

# MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 4th FEBRUARY 2015

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Maureen in the absence of Mary, greeted all members (38)

There were apologies for absence from Chris Coke, Mary Clark, Julian McCarthy, Graeme Hodge, Ray Bradfield, Pat Farr, and Dick Riches

There was one new member. Ann White

The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed and signed.

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

On the proposal of Maureen, members voted to send flowers to Mary.

The Christmas Party had gone very well with 37 members and friends present. The income from the event totalled £321 with expenditure amounting to £200 indicating a profit of £121. Thanks were given to Mary for all the work she and others put into the event.

Robin had presented the inaugural Town Pride award to Waitrose at New Malden on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January. The award was received by Sarah Sharpe the branch manager together with partners from the store. Photographs were taken and these will appear in the Village Voice and Waitrose's in-house magazine.

A discussion then took place about how the membership thought the Society should progress through the coming year. Members were in favour of possibly having historic images displayed in certain shops showing how they used to look and it was suggested that maybe Malden Fortnight could be an ideal occasion to do this, although John King mentioned that he had put this suggestion to the Malden Fortnight committee on a previous occasion but this had been rejected. It was also asked whether any members could assist in meeting neighbours or visiting retirement home to collect memories and this was left for members to consider. Some members were keen on a visit to the museum at Fred Paines in Kingston, and Robin said he would make enquiries. Members were also in favour of a Spring Exhibition at Chiccos similar to the one held last year, and indicated that they would support such an event. Members were also asked to collect old photos from the 1960s-1990s as these would be as important in years to come. Most discussion took place on whether the members wanted the Society to have a voice in the redevelopment of New Malden. It was agreed that where loss of heritage (e.g. the old cinema) was threatened something should be said. A committee would be formed, and volunteers were asked for. To be representative of the society there should be at least five members and they should report back to the members when appropriate.

We then had a talk from Dr David Kennedy about Coombe Conduit one of the three conduit houses that supplied fresh water to Hampton Court in the time of Thomas Wolsey and Henry VIII. It was unclear whether Thomas or Henry was responsible for the construction of the building as various markings were confusing. David took us through the various chambers of the conduit and what function they performed. He also posed the question the question of whether the water was alright to drink. One of our members (Shaan) had drunk some and suffered no ill effects, but attempts to cook vegetables in the water had turned them black and analysis had shown high concentrates of certain minerals. It was a very entertaining talk and David offered to shown members around the building at a later date.

There then followed a short quiz of twenty questions organised by Robin with the successful team winning a set of Kingston Museum pencils.

The meeting closed with the next planned for Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2015