the history of Sidcup in the Great War.

Have a fantastic day.

*Malcolm Barr-Hamilton, President,
Lamorbey & Sidcup Local History Society*



Family Poppy Trail

The Library, 10am

Pop into the library and pick up a trail at the Lamorbey and Sidcup Local History stall. Walk around the town and discover the story of Sidcup's home front, stopping at numbered poppy points to search out names, surprising facts and personal stories. Supplementary notes included for mums and dads. When you've finished, go back to the stall and collect your prize-kids only!

Lamorbey and Sidcup Local History Society

Since its formation in 1952, the society has met regularly to listen to history-themed lectures, run local walks and outings and engage in research and projects. Meetings now take place at St Lawrence's Community Centre, Hamilton Road, Sidcup at 7.15pm on the first Tuesday of the month. A friendly, lively society which welcomes visitors. Why not come along?



St John the Evangelist

The parish church of St John the Evangelist is an inspiring Grade II listed building in the Early English style with lofty columns and interesting stained glass windows. The memorial chapel is especially poignant with many well-known local families commemorated. The bell tower will be open for free 15 minute tours during *Sidcup's Great War Pageant*.

Ian Houghton

Ian Houghton is a living history enthusiast who feels it vitally important to keep history alive, especially relating to World War I. He goes to great lengths to ensure that he gets things as authentic as possible and that information given is correct. Ian portrays a number of World War I characters, some based on real people, and today will be portraying an injured soldier who was a patient at The Queen's Hospital (now Queen Mary's), Sidcup.



St John Ambulance



St John Ambulance

St John Ambulance, founded in 1887 as a voluntary organisation, joined with the Red Cross at the outbreak of war to become the Joint War Committee. In this capacity, its beneficiaries were war casualties who received medical care in many hospitals in England and overseas. Find out about today's dynamic volunteers who are St John Ambulance.

Scouts & Guides

The face of these two organisations has changed considerably over the last 100 years and you'd be amazed at some of the tasks the young people were asked to do during the war years! They certainly played an important role in supporting the war effort on the Home Front. Visit their stalls and find out more - you may even get to try out some things for yourself...



Sidcup Library

If you think libraries are stuffy and quiet, well think again! Sidcup Library is a busy well-established hub which has been recently refurbished. It offers a fun children's area, separate quiet IT rooms, meeting rooms, study areas and comfortable seating places plus tea and coffee facilities. Its welcoming community atmosphere has given a lot of support to the pageant event. Three talks will take place at 2.00pm in the library.

Learning Centre Bexley

Did you know that the Learning Centre Bexley offers a wealth of opportunities to young and old with a diverse range of courses? Housed behind the replica façade of the former Black Horse Public House, it has supported the Great War Pageant by hosting stalls in its art room facility. Come and have a look round.



MORNING EVENTS

TIME	EVENT	EVENT	EVENT
10.00am	Official opening James Brokenshire MP for Old Bexley & Sidcup, The Mayor of the the London Borough of Bexley. <i>Outside Prezzo.</i> Followed by The Belvedere Concert Band in <i>Elm Parade</i>		
10.30am	The Woman's War A selection of readings and poetry by Joanna Friel, Olive Mercer & Nicole Whitehead. <i>St John's Church</i>		
11.00am	The Home Front A playlet written and performed by the BOATE theatre group. <i>Outside Sidcup & Co</i>	Immerse In Elegance at Joe Lyons Enjoy High Tea with quality service and entertainment provided by the Gladys & Nippy Waitresses and the NC3 Choir. <i>New Community Church</i>	Songs from the Playground A medley of songs performed by Old Bexley Primary School Choir. <i>Outside Morrisons</i> Memories of Music Hall Serenade Singers. <i>Outside W. Uden & Sons</i>
11.30am	Faces From the Front The Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, 1917-25. A talk by Dr Andrew Bamji FRCP. <i>St Lawrence's Community Centre. Tickets in advance only</i>		
12.00pm	1st Greenhithe Highlanders Piping Club <i>Waitrose</i>	Songs from the Playground A medley of songs performed by Old Bexley Primary School Choir. <i>Outside the Library</i>	
12.30pm	The Home Front A playlet written and performed by the BOATE theatre group. <i>Outside Sidcup & Co</i>	Memories of Music Hall Serenade Singers. <i>Inside The Portrait, Elm Parade</i>	
12.45pm	The United States Army: In the Trenches of World War I A talk and demonstration by Ryan Turner. <i>St Lawrence's Community Centre</i>		

ST LAWRENCE'S
COMMUNITY CENTRE

HAMILTON ROAD

STATION ROAD

NEW
COMMUNITY CHURCH
(CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
IN WW1. CLOSED 1976)

PREZZO

MAIN ROAD

UNITED SERVICES
CLUB

ELM ROAD

SIDCUP HIGH STREET

NISBETT WALK

HATHERLEY ROAD

W. UDEN
& SONS

NELSON ROAD

SIDCUP HIGH STREET

EMMANUEL CHURCH HALL

HADLOW ROAD

SIDCUP LIBRARY

SIDCUP
& CO.

