

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 30TH JANUARY 2013

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary greeted all members (24). There were four new members, Tim and Shaan Everson, Keith Keen and John Durkin.

There were apologies for absence: from Helen Steeden, Chris Coke, Geoffrey Hunt, Pam and Alan Vincent, Jim Reilly, Pat Farr, and Beryl Bizodis

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

Mary thanked the church for the use of their room, and for their catering facilities.

Graeme presented an update on his project in investigating the stories behind the names on our local war memorials. He knew of more memorials including one at Burlington School which was now missing. There were also some in other churches in the locality, and requested help in recording them. He had presently identified 194 out of the 264 names on the main memorial outside Waitrose. Mary mentioned that there was another memorial in the ticket office at the railway station, and Kevin mentioned one in St Johns in Kingston Road which he could help with.

Joan, Jean and Richard reported on their recent tour of the library which was very interesting. They remarked on the black out curtains still kept, and the reinforced glass, all harking back to the time it was built during World War 2. The trip onto the roof was curtailed, due to gale force winds and blinding rain, but in the dry they were able to view the hall with its stage and projection room. Because of the bad weather the second visit had to be postponed with alternative dates of 9th or 23rd February.

The Waitrose collection boxes for green tokens still had one more day to run and it looked as though we were neck and neck for second place. It was not yet known how much money we would receive as a result.

In Jim's absence Julian and Robin gave a brief rundown on the website and its various sections. It was hoped that this will become a great asset for the Society especially for those who lived outside the local area. Jen asked whether the site would be accessible for sight impaired users, and it was suggested that this be brought to Jim's attention.

The development of the High Street was discussed, with some members feeling it should be left as it was. They did not think that a raised mound at the Fountain Roundabout was a good idea, but were in favour of a new fountain and bridge lighting at the railway station. They were also in favour of a map or signage in the High Street. The flags that flew in St Georges Square were also discussed as the flagpoles had been empty for some time.

Mary said that some of the posters and leaflets publicising the Society had already been distributed and we were already receiving enquiries about the Society as a result.

There were still some to be delivered, and it was suggested by members that we should hand some out at the railway station, and display some in Beverley Park, and other notice boards.

It was the Society's intention to have a stall in the High Street at some stage to publicise both the Society generally and also the recollections project. We were looking at possibly Easter Saturday, and it was hoped that some members might volunteer to help for an hour or so. We were also looking for assistance with artwork, and hardboard for display. Graeme kindly offered to help in these respects.

Julian then explained the leaflet he had produced and distributed among the members asking for recollections about Malden and Coombe. Memories were requested either in written form, or Julian could visit. It was stated in the leaflet that we would be producing booklets of recollections and asked permission to use the correspondent name as the source. It was asked whether something similar could be produced for the local talking newspaper.

Those who had initially paid for six months at the beginning of the Society, were reminded that the second half of their subscriptions would be due in March.

The floor was then opened for members to discuss and show items they had brought in concerning local history. Joan had a history of Pengillys produced by the shop, and Patrick presented an old copy of the Malden Times from 1933, and the history of the now defunct Civic Society.

The meeting closed with the date of the next meeting set for 27th February 2013.