

# MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 1st APRIL 2015

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary, greeted all members (34)

There were apologies for absence from Shaan and Tim Everson, Maureen Wilkins, Pat Farr, Liz and Don Farringdon, John King, Geoffrey Hunt.

There were no new members

Due to a computer malfunction Robin was unable to produce the minutes of the last meeting. Hopefully this problem will be rectified.

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

The Society had manned a stall as a charity at the Farmers Market on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Although it was short notice we managed to get some publicity leaflets published and these were distributed to interested parties, we also managed to sell a few booklets, but found the market less had less footfall than previously.

Robin told the membership that we intended to have a stall at the Malden Fortnight Craft Fair in July, and also at the Maeldune Fair on Plough Green in June, as both of these had proved successful in 2014. We were also intending if possible to have a stall at the St John The Baptist Summer Fair which we hadn't done previously, as the date clashed with the fair in Old Malden last year.

The meeting was then treated to a short film about Kingston in 1964 courtesy of the you tube channel made by the corporation of Kingston just before the borough expanded to incorporate New Malden and Surbiton. The film was interesting as most people could remember Kingston at that time and it was amazing how things had changed, and not necessarily for the better.

Robin then talked to the meeting about the proposed cycle link between New Malden station and Raynes Park station part of the Mini Holland scheme. He had attended the presentation at the Methodist Church and whilst he had been impressed with the ambition of the scheme he was disappointed that the organisers knew little or nothing about the history of the area. No mention in the literature about the miniature rifle range or that the 1<sup>st</sup> Malden Scouts had had their headquarters there before moving to Tadworth Avenue.

After speaking to Jean Christophe Chassard from Kingston Council he had suggested the Heritage Society willingness to be involved in providing information for the "History Boards" along the route at least at the Malden end. Robin also distributed details of the scheme among the members which had been provided by Jean Christophe.

Julian then explained to the meeting about the idea to commemorate certain dates at the War Memorial by the placing of a wreath in the front of the structure. This idea had been agreed by both the Royal British Legion locally and Joyce (Cyril Barton's sister) amongst others. Julian also asked members to suggest any appropriate dates that could also be commemorated by similar action.

Our speaker for the evening was Alan Oakley a former resident of Beechcroft Avenue New Malden in the 1940s/1950s ably supported by Brian Jackson, Brian Turner, Peter Arnold, Roy Summers, and Alan's wife Annie. All save Annie had also been residents in the same area. Alan's talk was entitled "Beechcroft and Cardinal in the frame" and he proceeded to tell us about life for youngsters in those roads immediately after the Second World War. Life which was encapsulated in the formation of the Bluebird Club, the details of which had been carefully kept over the years (details attached). The children were around 7 or 8 at the time and kept various books recording its activities as well as wider membership lists, rules, accounts, games and results and activities such as the chess club and other sports. The club also set up a theatre company and exploration club. The raised money through jumble sales, and had a club badge and newsletter. It was a fascinating talk about carefree life as a child over 65 years ago.

In AOB Mary reported that the application to the HLF by the Church Road Residents Association was progressing well and if the application was granted work could start within four to five months. The plans were ambitious but at the end Malden would have a pond that was not only beautiful and clean but also an asset to the area as it would also provide an educational facility for local schoolchildren.

Robin also mentioned that two visits were planned for next month (May). Firstly, to Malden Wanderers on either the 15<sup>th</sup> or 22<sup>nd</sup> and secondly, to Tiffin Boys School on 28<sup>th</sup> May. Both of these were being organised by members of the Society, namely Mike Burns and John King, and he (Robin) hoped they would be well supported.

The meeting closed with the next planned for Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015