LEARNING
CENTRE
BEXLEY

WAITROSE

ST JOHN'S RD

BLACK HORSE RD

BETTER GYM

MORRISONS

GRASSINGTON ROAD

CHURCH ROAD

ST JOHN'S CHURCH

CARLTON ROAD

JENNER CLOSE

THE GREEN

WAR MEMORIAL

PERFORMANCE AREAS

STALLS

1914-1918 SHOPPING LINE

AFTERNOON EVENTS

TIME	EVENT	EVENT	EVENT
1.00pm	4 + 1 Wind Quintet Outside W. Uden & Sons	1st Greenhithe Highlanders Piping Club Morrisons	
1.30pm	NC3 Choir Songs from the era Outside Waitrose	Excerpts from Oh! What a Lovely War Rose Bruford College Outside Library	
2.00pm	Faces From the Front The Queen's Hospital, Sidcup, 1917-25. A talk by Dr Andrew Bamji FRCP. St Lawrence's Community Centre. Tickets in advance only The Home Front A playlet written and performed by the BOATE theatre group Outside Sidcup & Co	A series of short talks: Sidcup's Memorial Men Will Cooban The US Army In the Trenches Ryan Turner Sidcup in World War I Andrew Walker Library	Bird College Junior, Senior Youth and School Choirs Elm Parade
2.30pm	Excerpts from Oh! What a Lovely War Rose Bruford College Outside Library	Bird College: Bexley Youth Band 2.30-3.15. Elm Parade	
3.00pm	The Home Front A playlet written and performed by the BOATE theatre group Outside Sidcup & Co	Bird College: Little Big Band 3.15-3.45. Elm Parade	
3.30pm	1st Greenhithe Highlanders Piping Club Outside Better Gym		
4.00pm	Ceremony of Remembrance The Royal British Legion, Sidcup & Footscray Branch. The War Memorial, Sidcup Green		

THE GREAT WAR ANNIVERSARY

SIDCUP'S GREAT WAR PAGEANT

1914-1918 CEREMONY OF REMEMBRANCE



The War Memorial, Sidcup Green, Kent.

Saturday 18th June 2016



ORDER OF SERVICE

Poppy Wreaths & Floral Tributes will be laid

The Exhortation

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the Sun, and in the Morning
We Will Remember Them*

"We Will Remember Them"

The 'Last Post' is sounded
the Standards & Colours will be lowered

Two Minutes Silence - will be observed

followed by 'Reveille'
the Standards & Colours will then be raised

The Kohima Prayer


*When you go home, tell them of us and Say
for your tomorrow, We gave our Today*

The Blessing

followed by - Go in Peace to love & serve the Lord

The Royal British Legion – Sidcup & Foots Cray Branch

STALLS

This symbol  denotes events and organisations that are of particular interest to children.

UNITED SERVICES CLUB, MAIN ROAD

 **Royal British Legion:** To the memory of the fallen and the future of the living: information and poppies, with donations to the Poppy Appeal.

CORNER OF MAIN ROAD/ELM ROAD (OPPOSITE PREZZO)

Rotary: Information on this organisation of people who share a passion for and commitment to enhancing communities and improving lives.

 **Sidcup Art Club:** Paintings on display, demonstrations by club members, plus child portraits while you wait. Donations to the British Legion on any sales.

Queen Mary's Hospital: Display on the history of The Queen's Hospital which opened in 1917 to perform pioneering surgery on soldiers with facial injuries.

Friends of Foots Cray Meadows: Find out about the work done to protect the biodiversity features of this important public open space.


Bromley and Bexley Branch of Soldiers, Sailors and Families Association (SSAFA): Find out about the work of the oldest military charity in the country and explore local history records from the time of the First World War.

265 Battery Royal Artillery: In current uniform, with information on this Army Reserve Unit deploying High Velocity Missile Systems, based in Grove Park.

OUTSIDE 2 ELM ROAD


Sidcup Ladies Luncheon Club (Cancer Research UK): Display of advances in cancer treatments and survival rates since the First World War. Latest information from Cancer Research UK and this active local fundraising group.


NISBETT WALK

 **Scouts and Guides:** Discover what Scouts and Guides did to support the war effort on the Home Front. Then as now, community service, preparation for life and adventure are to the fore!


EMMANUEL CHURCH HALL, HADLOW ROAD

Metropolitan Police Heritage Centre and Friends of Metropolitan Police Heritage Collection: Find out about the history of policing Sidcup from the 1st Division Bow Street Horse Patrol in 1827 up to WWI. **Bexley Archaeological Group:** Find out about the history and archaeology of the local area.

