

# MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 14th SEPTEMBER 2016

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Maureen, greeted all members (35) for the AGM

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

There were apologies for absence from Marjorie Barnard, Lynne Finnerty, James Giles, Tony Gooding, John King, Mary Clark, Liz and Don Farrington, Dick Riches

There was one potential new member Charlie Bryan.

The Minutes of the previous meeting were signed and will appear on the Society's website.

In the absence of the Chairman (Mary) her report was read by the Vice Chairman (Maureen) copy attached.

Martin gave his treasurer's report showing a bank balance of £1600, the auditor was currently away but the accounts would be audited on his return.

All the committee were re-elected on a show of hands with the exception of Anthony Evans, and Tony Gooding who had decided not to stand for re-election.

Our speaker was Brian Parsons who chose as his subject "Frederick W Paine Serving The Community During War And Peace".

He related that Frederick William Paine was born on 4<sup>th</sup> April in Burritt Road Norbiton. The family moved from there to Worcester Park and then to Coombe Road New Malden. He was the eldest of 11 children and took over the business of house furnishers, estate agents and funeral directors at the age of 24 after the early death of his father, and his mother deciding to move away from the district. He had a rocky start, sometimes he did not know from day to day whether he would have enough money to hire enough horses for the day's funerals.

Opening this first shop locked Paine into a long running business feud with Charles Walter Farbrother who had inherited his father's business. Farbrother seriously resented the competition. The rivalry came to a head when Paine bought premises at 24 London Road very close to Farbrothers at number 21. Paine relished the challenge and expanded rapidly to serve the growing population. In response to demands for monumental masonry, Paine opened a large showroom at the Fairfield. Local people still remember the giant stone angel which dominated the window display for many years. He had a large stud of horses, employed many staff and was the first in the area to use a motor hearse.

The company changed hands and is now owned by Dignity. The wood panelled shop in London Road has not changed much since Frederick died there in 1945 when he owned 12 branches in Surrey and South West London.

Brian was thanked for his very interesting talk and was asked several questions as a follow up.

Robin related that we had a very successful day at the Craft Market during the Malden Fortnight taking £158. He thanked Joan, Maureen, and Julian, for their help on the day.

The 3 Heritage Walks had also been very good taking £75 in donations which only covered two of the walks as we forgot to take a bag on the third journey. Julian related the encounters we had both in the Moat with the residents wanting to maintain their privacy and also in Warren Rise where a very nice lady gave the walkers a potted history of her house the gamekeepers lodge. Robin thanked Julian for organising and conducting the walks.

We also took part in the Malden Fortnight Parade which we thoroughly enjoyed bringing the Society to the attention of the crowds. Robin thanked Val, Peter Hunt, Joan, Maureen, Julian, Roger Glover, Kerry and David Giles for representing our group.

We have only had one entry for the Lloyd Award this year. This was from Pavlos Papalois from Richard Challoner and was currently being judged.

We announced that we will be holding a Christmas Party during December when we do not have a regular meeting. The date would be announced later.

Robin listed some forthcoming projects and suggested that if any members wanted to be involved they should speak to him afterwards. The projects were

- 1) Roads in Malden and Coombe and their origins
- 2) Junior School Competition for the Green and Wood prizes
- 3) Maps of the area showing where bombs fell during World War II

Robin mentioned that we would have a stall at the Farmers Market at the Fountain on 1<sup>st</sup> October.

The meeting closed with the next one planned for Tuesday 26th October 2016