

# MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 18<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER 2013

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary greeted all members (25) plus one Steve Magee for Peter Magee

There were apologies for absence from: Peter Goodchild, Pat Farr, Sue Brown, Michael Wood, Jen Carpenter, Chris Coke, Helen Steeden and Alex Hinde.

There were no new members

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed.

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

As we were unable to produce a calendar due to costs, we had decided to produce four Christmas cards depicting scenes from the Malden area (Malden Road, Coombe Road, Hoppingwood Farm, and The Plough). These would be digitally enhanced by Julian and would have the Society's logo, a description of the scene and the Society's logo. We were looking to produce 500 (4 designs x 125) and had been quoted a total of £360 including VAT by the printers. Agreement to pay this amount out of the Society's funds was agreed on a show of hands with no dissention.

The Society had been invited to host a table at the Coombe Vale Ward Community Open Day which was to be held at Coombe Girls School on Wednesday 2nd October from 3.30pm-6.30pm. We hoped to have our cards ready by then, and would also be giving out publicity about the society, and trying to engage the school children into taking an interest in their local history.

We were also to have a stall in the new Farmers Market which was to be held in the car park of The Fountain Hotel. Again we hoped to be selling Christmas cards and giving out publicity about the society. The market was to be held on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October from 9am to 2pm. There would be a town crier, a jester, and a bouncy castle. The Mayor of Kingston would be officially opening the market at midday.

There were to be two Heritage Walks in October (6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>). Led by Julian they would follow the route taken in July as part of Malden Fortnight. Members were asked to register their names if interested and the walks would commence in St Georges Square at 2.30pm.

We were then entertained by our speaker Michael Burns who gave us an illustrated history of Malden Wanderers. **When Malden Victoria Cricket Club was founded in 1879, New Malden was a frequently flooded village of less than 2,000 inhabitants.**

**The Club's name was changed to Malden Wanderers in 1886 and the team had to use several fields around the village before settling on a permanent ground behind the old police station and**

next to the smoky Norbiton Pottery in Blagdon Road. The Club quickly became one of the centres of New Malden village life attracting large crowds to its matches and running a cricket week. The annual dinner attracted the great and good from the worlds of cricket, politics and entertainment.

Unfortunately, in 1920, the Club was evicted with very little notice, forcing the Wanderers to move again, this time to its present location in Cambridge Avenue. This picturesque ground with a golf club on one side and a country lane on the other was ready for play in 1921. In 1928 the current pavilion was opened by former Surrey Captain HDG (Shrimp) Leverton Gower.

Sadly, in 1932, it was discovered that the Club Secretary had absconded with £1,000 forcing the Club to sell off part of the outfield for housing, spoiling what had been an almost perfect ground. In 2005 Malden Wanderers was chosen by *Wisden Cricketer* magazine as one of the 12 most beautiful grounds in England. In 2008 the Club had plans to replace the crumbling 1920's pavilion but the cost was too high and it was decided to renovate instead. With the aid of an ECB grant together with other funds, in 2009 4 new changing rooms were completed and a new kitchen and toilets installed.

Michael was presented with a framed copy of a Malden Wanderers match programme in thanks for his talk.

Any Other Business included details of a talk at FW Paine in October, Problems with the pond at The Plough which was overgrown with weeds and algae. Details were also given of the Society Christmas Party to be held at the MEFAS Headquarters on 11<sup>th</sup> December between 6.30pm and 9pm.

The meeting closed with the next planned for Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October.