

SIDCUP'S
GREAT WAR
THE HOME FRONT

FAMILY
POPPY
TRAIL

**FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE TOWN
AS IT WAS DURING THE YEARS 1914-18**

When war broke out in 1914, Sidcup was a busy town with many different shops along the high street, six large churches all near each other, schools, sports clubs and many societies. The war would make a big difference to the lives of everyone. Look at this piece from the local newspaper of August 1914.

**HOW TO BE USEFUL IN WAR-TIME
PRACTICAL PATRIOTISM**

First and foremost,- Keep your heads. Be calm.
Go about your ordinary business quietly and soberly.
Do not indulge in excitement or foolish demonstration.

Secondly,- Think of others more than you are wont to do.
Think of your duty to your neighbour.

Do not store goods and create an artificial scarcity to the hurt of others.
Remember that is an act of mean and selfish cowardice.

Remember those who are worse off than yourself.
Pay punctually what you owe, especially to your poorest creditors,
such as washerwomen and charwomen.

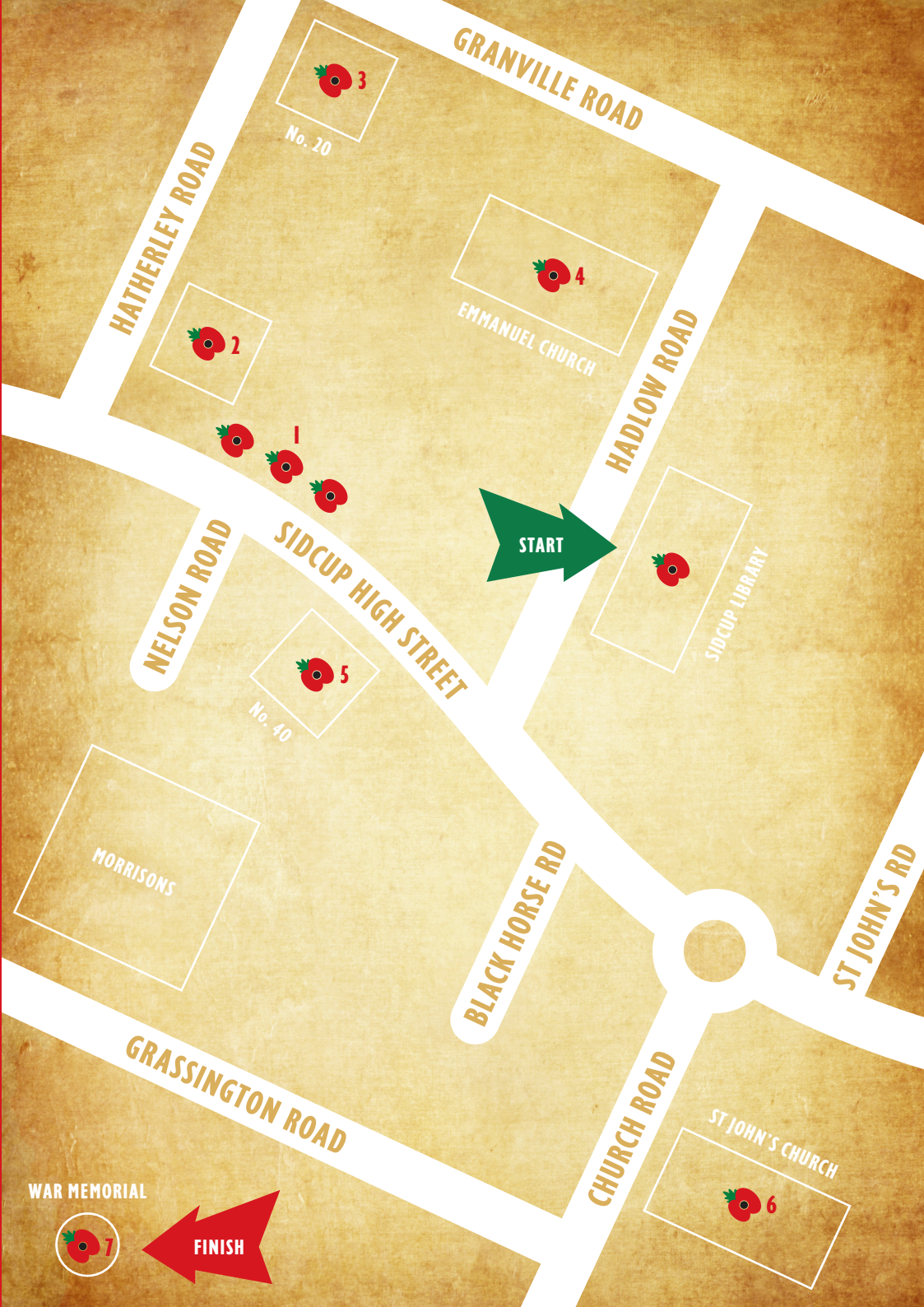
If you are an employer think of your employed.
Give them work and wages as long as you can, and work short time
rather than close down.