 **Young Archaeologists' Club:** Try on a uniform and have your photo taken in a photo booth, just as soldiers did before they went to war. Also objects to handle.

 **Peter Frost's Recruitment Station:** Your country needs you! Join up as recruits would have done 1914-15. Enlistment paperwork completed using period nib pen and real ink!


Legacy Historical Services Ltd: Questions about the First World War battlefields? Talk to Steve Hookins, historical military presenter and battlefield tour guide. Also First World War military and Home Front artefacts to look at.

 **Explore Learning Sidcup:** Providing Maths and English tuition for children aged 5-14, of all abilities. Come and join First World War workshops 11-12pm and 1-2pm - pre-book only. To book your place Tel. (020) 3714 1229, E-mail: sidcup@explorellearning.co.uk.


OUTSIDE SIDCUP LIBRARY

 **St John Ambulance:** Memorabilia and uniforms from the First World War. First Aid Point

SIDCUP LIBRARY

 **Lamorbey and Sidcup Local History Society:** Host of *Sidcup's Great War: A Living Pageant*. Pick up your Family Poppy Trail. See what Sidcup looked like at the time of the First World War. Find out about Sidcup's Home Front.

Bexley Local Studies and Archive Centre: A selection of books, archive materials, photographs and information about Bexley's WWI Roll of Honour.

 **North West Kent Family History Society:** What was the Great War all about? Information for adults and children about the war and about researching your family history. Also see Harry Potter's family tree!

LEARNING CENTRE BEXLEY

Friends of Red House: Find out about the work done towards the maintenance, restoration and conservation of Red House, the iconic Arts and Crafts home of William Morris, and its garden.

Bexley Civic Society: Find out about projects to improve the local environment within the London Borough of Bexley.

Sidcup U3A: Information on activities of the University of the Third Age, where members come together to learn and share their skills. **Sidcup Philatelic Society:** Postal history, plus displays of stamps and postcards.

Crayford Town Archive: Discover the story of Private William 'Chalky' White, Crayford's Unknown Warrior who died at Ypres in 1916. **East Wickham and Welling War Memorial Trust:** Find out how the men from East Wickham and Welling who died in the War have been remembered.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lamorbey & Sidcup Local History Society would like to thank the following for their inspiration, encouragement and contributions to *Sidcup's Great War: A Living Pageant*.

Rose Bruford College who were the first to support the embryonic idea back in April 2015.

Glenn Howard of **Untitled** for all the graphic design work.

Simon McKeon, Jes Cooban and **Will Cooban** from **Bexley Local Studies & Archives** who have patiently listened, directed and assisted in many aspects of the event.

The **Chislehurst Society** who sponsored one of Dr Bamji's talks.

Royal British Legion for arranging the Ceremony of Remembrance.

St John's Church for opening its doors to the beautiful building and memorial chapel.

Emmanuel Church for the use of its hall, once a VAD hospital in the Great War.

St Lawrence's R.C. Church for the use of its Community Centre for pageant meetings and speakers.

New Community Church, once the Congregational Church and former VAD hospital, for its enthusiastic participation.

Thank you to the choir at **Old Bexley C of E Primary School** for taking part.

Merton Court School for sponsorship and paying for the special balloons

Bird College for its work with choirs and music.

Learning Centre Bexley for the use of its premises and offering activities.

Ryan Turner who jumped off a bus when he saw our pageant banner and offered his services as an enactment speaker.

BOATE, a local theatre group, who have written a special playlet for the pageant.

Serenade Choir who said 'Yes' straight away.

Judith Farnie for making bunting and sewing aprons and smocks.

Scouts & Guides who can fetch and carry much quicker than we can.

Sidcup Library for offering its facilities for talks, stalls and children's activities.

Denise Webb, Site Facilitator, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust, who boosted interest and involvement at Queen Mary's Hospital.

Rotary Club of Sidcup for its sponsorship and stewarding of the event.

Sidcup Inner Wheel Club for helping with the Poppy Trail.

Sue Tyler for her research expertise.

Malcolm Youngs for the opportunity to browse through and use some of his incredible collection of local postcards.

Shops and businesses in Sidcup who have genuinely taken this event to heart and given us the impetus we needed.

Hazel and **Graeme Buckingham** of **Urban Foods** who contributed bunting and a meeting place.

Jason Uden of **W. Uden & Sons** for the use of their front terrace and showing their magnificent horses.

Members of **Lamorbey & Sidcup Local History Society** who have contributed in diverse ways to promote the event through fundraising, research, suggesting ideas and 'spreading the word'.

Finally, to the incredible, enthusiastic, fearless, persistent and clever members of **Lamorbey & Sidcup Local History** pageant committee who have worked tirelessly since April 2015, in all weathers without a cross word! You are amazing, Christine, Janet, June, Katherine, Liz, Malcolm, Mary, Mike, Penny, Phil and Shirley.

Denise Baldwin, Chair
Lamorbey & Sidcup Local History Society