

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 24th APRIL 2013

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary greeted all members (40). There were thirteen potential new members, Anne Ramon, Ian Jewell, Cathy Reed, Diana and Keith Cooper, Diane Hollamby, Joyce Dallison, Peter and Maureen Harrison, Gerald Pilkington, Bryan Adams, and Louise and Peter Magee.

There were apologies for absence from: Jen Carpenter, Jim Reilly, Stephen and Kim Bailey, Peter Goodchild, and Geoffrey Hunt.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and signed.

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

Chris gave an update on his research regarding Ann Packer. Ann had won a gold medal in the 800 metres at the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo. She was also awarded a silver medal in the 400 metres. She was a former PE teacher at Coombe Girls School, and it was hoped she would be able to return to address an assembly, and a parents evening. Ann, who had moved to Congleton in Cheshire with her husband Robbie Brightwell, was unable to come south before the summer holidays, but Chris and his wife were going to call at Congleton in August on their way to Scotland to try to arrange another date.

Anne Ramon the recently elected chairman of the East Surrey Family History Society then spoke about the benefits of membership of that society. The society covers our local area, and also Croydon, Sutton, Wandsworth, Lambeth, Merton, Richmond and Southwark. Membership was £12 per year and members were entitled to receive a journal four times a year which contained information including members' interests for the area. There was also a society library which would loan out books on genealogy and the local area to members.

Tim then spoke about the Les Kirkin Memorial Photograph Competition. The competition was open to adults, children, schools and community groups, and was sponsored by Kingston Rotary. There were four prizes of vouchers for photographic equipment, and the winning entries would become part of the borough's local history collection. This year's theme is "Tourist Gems in our Royal Borough". Judging would be in February next year so there was plenty of time to enter. Entry forms were available from the museum, local history room or online.

The stall at the Farmers Market in St Georges Square had been a great success, and Mary thanked all who had helped out in any capacity. Although the day had started cold and windy, those manning the stall had got to meet many residents, and publicised the existence of the society. It was a worthwhile exercise which may be repeated at a later date.

Julian said that many recollections sheets had been distributed at the Farmers Market but had only had a few completed. Any memories were welcomed and he had received details of Marshalls Dairy, Cycle Shops, and even cooked hot beetroot. He stressed the importance of getting these memories recorded before they are lost forever. The idea being to produce chronological or theme booklets of 20 to 30 pages.

Mary mentioned that three members would be going into Barton Green Pavilion the following week to search for artefacts relating to Cyril Barton VC and also to take photographs in case the building was demolished. There was a problem with asbestos and the investigators who had received the relevant permissions from the council would be adequately kitted out. We would report our findings at the next meeting.

There was then a general discussion about properties in the area with builders such as Berg, Jeffes, and Merryweather. This together with some interesting old maps that Anne Ramon had bought in provoked a lively discussion on the various styles of buildings and also house names. Bryan Adams offered to bring in some photographs of interiors of local properties which will be very interesting. Most houses over the years are only photographed from the outside, but the interior can show much more in the way of character.

There was also discussion about the visit of some members to Paines in Kingston. They were interested to hear about the turf wars between Paines and Farebrothers, and also little quirks as to when the funeral hearses were filled with petrol. The museum within the building was very interesting and quite unique.

The meeting closed with the next planned for Wednesday 29th May.