Do what you can to cheer and encourage our soldiers.
Gladly help any organisation for their comfort and welfare.

Explain to the young and ignorant what war is,
and why we have been forced to wage it.

People in Sidcup were keen to help the war effort and sewed bandages and dressings and filled hessian sandbags for the trenches. As local men began to die in battle or be sent home badly wounded almost every family was affected. Our town was to become famous throughout the medical world as the pioneering centre of facial reconstruction or, as we know it today, plastic surgery.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY POPPY TRAIL



GRANVILLE ROAD

HATHERLEY ROAD

HADLOW ROAD

NELSON ROAD

SIDCUP HIGH STREET

BLACK HORSE RD

GRASSINGTON ROAD

CHURCH ROAD

ST JOHN'S RD

WAR MEMORIAL

FINISH

START

No. 20

No. 40

SIDCUP LIBRARY

ST JOHN'S CHURCH



LEAVE THE LIBRARY AND GO TOWARDS THE HIGH STREET. TURN RIGHT AND CONTINUE TO:

No. 31, THE SIDCUP BARBER'S SHOP

Go inside and look at the old equipment and the photos of Sidcup in the past.

No. 47, THE TAILOR'S CHALK

The shop that used to be here in 1916 was owned by a man who made artificial teeth! What do you think they could have been made of?

- ☐ Glass
- ☐ China
- ☐ Plastic
- ☐ Ivory

No. 55, BURNETT, HODD & JENKINS

This used to be a chemist owned by John Sandbrook.

Here are some other shops which were on the High Street in 1916. What do you think you could buy in them?

Saddler

.....

.....

.....

Draper

.....

.....

.....

Ironmonger

.....

.....

.....

Poulterer

.....

.....

.....

JOHN SANDBROOK

(Three years with Messrs. ROBERTS & Co., 5, Rue de la Paix, Paris).

Dispensing Chemist & Pharmacist

(MEMBER OF THE PHARMACEUTICAL SOCIETY)

55, HIGH STREET, SIDCUP, KENT

English and Foreign Prescriptions
: Dispensed in accordance with their :
: : respective Pharmacopœias. : :

Only the Finest DRUGS & CHEMICALS STOCKED

HIGH GRADE TOILET SOAPS A SPECIALITY.
PATENT MEDICINES AT STORE PRICES.



**CONTINUE ALONG THE HIGH STREET AND TURN
RIGHT INTO HATHERLEY ROAD. STAND OUTSIDE
THE SIDCUP CARE HOME.**



This is what used to be here. It was St Joseph's Convent school run by French nuns. When war broke out in 1914, thousands of terrified Belgian refugee families fled to England and many came to Sidcup. Some stayed here in the convent.

.....
If you were a Belgian child leaving
your home, how would you feel?
.....



Draw three things you would bring
with you. Remember, you have to
leave in a great hurry and you must
carry whatever you bring.

THINK!
YOU DON'T SPEAK ENGLISH.
HOW WILL YOU GET ON
AT SCHOOL IN SIDCUP?



**WALK DOWN THE ROAD TO NO. 20.
THIS HOUSE USED TO BE CALLED HIGHDEN.
THIS WAS DR JAMES CROMBIE'S HOUSE
AND SURGERY.**

Dr Crombie had three sons who all died serving their country. All of them are on Sidcup's War Memorial. Perhaps you can find them at the end of this trail?



