

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 31st MAY 2017

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Our speaker was Nathan Ward a paramedic with London Air Ambulance. Nathan graduated from the University Of Hertfordshire in 2005 and has been a paramedic for the London Ambulance Service for the last nine years working mainly in South West London and Heathrow Airport. He has been working with the Air Ambulance since April 2014 and has found it hugely rewarding. He described what he did as a service that you hope you will never have to use but will be immensely grateful for should you need it.

We were informed about the service structure and remit. Based at the London Hospital in Whitechapel the Service covers broadly the area within the M25. The helicopter (Medic One) can reach anywhere in that catchment within 10 -12 minutes. Amazing. Other London hospitals such as St George's and King's now have helipads. When flying to a call destination, the helicopter often has to land in confined inner-city spaces and the team are supported on the ground by local agencies such as the police. The helicopter carries not only the personnel but the necessary equipment including blood.

The team consists of a senior trauma doctor, an advanced trauma paramedic, two pilots and a fire crew. There is an all-important administrative team, a charity team and a nurse liaison officer. The service has two helicopters with only one flying at any one time.

The service responds to around five calls a day and there is an interrogated despatch to ensure that they are the most appropriate response team. Priorities include: falls from a height, 'unders' and a death plus another person injured. Stabbings sadly are now a cause for call out. They fly to life-threatening, critical situations where time and treatment are of the essence, people who are likely to die without immediate intervention. Essentially the helicopter with its team brings the emergency department to the roadside or wherever. The team has the skills and resources to anaesthetise, to operate, to give blood transfusions and carry out the first REBOA procedure outside of a hospital. Life-saving, medical interventions at the scene.

There are two helicopters covering the area (one as back up) and one response car if the helicopter cannot reach the site. He works a twelve-hour shift and the service dealt with 1864 patients last year with 24 in the Kingston borough. They give around 8 blood transfusions a month.

Nathan was thanked both for his talk and for the incredible work he does. A collection was taken which raised £200.

Robin then gave an illustrated talk on a book called "An Assemblage Of 19th Century Horses & Carriages" which contained sketches by William Francis Freelove, who was a solicitors' clerk. A father of two boys and four girls, he was a man greatly interested in the world about him. Mr Freelove lived and died in Kingston upon Thames and catalogued this unique collection of horse drawn vehicles in 1873 when he was only 27 years old. There were over 70 illustrations all hand coloured, with many familiar local names on the side of the vehicles.

Robin also gave the result of the Junior School Painting Competition. We had had entries from three schools and the winners were (judged by our members) Priya Sirah (The Study School) and Teresa Boyle (Holy Cross Preop School) who would each receive an engraved award for the school to keep for a year. The runners up would receive a certificate each for taking part. One of our members (John) very kindly agreed to draw up the certificates using calligraphy.

Robin then showed some pictures of New Malden from 1952-1961. These had been taken from negatives from the Surrey Comet which June Sampson had saved from being destroyed. Subjects covered included the building of the roundabout at the Fountain, and the reconstruction of the railway bridge at New Malden station.

In AOB Alison Fure asked members to sign the petition to save the Tolworth Apple Store, she also brought leaflets along at a cost of £2, detailing the history of the local apple heritage.

The meeting closed with the next one planned for Wednesday 28th June 2017.