

THE MALLING SOCIETY

Autumn Newsletter 2016



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Dear Members,

Another year has flown by. I must report with sadness that five Members have died this year and they are sorely missed but on the bright side many new Members new Members have joined injecting young blood into The Society.

This year we celebrated H.M. The Queen's 90th Birthday with a tea at Went House and we again extend our grateful thanks to Mary and Alan Gibbins for letting us have use of their beautiful grounds.

You will note from the 2017 Programme of Events that the New Year's Supper has been changed to holding a Sunday Lunch on SUNDAY 5th FEBRUARY 2017 – at Franks' High Street, West Malling – 12.45pm for 1.00pm.

We listened to Members' comments and it appeared many Members would rather not go out on a Winter's evening and would prefer to eat earlier in the day. The Lunch will be cheaper with Members being able to choose from the Menu on the day and make a decision between having 2 (£13.00) or 3 courses (15.00) per head.

If you like to join the Lunch please call Eileen Vago (01732 841297). There is no need to pay in advance – just settle your bill on the day at Frank's

This year we had a group of children from Year 3 at More Park R.C. Primary School to visit The Twitch Heritage Centre after having a picnic lunch in The Country Park and visiting The Parish Church. The Twitch was cool and we gave them iced drinks and biscuits. They thoroughly enjoyed their day out!

Guest Speakers this year presented informative and most interesting talks, all being of local interest and very well attended. I hope you will enjoy the Programme of Events for 2017 as well.

Molly Potts CHAIRMAN, THE MALLING SOCIETY

FRIENDSHIP WITH THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAIGNEUX LES JUIFS

Molly Potts writes:

“Our trip to Baigneux Les Juifs in late May/early June 2016 went well although it rained every day and rivers burst their banks but it did not affect the journey there and back by car nor the stay.

I urge you to take advantage of this Friendship – it's a lovely area to visit and the Village made us most welcome at a reception given for us at their village hall as did all the people we met on our trips out”

Lesley Polly, Municipal Councillor writes:

“In June of this year, Madame Michele Bargeot, the Mayor, and the village of Baigneux les Juifs in Burgundy welcomed our West Malling visitors into their homes for a four day stay. They were given a programme of events prepared for them by two students (Lisa and Alexis) from the local college which included (amongst other things) a guided tour of the village, a memorable trip to the Unesco site of Abbey Fontenay, a specially laid on reception in the Village Hall and a day exploring beautiful Dijon. The weather wasn't kind to the visitors but with the warm welcome, cosy logfires and a bottle or two to accompany good meals they were able to forget the cold and rain outside”.

There are historical links between the two places and trade and cultural exchanges are beginning to form. Some Kentish products are now being sold in the market and local shop of Baigneux as a result of our Friendship.

A return visit to Baigneux Les Juifs is planned for a date to be arranged in March 2017.

**If you are interested in joining a trip there in March please call Barbara Earl 01732 847678 email: barbara.earl@hotmail.co.uk
Barbara Earl SECRETARY, THE MALLING SOCIETY**

'THE MALLING SOCIETY' DIARY NOTES 2016

January... Seventeen members and friends met for the New Year Supper at Franks Restaurant in West Malling

The numbers were down on 2015 but still enjoyed by everyone who attended
Many thanks to Frank and his Staff for making the evening a success.

** 2017 It has been suggested that we replace the New Year Supper with a Lunch Time Meal. Details in the 2017 Programme

May... Our Chairman and friends visited our Friendship Group in France
See Chairman's report for details

June... Members and friends joined together for a Cream tea to Celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday at Went House West Malling
with the kind permission of Mr & Mrs Gibbins.
Mrs Trudy Deal, Chairman of West Malling Parish Council proposed the Toast.
Every one enjoyed the afternoon.

September... Heritage Weekend 'Twitch Inn' was well attended by the public. Molly & I talked to some very interesting visitors. It's amazing how many times we were told, the public are not aware of the Heritage Centre and the history surrounding West Malling, Douce's Manor or even the West Malling Air Field.

Many thanks to our helpers , Ron Martin, Bob Vago and our new member Tom Silver who we feel will be a great help to the Society in the future.

October... Quiz Night at the C of E Primary School , Norman Rd, West Malling
Where were the members? Only 7 joined a small number of visitors
A good time was had by all but still a very disappointing turn out.
Many thanks to Peter Seadon-Jones for being our Quiz Master

Tuesday 18th July

8pm West Malling C.E. Primary School

Dennis Astrid, Member of The Teston Historical Society will give an illustrated talk on the history of Teston.

Tuesday 20th September

8pm West Malling C.E. Primary School

“The Secrets of the Bayeux Tapestry” : An English masterpiece and the Norman ‘Spin’ on the events of 1066. Another welcome return of Martin Heard who will give a fully illustrated talk about local needlewomen and their involvement.

Tuesday 17th October

8pm West Malling C.E. Primary School

“Jane Austen and her family connections in Kent” by Clare Graham from West Malling, Trustee of The Jane Austen Society of The United Kingdom and life-long enthusiast of her writing and her Kentish ancestors from Tonbridge and Horsmonden.

Tuesday 21st November

8pm West Malling C.E. Primary School

AGM, followed by wine and nibbles.

