

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE GROUP

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 28TH NOVEMBER 2012

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary greeted all members (21). There were three new members, Alan and Pam Vincent and Jim Reilly.

There was an apology for absence: from Helen Steeden.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Mary thanked the church for the use of their room and their agreement to hold a raffle. Julian then proceeded to tell the group where we were regarding the Recollections project and the request for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The project itself was secure, meaning that it was definitely going ahead, but the funding from the HLF was not agreed. The HLF had asked for a commitment from the Heritage Group to provide details of volunteers who would be working on the project including the amount of training they were going to commit to. It was not felt fair to commit members' details when they might not be able to carry out the tasks involved. An added advantage of not being lottery funded was that the project would not be restricted to just shopping in the area, but could encompass all recollections received.

Mary stated that she would shortly be having printed 300 A5 leaflets advertising the Society for distribution. Additionally there would also be membership cards and posters which will be available.

Robin told the Society that we had been represented at the recent Remembrance Day service. We had purchased a wreath to be laid and a voluntary collection was taken to pay for this.

Jim (Reilly) then talked about the proposed website which will be a great asset in publicising the society. Jim has very kindly volunteered his time and expertise in setting up and maintaining the site which we hope to have operational sometime in the New Year.

Regarding the Farmers Market, Mary said that we had been unable to secure a table as the market was more food oriented, but we may be able to give out some leaflets on the edge of St Georges Square at a later event.

Barton Green pavilion had secured a refurbishment grant from the council of £150,000 but it seemed likely that an organisation called the Kingston Environment Centre would be permanently based there in 2013.

Two library visits were being planned with eleven members going on guided tours around the building.

Chris spoke about his progress with Ann Packer. Ann had left Coombe Girls School where she taught in 1965. He had exchanged email s and phone calls with the Brightwells (Ann's husband) and had had two responses to his piece on the Village Voice. Ann was prepared to address an assembly at the school and there was the possibility of an article in The Village Voice.

After the break there was a general discussion which centred on the history of the small green building next door to the entrance to the railway station now used by the adjacent restaurant for storage. It was originally owned by a locksmith called Cope who lived in Alric Avenue and may have been used at some time by Jeans florists. There was some debate as to how it may have arrived at its present site due to the fact it still sported wheels.

The raffle followed this with prizes kindly donated by members. There were so many on offer that redraws of tickets had to take place several times.

The meeting closed with the date of the next meeting set for 23rd January 2013.