

# MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 29th APRIL 2015

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary, greeted all members (53) by rough head count

There were apologies for absence from Chris Coke, Judith Caddy, Pat Farr, Dick Riches, and Beryl Bizodis.

There were no new members.

The minutes of the last two meetings were taken as read and signed. They will appear on the Society website at a later date.

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

The meeting was shown a short film of Cooper Cars testing on the Kingston by pass with John Cooper behind the wheel. Mike (C) informed us that Cooper lived in Landsdowne Road in Surbiton/Tolworth where Coopers had their garages and factories. The film dated 1946 clearly showed the old Gala Cosmetics factory on the bypass.

This was followed by a short "slideshow" detailing the events that earned Cyril Barton his Victoria Cross. The pictures were taken from a boy's comic (eg Victor) and because the script was difficult to read for people at the back of the hall, Julian gave a running commentary on the dialogue shown.

Julian then updated us on the near completion of the Society's book about the three VC recipients with connections to the Maldens and Coombe. Provisionally entitled "We knew you were coming". It will be priced the same as other items @ £3.50. Julian has put a lot of work into this book and it is hoped that this will inspire "others" to do more to honour Maldens' three VC recipients.

We then received an update as to the application to HLF for the restoration of the pond in Church Road. The application is moving slowly as the HLF require more information and an expansion of involvement of schools and the public. Also it seems that RBK have been in touch with HLF and have given them information which seems to be in contradiction as to what was known e.g. date of de-silting of the pond. An illustration of the pond after the completion of the work has been drawn by a local artist and a draft budget submitted but more work needs to be done, including a letter from RBK stating that no planning permission would be required for the work undertaken. The steering committee have met with Meryll Roberson the head teacher of Malden Manor who is keen on the project. It was also stated that when complete, Princess Alexandra would perform the opening ceremony.

Richard Johnson then talked about the identification of two paintings of the Worcester Park area he had recently bought. The first was signed by Jack Ducker which had been established to be a pseudonym for an artist named Francis E Jamieson. The location of the scene had been established

as Sparrow Farm Road. Richard had also purchased a large painting by Theodore Hines and was trying to establish the location shown. "View at Worcester Park with Faggot Gatherer" painted around 1900 was suspected to show a view towards Ewell, or Tolworth. As Richard had expressed a request to climb the tower of St John The Baptist Church to see if he could relocate the view in the modern day environment Robin offered to lend him a batch of photographs taken previously by builders when the tower was being repointed.

Frank Dobson our speaker then took us on a wonderful trip through the history of his family who had moved to New Malden in 1854 and were one of the first families in the area. In fact he mentioned that his great uncle Walter was the first child to be born here. His family had lived in Acacia Grove ever since. Frank gave us a rundown of both his life (Olympic competitor, world authority on forms of plant life, provisional London Mayoral candidate) and those of his parents and grandparents (see details attached).

The meeting closed with the next planned for Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May 2015