

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 22nd OCTOBER 2014

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary, greeted all members (29)

There were apologies for absence from Chris Coke, Shaan and Tim Everson, Graeme Hodge, and Anthony Evans.

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.

The Town Merit Award was decided on a simple show of hands, with Waitrose receiving 11 votes, just ahead of the Watchman with ten. Waitrose will be presented with the winners' certificate.

Mary advised the members that there would be a meeting held at 7.30pm on Wednesday 7th November at Richard Challenor School hosted by the Church Road Residents Association. This would be about the restoration of the Plough Pond hopefully with the help of a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. It would be necessary to form a steering committee to see the bid through, but a lot of the ground work had been down including setting in motion the three quotes necessary for the work. The residents had been given carte blanche by the council to carry out this project.

In the unavoidable absence of our speaker Dr David Kennedy the members took part in two quizzes, one on general knowledge, and the other in the form of a crossword with all the answers being connected to Maldens and Coombe. Our thanks go to Mary and Robin for organising these at such short notice. Julian won the crossword quiz and received a box of Quality Street which he shared with the other members. He also won the General Knowledge quiz with Liz in 2nd place and John K in 3rd. They will all receive mystery prizes at the next meeting.

In AOB Mary said that she would be calling on Princess Alexandra who lived in Richmond Park at Thatched House Lodge. Mary was visiting in her connection with the Royal British Legion, but she asked the membership, whether she should ask the Princess if she would consider becoming the patron of our Society. The membership was unanimously in favour of this and Mary will report back at the next meeting.

Robin mentioned that he had visited Warren House at Coombe as part of the NGS and had been shown around the house by the owner's daughter Vicky Good. Vicky had suggested that she would be happy to give a tour to members of our society gratis, and Robin asked any interested parties to add their names to the list on the desk.

Robin also mentioned about the Temple of Mithras which had been discovered during excavations in the Walbrook area of London back in 1954. The artefacts discovered had been temporarily stored in a builders yard in New Malden (1954-1966) where supposedly a number of items went missing. He was a little surprised to hear this so asked for more details. It appears the builders' yard was in fact "Messrs Humphreys Joinery Works" which stood at 161 Kingston Road (recently Tempo Warehouse, and now H oriental supermarket).

The Museum Of London had on file a letter from their insurers which states: " I think we all feel that a good deal of the original stone was pilfered from the site in Budge Row (original site) before it ever got to New Malden".

So maybe the good people of New Malden were not all thieves and ne'er-do-well, and have been unjustly blamed for something they did not do.

The meeting closed with the next planned for Wednesday 3rd December