

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 30th JULY 2014

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

In the absence of Mary, Robin greeted all members (50)

There were apologies for absence from Ray Broadfield, Chris Coke, Jen Carpenter, Shaan and Tim Everson, Dick Riches, and Beryl Bizodes, and for lateness Mary Clark.

There were two new members. John King and Lynne Finnerty.

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed.

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

We had had a successful day at both the Farmer's Market and at the Malden Fortnight where we had sold out of booklets and Christmas Cards. Robin thanked Mary, Julian, Maureen, Joan and Pat for all their help in setting up, manning, and taking down of the stalls on these occasions. Thanks also to the many members who visited the stall to show their support.

Thanks to the judges for the Lloyd Award, we now had a winner who was Trigg Sharpe from Richard Challoner School, with the two runners-up being Annabel D'Monte and Sinead Conway-Belcher from The Holy Cross School. Robin thanked the judges (Ian, Geoffrey, Shaan, Tim, and Peter) for their deliberations, and also thanked Maureen, Joan, and Marion for their hard work in writing to the schools, and organising the replies.

Robin reminded members that we were still accepting nominations for the Town Pride award for which we would be voting on 1st October. He stated that it could be any building within the area of Maldens and Coombe which they felt enhanced the built environment, and was still standing when voting took place.

We had undertaken four walks as part of Malden Fortnight which had been well attended. These were on 13th and 20th July at 10am and 2pm. There was a small amount of confusion as the Malden Fortnight website had given the wrong times and points of call, but these problems were overcome and enjoyed by all. Thanks to Julian leading the walks.

Robin reminded the members that a new committee would need to be elected at the next meeting (AGM) and if they wished to nominate somebody to stand, nomination forms were available.

Members were then entertained to a 15 minute video entitled "The Growth of The Maldens and Coombe" which had been put together by Julian. The video showed the development of our local area from about 100,000 years ago to the present day, and was expertly illustrated by the use of overlaying changes as the years progressed.

We then introduced our speaker Ken Albert-Richards well known to locals as the former proprietor of Cannings and later Suttles. He stated that his earliest memory was sheltering in the Morrison Shelter in his front room. He had started in banking and had a liking for politics which encouraged him to join the council in Redbridge when aged only 22. He took over Cannings in 1987 after meeting the then owner Norman Edwards at a Chamber Of Commerce Lunch at The Royal Oak. Ken took us through some of his experiences as Manager of the store from nobody turning up to a book signing by Michael Aspel, to the glass breaking at the front when The Goodies came for a personal appearance and book signing. He reminded us of Mrs Barton who always carried her son's Victoria Cross in her handbag, and he remarked that the windows were blown out at Cannings when the Germans attacked on 16th August 1940.

Cannings provided the pen (Parker 75) the Queen used during her visit to Kingston when David Edwards was Mayor. He also related how art suppliers Windsor and Newton were unable to supply the shop as they were already supplying another shop (Annettes). Ken went to Rowley Art Supplies and ordered everything in their book. A while later Windsor and Newton were taken over by Colman's Mustard.

He had dealt with many authors but was impressed most by Douglas Bader who spoke without notes at the Hotel Antoinette about his life including his three escapes from POW camps in the war. He also remembered the local history books and authors such as Sykes, Bellars, and Day and was very interested in the heritage of the area. During his time with the Rotary Club, they had raised thousands of pounds for good causes, erected a fountain, placed a clock in the High Street and another above the old town hall (now Waitrose)

Thanks were given to Ken for his very interesting talk.

The meeting closed with the next planned for Wednesday 1st October