



EDEN VALLEY MUSEUM

Object of Interest - January 2025



Silver Invicta Kent Education Committee Attendance and Good Conduct Medal

This silver medal was awarded to Ivy Seal (tallest in the photo) for perfect attendance and good conduct at the National School, Church Street, Edenbridge in the years 1913, 1914, 1915, 1916, 1917, 1918 and 1919, with a clasp for each year. After she won her third award Ivy's achievement was recorded in the *Kent and Sussex Courier*, 31 December 1915.

Medals for Attendance and Good Conduct

The award of medals to schoolchildren for attendance and good conduct was initiated by the School Board for London in 1887. The London medal was entitled, with royal sanction, the Queen Victoria Medal. A separate medal was awarded each year, although in Kent a clasp was added to the first medal awarded, for each year in which the requirements were met. The London medal was in white metal, a tin alloy, for the first three medals awarded, bronze for the fourth and fifth, gilded bronze for the sixth to tenth, and silver for the eleventh. After the death of Queen Victoria the medal was known as the King Edward VII Medal. London County Council, as education authority, took over the award of the medals from 1904. From 1908 the medals for the eighth and subsequent years were issued in silver. After the death of King Edward VII the medal became known simply as the King's Medal. From 1912 the first three medals awarded were of bronze, the fourth, fifth and sixth of gilded bronze and the seventh and subsequent ones of silver. The award of medals was suspended in London during the latter part of the First World War but continued in Kent. The award of medals was discontinued in 1920. Each medal was engraved with the name of the recipient.

More about Ivy Seal and family

Ivy was born on 17 July 1907, the third of six children born to Arthur and Clara Mary Seal, née Davey who were married on 5 June 1897. Arthur was born in Chiddingstone on 19 November 1873, and his wife was born in Edenbridge in 1877. Ivy was recorded as winning a cookery competition in the *Kent and Sussex Courier* 7 January 1921 and when she was 19, together with Marjorie Giraud, she won a Charleston dancing competition at the Edenbridge Girls' Club social, meriting a mention in the 25 March 1927 edition of the same newspaper. On 24 February 1933, in Edenbridge, Ivy married William Frederick Sedge, who was born in Marylebone, London on 6 March 1908, the son of Herbert Alfred and Mary Louisa Sedge, née Allcorn. Ivy died in 1973 in Hertfordshire and her husband died in 1980.

Ivy's father was initially a bricklayer's labourer, progressing on to become a bricklayer. In 1901 the Seals lived in Hever Lane but by 1911 they were living at Horena Cottage, Edenbridge. On 9 June 1918, aged 44, Arthur enlisted in the Royal Air Force. Arthur died in 1956, whilst Ivy's mother lived until 1964.

Ivy's mother was the daughter of David Davey, also born in Edenbridge, where he was baptised on 7 July 1833, and his wife, Mary Ann, born in Brighton. David was an agricultural labourer, the son of Thomas and Mary Davey. Thomas, Ivy's great grandfather, was buried in Edenbridge on 31 May 1843.

Ivy's medal will be on display in the corner cabinet in the ground floor Buttery & Pantry Gallery from 1 February