

MALDENS AND COOMBE HERITAGE SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD 6th September 2017

AT NEW MALDEN BAPTIST CHURCH

Mary, greeted all members (35) for the meeting.

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

Before Mary gave her chairman's report, she initiated a period of conversation with the members about recent matters. She then proceeded to give her report which constituted another successful year for the society, with an increase in membership and publicity, within the local community.

Unfortunately, the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for assistance in cleaning and clearing the pond near Plough Green had been unsuccessful, and the application to replace the fountain had been deferred.

Martin then gave his Treasurer's report, stating that the accounts had yet to be audited, but we were holding over £2000 in the bank.

All the previous committee with the exception of Mary had agreed to stand again, and all were re-elected by the members with the exception of James. The new committee consisted of:

Chairman : Maureen Wilkins

V Chairman : Joan Beer

Treasurer : Martin Maggs

Secretary : Robin Gill

Archivist : Julian McCarthy

Committee Member : Graeme Hogg

Maureen took the chair and there was then a full and frank discussion about the proposed amendment to the constitution put forward by Tony Gooding and seconded by Patrick Brown.

The proposal was for the creation of a new position of Honorary Life President acting as a goodwill ambassador promoting the Society.

This was not agreed by the membership on a simple show of hands, and therefore the second amendment proposing Mary to this position fell away.

After a period of reflection for all, Mary recounted the story of "Punch" Sheppard a well-known figure in Kingston Market Place who had started with practically nothing, but had died in 1939 aged 82 a relatively rich man.

Julian in one of his popular "Pot Luck" talks took us down Cambridge Road proposing that we look above the porches of nos 73-77 on which were built ornate stone balls, when we reached no 79 on the corner of Cambridge and Montem Road these had been replaced by a gargoyle staring down at the passers-by.

He then proceeded to show us a stone pillar which still stands in Malden Road the former entrance to one of the houses built by Charles Blake but demolished a long time ago. Merging the image on a postcard onto the present-day scene, it was possible to exactly locate exactly where the picture was taken and to realise that a man standing in the old picture would be standing in the middle of the main road (and probably run over!).

The meeting then closed, with the next one planned for Wednesday 25th October 2017.