

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 28th JUNE 2017

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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

Our speaker was one of our newest members Dr Geoff Butcher who chose as his subject the history of English Malaria. He had been studying the malaria virus at Guys Hospital since 1965, working mainly on monkey malaria. It was originally thought that malaria developed through bad air this was replaced around 1900 by the phrase ague (shivering and shaking chills). The organism is of a single cell and was discovered by Charles Louis Alphonse Laveran who was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1907. The malaria organism has many species and can be transferred by blood transfusions or mosquitos.

Work done by Sir Patrick Manson and Sir Ronald Ross helped in the struggle for a breakthrough in the treatment of the disease which required volunteers to be bitten by mosquitos where the female of the species needs blood for protein to lay her eggs. There are five species of human malaria which presently are limited to Africa and Asia. Symptoms are fever every 48 hours when infected by mosquitos living near water.

Thomas Sydenham known as the father of English medicine was the first advocate of cinchona bark (contains quinine) to combat the disease. Malaria is not lethal in England. There have been two cases in Gatwick from flights from abroad. There are approximately 600,000 deaths a year worldwide and there have been cases of bats in South America infecting pigs and people becoming infected from consuming pork products.

Geoff was thanked for his very interesting illustrated talk.

Robin then gave a talk on the history of the Fire Brigade Service in Surrey from its early beginnings as a result of the Great Fire Of London, through insurance brigades, the Royal Society For The Protection Of Lives From Fire. He gave a brief rundown of Surrey Fire Brigades before 1900, the connection between the fire engines and the church. He mentioned that there were private brigades formed under the patronage of wealthy individuals or companies.

He gave a short history of the fire brigades in some of Surrey's towns and villages, ending when World War Two started the smaller brigades were assimilated by the Home Office into The National Fire Service augmented by the Auxiliary Fire Service which ended in 1948 when the Surrey Fire Service came into existence on 1st April.

This history was compiled by Michael Bissett-Powell who was unable to make the presentation, but should receive the greatest thanks.

Julian's pot luck was connected with cinema presentations on a Saturday morning (greeting with a smile), and included items on Venners parking meters, the models of Pyram, and the definition of puddings (as in pudding lane)!

The members were advised as to the various functions being undertaken by the Society during the Malden Fortnight. Alison Fure mentioned her petition to save the apple store and the apple trail to St Pauls Church at Hook where Henry Hawker's grave was situated.

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