

# MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 28th MARCH 2013

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary greeted all members (23). There were three new members, Alex Hinde and Kim and Stephen Bailey

There were apologies for absence: from Jim Reilly, Chris Coke, Peter Goodchild, Alan and Pam Vincent, John King, Jean and Richard Lyons, Tim and Shaan Everson, Graeme Hodge, and Geoffrey Hunt.

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, and was very pleased to see both Gwenda and Marion back with us.

Our guest speaker Richard Holmes talked about his forthcoming book on pubs in Malden. Richard had already written two books about pubs in Kingston and Richmond. He detailed the various archives he had visited included the London Metropolitan Archives in the heart of the city where the archives of the Hodgson Brewery were held. He commented that The Wellington was New Malden's oldest pub and that there used to be another pub nearby called the Brickmakers Arms which possibly referred to the many brickfields in the area. When the railway arrived there were two pubs built on either side of the line The Railway Tavern and The Malden Tavern and many disputes arose between Mr Berry (Railway) and Mr Weaver (Malden). Other pubs in the area included the Royal Oak which was owned by Benskins and the Fountain formerly the Norbiton Park Hotel, and for a short time the Hay Grove Tavern. There were also new pubs in the area with Weatherspoons taking over the former police station and naming it the Watchman. Richard mentioned that he would be approaching Merton College in Oxford as he believed they may hold some records relating to The Plough. He was also researching pubs in Surbiton, Tolworth, Hook, and Chessington.

A general discussion about pubs then took place including Woodies at the former Fyffes Sports Ground. Richard said he had found that many pubs elsewhere had closed but not in Malden. He enjoyed doing the field research which he had undertaken mostly with his godmother.

As we were unable to have a report on the website, Mary reported on the situation regarding the Barton Green Pavilion. This was still supposed to be the new home of the Kingston Environment Centre, but they cannot produce accounts and without these it was unlikely they would be granted a lease. The pavilion was still wanted for community use for New Malden and there had been talk of forming some form of trust. The building itself was boarded up and not fit for entry, but Mary had spoken to Mr Ogden at Kingston Council to try to gain access as we believed there were a number of artefacts mainly relating to Cyril Barton VC on the outside and inside the building which should be recovered. She was awaiting a return call on whether entry was possible.

We had received our cheque from Waitrose for just under £200 after their green tokens collection, which would be banked, and Martin collected all outstanding subscriptions during the tea break.

Julian had had back 13 of the leaflets asking for recollections. He said the recollections could be as little as 3 lines or as much as 5 pages, and they could be about the 70s, 80s, and 90s as well as older memories. He did ask that there should be some indication from who the recollections were given, as he had to have permission to include them in any publication as a result.

A general discussion was then had on ways of raising revenue, and it was suggested that a calendar would be a good idea. When it was revealed that this would not involve any members in adopting poses with strategically placed cream buns this was enthusiastically approved.

The meeting closed with the date of the next meeting set for 24th April 2013.