

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 29th MARCH 2017

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary, greeted all members (42) for the meeting.

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

Our speaker was Simon Jakeman of the Surbiton Fire Service who told us that this was his 425th presentation on green principles not just restricted to the Fire Brigade. Simon has been a fireman for 21 years and said he did not fit the bill for somebody with green credentials. He did not own an allotment or wear sandals, but he had a passion for the environment. As a member of the brigade he would answer calls in all weathers. Floods, Storms and wildfires.

He had made a garden on top of the station at Surbiton and tended it regularly. He did not subscribe to the view that the changes in weather could all be put down to natural cycles. He said that President Trump's election campaign was funded by the oil companies in the States and that on referendum day in 2016 there had been 500 weather alerts. He produced a temperature graph over the last 1000 years which showed the real effects of greenhouse gases in the environment.

Steps were being taken with China the leaders in solar power but they still had the 8th largest carbon footprint.

45 of the local fire stations used solar panels for energy, and even recycle their hoses for use as washbags. They are looking at keeping beehives and chickens and last year his garden was entered in the Hampton Court Flower Show where it won a silver gilt medal. He rounded off by telling us that New Malden fire station had won the competition for best wild life garden last year.

Julian followed this with a video entitled a whirlwind tour of The Craftsman shop in the High Street (23). This 18-minute film showed us many of the usual and plenty of the unusual items to be found in this hardware shop- some not available elsewhere. This video had taken Julian some time to make as he had to stop recording whenever a customer entered the shop. Some of the interesting items were a large nut cracker in the shape of a squirrel, a rat glue trap, and a large jar of cement colouring!

Julian then followed this with a display of old adverts that Tudor Williams had placed in Christ Church parish magazines over the years enticing customers especially the fairer sex to "watch their windows" and obviously to enter the store for the seasons' bargains. This was followed by some marriage entries for the same magazines to see whether members could recognise some names.

IN AOB Mary told members that the war memorials in the local areas had been listed by Historic England as from 15th March 2017. There was also a proposal to have a plaque placed on the URC building concerning the horse trough rescued from the police station grounds.

Robin gave publicity the various books currently available written by various members of the society (Tim, Shaan, and Julian) and where they were available.

Mary mentioned that the Plough pond application had been turned down by the HLF, but this decision was under review and she was 90% sure of success and felt that refurbishment could start in September.

Finally, the society would be represented at the forthcoming Farmers Market on 3rd April and invited members to come along.

The meeting closed with the next one planned for Wednesday 26th April 2017.