

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 30th SEPTEMBER 2015

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary, greeted all members (44)

There were apologies for absence from Terry Newman, Anthony and Angela Evans, Graeme Hodge, Dick Richs, and Eddie Dawes.

There were two potential new members Barbara Evans, and Andi Bellamy.

The minutes of the last meeting was taken as read and signed. It 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.

Mary gave her chairman's report (Copy attached). It has been another successful year, and the membership has increased to 77. Mary thanked everybody involved.

Martin's treasurer's report revealed a balance in our bank account of £1644, with cash in hand of £520 a total amount of £2164, compared to £1769 last year.

The committee was then re-elected all being willing to stand with the exception of Jean Lyons who due to family illness was not able to commit as much time as previously. So there is one vacancy.

Chairman: Mary Clark

Vice Chair: Maureen Wilkins

Secretary: Robin Gill

Treasurer: Martin Maggs

Archivist: Julian McCarthy

Committee: Anthony Evans

Joan Beer

Chris Coke

Graeme Hodge

The motion was then put to the membership concerning charitable status for the Society. It was suggested that this might help with the application from HLG to renovate the Plough pond. Whilst there were advantages and disadvantages of going down this route, the options were given in a non

bias way, and when it came to a vote, the majority of members were in favour of becoming a charity with only one member against.

There was then a discussion about this year's Town Pride Award. It was suggested by the committee that the award should be presented to shops and retail outlets who had given great service to customers over many years. The list of nominations were:

Burhani Craftsmen

Pengilly's Shoe Repairers

Herman Pharmacy

Plough Bakery

Suttles of Malden

Tudor Williams

Di Biase Hair Salon

Frederick W Paine

Pitfield Cycles

Ramseys Jewellers

The Picture Frame Warehouse

Real Meat Company

Boots

Imagine Florists

It was proposed that voting will take place at the November meeting (3rd December).

The Lloyd award winner was Alistair Stockley from Richard Challoner School with the runners up from Coombe Boys, Vishal Vignaraja, and James Kluver. Presentations would take place at both schools during the next month. The standard had been higher this year, with the winning entry being concerned with Women's' Suffrage. Robin thanked all the judges, and Maureen and Joan for organising the competition.

There were two forthcoming events. The first being a heritage walk similar to that undertaken around the Groves during the Malden Fortnight. This would be on Saturday 10th October at 2.30pm and led by Julian. The second event would be the visit to Coombe Conduit kindly organised by Dr David Kennedy one of our former speakers, this would be on Saturday 24th October at 2.00pm at the conduit.

Members were reminded that Christmas cards were on sale at the meeting at 50 pence each. It had been decided not to produce a new selection this year, as there was still a remainder to be sold from the previous two years.

Members were also reminded that tickets for this year's Christmas party were also on sale at £7 each.

Our speaker John King then took us through the myriad of railway lines (some which never came to fruition) around the local area. Starting with the original 1838 London to Southampton route, altered by Lord Cottenham. The building of the bridges over Traps Lane and Elm Road (still remaining), the various name changes, and the building of the station in 1846. The various problems reported with the station were then discussed, before proceeding to relate about the various other lines.

The Wimbledon and Dorking to Old Malden (now Worcester Park) in 1859

The Kingston and Wimbledon in 1869

The railway opened between New Malden and Surbiton in 1884.

John then told us about the various smaller rail systems that have operated in our area, such as the sewerage railway a narrow gauge operation from the 1930s and the model rail system operated in Beverley Park by MDME as part of the Holidays At Home scheme.

Julian then briefly invited members to take a look at the Society website and mentioned some of the items included in it.

The meeting closed with the next planned for Wednesday 28th October