The Twitch Heritage Centre Douce’s Manor, St. Leonard’s Street, will be open from 11am to 4pm on Sunday 23rd April, Sunday 28th May, Sunday 25th June, Sunday 23rd July, Saturday/Sunday 9th – 10th September (Heritage Open Days), Sunday 22nd October and Sunday 12th November 2017 (Remembrance Sunday).

Visitors, please note! Douce’s Manor is a private residence; the house and grounds are NOT open to the public. *Parking on St. Leonard’s Street.*

For further details or to join the Society, please contact Mrs Molly Potts or visit our website : www.themallingsociety.org.uk

**The 51st Annual Meeting of the Malling Society will take place on
WEDNESDAY 16th NOVEMBER 2016 at 8pm At The Clout
Institute, High Street, West Malling, Kent**

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the Meeting.
2. Apologies for Absence.
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2015 AGM.
4. Chairman's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts.
6. Appointment of Auditor for 2016/2017.
7. Election of the Executive Committee.
8. Any Other Business.
9. Close of Business.
10. Short Address by David Thornewell on "The Way Forward".

The following Members of the Retiring Executive Committee have offered themselves for re-election

Gwyneth Barkham Richard Bowles, Barbara Earl, Molly Potts, Eileen Vago.

An Application has been received from Tom Silver.

Further Nominations for Committee should be made in writing to Mrs Molly Potts, 88 Sandown Road, West Malling ME19 6NR

Subscription Reminder for 2016-2017

Can we remind everyone, apart from those who pay by Direct Debit, that subscriptions are now due for 2016-2017. Single Fees £7.00 Joint £14.00 You can pay at the AGM or send your cheque made out to The Malling Society to Mrs E. Vago, 116 St. Leonard's Street, West Malling ME19 6PD

**Please can Members forward their email address to
barbara.earl@hotmail.co.uk**

**Minutes of the 50th Annual Meeting of the Malling Society
held at 8pm Wednesday 20 November 2014
at The Clout Memorial Hall, High Street, West Malling**

Opening of Meeting

The Chairman, Molly Potts, welcomed Members to the 50th Annual Meeting

Apologies for Absence

An email had been received from MP Tom Tugendhat sending his apologies because he had to attend Parliamentary business in the House. Further apologies were received from Jill Cox, Barbara Earl, Steve and Christine Wileman and John Lander

Approval of the Minutes

Minutes were read and approved by everyone present. Proposed by Margaret McCarthy and seconded by Bernard Tyson

Chairman's Report

Molly Potts gave her Report on the many achievements of The Malling Society over the previous year. The new website was available with almost 3000 hits and the membership had risen to 86. This was very encouraging because it would bring new ideas to the Society.

Molly Potts stressed that in addition to the many lectures and events, the importance of the Society was to be vigilant of new development in the West Malling area and for members to remember to express their opinions, if necessary, to Planning Officers at Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. Good contacts had been

Treasurer's Report & Adoption of Accounts

Eileen Vago, Treasurer, explained the Accounts to everyone. It was proposed by Gwyneth Barkham and seconded by Keith Bullard that the Audited Accounts for the year ended 23 October 2015 be approved and adopted. A copy of the Audited Accounts is attached to these Minutes.

Eileen Vago reported that there was a deficit this year because the Gallery had not opened at The Clout but there was a necessity to promote sales of the Freda Barton photos and the books on the local area.

Appointment of Auditor for 2016

It was proposed by Margaret McCarthy and seconded by Bob Vago and agreed that Mr F Rowland be appointed as Auditor for the coming year.

Election of the Executive Committee

The current Committee comprising: Richard Bowles, Barbara Earl, Mike North, Molly Potts and Eileen Vago had agreed to continue as Committee Members and Gwyneth Barkham said, when it was possible, she would also attend.

It was also reported that Molly Potts would continue as Chairman, Eileen Vago as Treasurer, Barbara Earl as Secretary and Richard Bowles as an Executive Committee Member.

All Members present were in agreement.

Any Other Business

1. Richard Bowles reported on a possible return visit to France next year. He was in the process of making enquiries on the costings for a minibus or travel by car and would report to the next meeting.
2. Molly explained that as a result of the friendship formed with a group from the Municipality in Baigneux-Les-Juifs and their visit, it was hoped to arrange a four-day reciprocal visit. This would be discussed further at the next meeting but in view of the difficulties being experienced in the French Capital at present; arrangements would have to be placed on hold.

Close of Meeting

Molly said that 2015 had been a very interesting year for the Society and events to mention included:

- Two talks by Patricia Richardson, each being well attended.
- Openings of The Twitch, again with many new visitors including a visit by The Douce family from Canada. Mr Douce was also given a private tour of part of the Manor, the ancestral home of his Great Grandfather Thomas Augustus Douce. This visit was hosted by the Society.
- Discussions are underway for a new small carving of The Town Sign for presentation to our French Guests when we visit them.
- Congratulations were expressed to the Blue Plaque Scheme Team and Molly Potts reported that 17 plaques had been erected in West Malling and encouraged everyone to visit the website via their smart phones. Gwyneth Barkham noted that there was a misspelling on Horatio Nelson's plaque in Swan Street. Assurance was given that one or two had printer's errors on them and would be reported to the Team.
- Eileen Vago, Treasurer, wanted before the close of the meeting to remind everyone that Annual Membership payments were due for 2015/2016.

The meeting closed and was followed by refreshments and wine.