DR JAMES CROMBIE



IAN CROMBIE



JAMES CROMBIE



WILLIAM CROMBIE

Can you draw two things a doctor would need for their work?

THINK!
**HOW MUST DR CROMBIE
AND HIS WIFE HAVE FELT
LOSING THEIR SONS IN
THE WAR?**



**WALK ALONG GRANVILLE ROAD AND
TURN RIGHT INTO HADLOW ROAD.
STOP OUTSIDE EMMANUEL CHURCH HALL
(FORMERLY THE WESLEYAN
METHODIST CHURCH HALL).**

**THINK!
WOULD YOU
HAVE VOLUNTEERED
TO BE A VAD?**

The hall was used by these ladies
for a very important purpose.
What do you think happened here?

.....

.....



- VADs mostly women and some men.
- Trained in First Aid and general nursing.
- Mostly married ladies who did not need money as work was UNPAID!
- Also did the work of men who were away fighting, e.g. driving ambulances, lighting fires.
- Many jobs were dirty and unpleasant, e.g. cleansing wounds, washing bandages.

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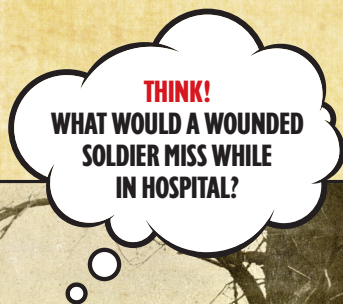


**WHAT MIGHT THIS VAD BE
SAYING ABOUT HER WORK?**



**WALK ACROSS TO THE TOP OF HADLOW ROAD.
LOOK ACROSS THE HIGH STREET TO NO. 40.**

In 1917, the Queen's Hospital opened in Sidcup to treat the soldiers with terrible facial wounds. In between operations, these young men wandered around the streets with nowhere to go.



Special blue benches were set up for them to sit on. Draw a bench for a soldier to sit on.



No. 40 was a Soldiers' Rest Room - somewhere for them to go and have **DRINK** and a chat without people staring at their faces. As wounded soldiers, they wore special blue uniforms with red ties. There were **NO** mirrors in the hospital. Why?



**CROSS THE ROAD AND TURN LEFT THEN RIGHT
INTO CHURCH ROAD AND WALK UP TO ST
JOHN'S CHURCH. IF YOU CAN, GO IN AND FIND
THE WWI CHAPEL ON THE LEFT, AT THE FRONT.**

What do you notice about the kneelers?

Choose one to draw.

Have a look around the chapel.

Can you find any of these:

FLAGS

WREATH

LARGE PRAYER BOOK

WOODEN CROSS HEADSTONE

ROLL OF HONOUR

CENTRE OF AN OLD UNION FLAG



WALK ACROSS THE GREEN TO THE WAR MEMORIAL.

Can you find 'T. Highgate' on the Memorial? On 8th September 1914, he became the first soldier of the war to be executed for desertion. He was pardoned in 2006.



THOMAS HIGHGATE



Can you find and write the names
of the three Crombie brothers?

1

2

3

WELL DONE!

YOU HAVE COMPLETED THE

FAMILY POPPY TRAIL

WE HOPE YOU HAVE
ENJOYED FINDING OUT
ABOUT SIDCUP'S HOME FRONT
DURING WW1.



MORE INFORMATION AND LOTS OF PHOTOGRAPHS
ON THE WORK OF THE QUEEN'S HOSPITAL
AND SIR HAROLD GILLIES CAN BE SEEN AT:

<http://www.gilliesarchives.org.uk>
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zzw42hv>

FURTHER READING NON-FICTION:

My Dear, I Wanted to Tell You
and *The Heroes' Welcome*
by Louisa Young

Toby's Room by Pat Barker

RECOMMENDED READING FOR CHILDREN:

War Game by Michael Foreman
War Horse by Michael Morpurgo
Private Peaceful by Michael Morpurgo

FOR FURTHER GENERAL INFORMATION
AND PHOTOS ON SIDCUP GO TO:

www.bexleyboroughphotos.org
www.bexley.gov.uk/localhistory

