

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 30th NOVEMBER 2016

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary, greeted all members (36) for the meeting.

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

Tim gave us an excellent talk on Marie Devereux New Malden's own glamour model and film star. She was born about 1940 as Patricia Sutcliffe, probably in Edmonton North London. Her parents Reg and Florence were married in 1938. Between 1943 and 1955 the family lived at Thatchers in Traps Lane where they worked for the owners the Hart family. She went to Burlington School and also attended Gainsborough Youth Club.

She first appears modelling as Stella (part of Stella and Della) in Carnival Magazine, before working for Fiesta, and then nude modelling for Harrison Marks. In the 1950s she turned to acting appearing in Tender Trap a theatrical production. She then commenced her film career with a 1957 production "The Scamp", other films followed in Britain until 1963 when she tried her luck in Hollywood. Initially to play the lead part in Cassandra's Iliad a film that was never made. This was after she had appeared in Cleopatra as a double for Elizabeth Taylor the same year. Marie went on to appear in Shock Corridor in 63 and The Naked Kiss in 64. She also appeared on American television in The Man From Laramie in 1963 and The Richard Boone Show in 1964. She then seems to have retired from the Entertainment Industry. Her mother carried on working at Thatchers until 1976. Her daughter Taj started writing on social media in 2003 and in 2016 it was reported that Marie was alive and well living in America.

Members were asked their opinions on the various speakers we had had during the last year and whether they would like to hear from any of them again. It seemed that Frank Dobson one of our members was popular and also Peter Hope the recently retired local vet also had gone down well.

James Giles was elected onto the committee in the place of Tony Gooding who found that other commitments precluded him carrying out his duties. James was nominated by Mary Clark and seconded by Toby Ewin.

There then followed the second round of group discussions which the members seem to enjoy.

Members were reminded that the Christmas Party would take place at the Baptist Church on Wednesday 7th December at 7pm. There would be free food and drink provided, a quiz and a raffle, and it was hoped that as many members as possible would attend.

In AOB it was announced that invitations had been sent to the local Primary and Junior schools inviting them to take part in the art competition.

The meeting closed with the next one planned for Wednesday 8th February 2017