

# MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 29th MAY 2013

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary greeted all members (37).

There were apologies for absence from: Helen Steeden, Jim Reilly, and Tim Rothwell (prospective member)

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.

Three members of the committee had visited Barton Green Pavilion suitably attired because of the presence of asbestos. We found that the electricity had been cut off and this together with the windows being boarded up and the interior being painted black meant that the interior was very dark. But equipped with torches we were able to pick our way around. Unfortunately, the artefact we were most anxious to locate namely the scroll and dedication to Cyril Barton VC had been removed and the frame left lying on the floor. We were able to take both interior and exterior photographs for future purposes.

£150,000 had been set aside for refurbishment of the building and one of the local nursery groups who were interested in leasing the building were soon to have a meeting with council leader Derek Osbourne. In the meantime, the Kingston Environment Centre who were to occupy the property had been offered a short lease on the former toilets at The Fountain.

Amy Graham updated us on her project on the 213 bus. She said that unfortunately because she had been busy with other assessments her progress with the 213 hadn't advanced as much as she would have liked. She had edited and named all the photographs she had taken on the route mainly of the various bus stops. She had been observing passengers getting on and off the bus, and even eavesdropping on their conversations. She was still intending to dress as a 213 for the Malden Fortnight, and had other ideas such as a World War 2 theme route showing the sites of War Memorials, Air Raid Shelters, and Bomb Sites.

Mary mentioned that Armed Forces Day was taking place on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> June, and that would be a service at the War Memorial at noon this was to be followed by a buffet at the Grafton Club. The Royal British Legion had invited two members of the Society to join them at the service and at the club and it was decided that Mike and Sonia should attend, as they had a son presently serving in Kandahar.

The Society had been contacted by David Hassard the joint project leader of the Kingston Aviation Centenary Project.

The exhibition would be coming to New Malden Library on 3<sup>rd</sup> August for a week and were anxious to find out whether there were any industries in the New Malden connected with the aircraft industry that could be included in the exhibition. They were aware of KLG. Reid and Sigrist and Frazer Nash.

We then sat down to hear and watch the first part of Graeme's presentation on the local war memorials and the stories behind the names. Graeme has been researching this project for a number of years and this really came across in the professional way he put his subject across. It should be remembered that the memorial in New Malden was only erected in 1924, six years after the end of the war. Families were asked to provide names and details, and in some cases these families were no longer in the area. Graeme explained how he pursued the various avenues to find out the names, whether it was through the local newspapers (not always complete), family history sites like ancestry, and the commonwealth war graves commission. I know that during the course of his research Graeme has assisted many people from Dover, the Isle of Wight, and the Malvern Hills. Graeme has definitely identified a very high percentage of the names on the Kingston Memorial, and his work will prove invaluable as we enter the period of commemoration of the events of World War One.

The meeting closed with the next planned for Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June