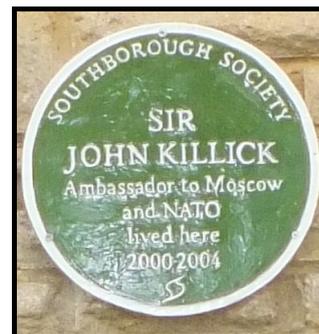


# **Sir John Killick- Ambassador to Moscow and NATO**

**by Fiona Woodfield**

**Location of plaque - Norstead Gardens.**

**Southborough.**



A particularly happy task fell to me as past Chairman of the Southborough Society to unveil the plaque commemorating Sir John Killick GCMG, whom I had the pleasure of working alongside when he was the President of the Society.



Sir John was born in 1919 and studied French and German at University College London. Around thirty years after his graduation, he was appointed a Fellow of his old university.

During the Second World War, Sir John was commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment but later served in the Airborne Forces. He was taken prisoner after the drop into Arnhem.

**John Killick during WWII**

At the end of the war he joined the Foreign Office, where he had a distinguished career. He served as Head of Chancery in Washington between 1963 and 1968. His next posting abroad was as Ambassador to Moscow between 1971 and 1973, a time of considerable tension between the two countries. His final post was in Brussels as Ambassador to NATO between 1975 and 1979.

Sir John had lived in West Kent for many years, at one time in Beulah Road in Tunbridge Wells, later with his second wife Irene – better known as “Bill” - in Birchwood Avenue and finally in Norstead



Gardens, where the Society’s commemorative plaque was erected.

**Sir John as we remember him.**

Many Society members will have known Sir John during the period after 1984 when, as a widower, he returned to England from his first wife’s native South Africa. It was greatly to the benefit of the Society and the wider community in the town that he very soon took on key leadership in the Southborough Society. By the time I took on the role of Chairman,

Sir John was eighty years of age and no longer in the best of health. But, in particular, I greatly valued his input into preparations for the Annual General Meeting, which he chaired for us. The Society benefitted enormously from the talents of this distinguished international public servant who had such an interest in the town which he had made his home.



**Sir John Killick looking splendid in his Knights regalia with insignia and sword**