

# MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 1st OCTOBER 2014

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary, greeted all members (34)

She then paid tribute to Michael Wood who had died recently. Michael was one of our founder members and would be sorely missed.

There were apologies for absence from Lynne Finnerty and Terry Newman. It was also reported that Tim and Libby Rothwell would be moving away to Sussex, so would not be attending any further meetings

There was one potential new member. Jean Rydall-Lucas

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed.

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

She then gave her Chairman's report for the past year (copy attached) .It had been a successful year with great sales of booklets and cards. A successful launch of the Lloyd Prize and Heritage walks. A succession of good speakers had kept the membership entertained.

Martin's treasurer report showed an income of £3669.33 less expenditure of £1900.01 leaving a balance of £1769.32. The main income was from subscriptions £1868, and sale of books £997. Whilst the main items of expenditure were the printing etc of books £635, and the use of the premises £440.50. (Copy attached).

The election of the committee followed, with all of the existing members being prepared to stand again, all were re-elected, with Maureen becoming vice-chairman and a new member Anthony Evans being elected as a member of the committee in her stead.

Robin said that the Lloyd Award had been presented to Trigg Sharp by Maureen in front of a full assembly at his school (Richard Challoner). They had some photographs, taken and hopefully these with appear in the forthcoming Village Voice.

The Town Merit Award was held over for another month as members wanted photographs of all nominated properties to be included on the website to be studied.

The society website had been greatly improved upon by Julian, and now included a blog, and forum together with copies of various documents and photographs of the local area. Also added had been details of meetings both previous and in the future, and details of investigative work carried out by Julian.

Four designs had been selected for this year's Christmas cards. They were the church in Old Malden, the former council offices, the fountain at dusk, and the former Odeon cinema at Shannon Corner. They have been embellished by the addition of snow and other factors. They looked excellent and as good in not better than last years. We had printed 500 (4X125) cards at a cost of £258 from Freshprinting.

Our Christmas party has been booked for Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm. It will be held at the Malden Centre in the Studio. Tickets would be priced at £6.75 each.

Amongst our forthcoming events was the Farmers Market on 4<sup>th</sup> October (9am-2pm) where we would be operating a stall selling Christmas Cards and Booklets and giving out information about the Society. All members were invited to come along and support the society. Additionally, we would be holding a Heritage Exhibition at Chiccos Caffee on 8<sup>th</sup> December from 2.30pm-5.00pm. Here we would be displaying photographs of the area, selling booklets and Christmas cards and giving out details of the Society. There would also be Heritage walks at 2pm and 3pm. This would be preceded by a stall held outside Suttles in the High Street from 10.30am to 1pm where publicity would be given out and books, and Christmas Cards sold.

Our speaker for the evening was Mick Ellis a former policeman based in the New Malden Police Station. He brought along with him a former colleague Richard (Dick) Gerard. Dick informed us that V Division (which covered Malden) of the Metropolitan Police was formed in May 1830. The area stretched from Vauxhall to Barnes. New Malden station opened in 1891, ten years after being requested by the Local Board. The land had been bought from Mr John King in 1886 for £600. When the building opened it had accommodation for an inspector and married constable on the first floor.

The pay for a constable in 1891 was £1.20 per week and initially 22 constables 3 sergeants and an inspector were based there. During the Second World War PC William Holmes received a medal for a rescue carried out at Perry How (Old Malden).

For a time the building housed the HQ of the police federation, and also had dealings with various supergrasses. In its last days it was a base for the London Transport Police. In September 1991 the station celebrated its centenary and china mugs were sold in commemoration of the event. The station closed in February 1998, but reopened in July 2001 with civilian volunteers, and closed for good in October 2005.

Thanks were given to both Mick and Dick for their very entertaining talk.

During AOB Robin mentioned that two gardens in Coombe were to be opened to the public on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> October these were at Warren House, and the Japanese Water Gardens next door. Admission to both was £3.50 each.

The meeting closed with the next planned for Wednesday 22nd October