

THE MALLING SOCIETY

Autumn Newsletter 2019



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2018 – 2019

There was no meeting in December or January and our first meeting was in February 2019 with an informal meal at The West Malling Golf Club. The event was well attended and everyone commented on the great food and the nice sunny, but cold weather.

We had a very sad and really unexpected event; the untimely death of Richard Byatt, the Planning Committee Chairman at WMPC. Our condolences went out to his family. However, good news after a long campaign that Richard was involved with along with hundreds of other protestors - The Bellway Homes Lavenders Road/Swan Street project was **Dismissed!!** It just goes to show that many voices do have an effect.

We had 6 very good speakers and one that didn't go down very well as I understand it on our monthly meetings which I mentioned in the Spring Newsletter.

In addition to our monthly meets, 25 of us, enjoyed a very interesting visit to St Mary's Abbey. Sadly our planned boat trip to "Sarrf End" was cancelled owing to a logistical issue but I understand we have a few goodies planned for next year. Thank you Richard for your hard work in the organising of our trips and we eagerly look forward to your next year's outings.

Throughout the year, The Twitch Heritage Centre has been open 7 times with a constant flow of visitors to see our photographic exhibition 'Blues and Crews' based on the Police and Fire Services in West Malling. This was continued through 2019 for a second year as it proved so popular. Ron Martin is working on a new project for 2020-2021 but I am sworn to secrecy until nearer the time.

Looking at next year's programme it looks like it will be just as busy and interesting. Thank you, Barbara, for your continued hard work in finding these speakers.

Finally, I would like to thank my Committee for their hard work during the last year – In Alphabetical order, Gwyneth Barkham, Richard Bowles, Carole d'Silva, Barbara Earl, Val Valvassura and Eileen Vago. And the Twitch background boys Bob Vago and our Researcher Ron Martin. Not forgetting Mike North our Historian.

I am now standing down as Chair and wish my successor all the very best for the future. Kind Regards,
Chris Mercer (Chair)

The Malling Society Programme for 2020

All meetings will start at 8pm at the West Malling Primary School, Norman Road, West Malling, unless otherwise stated. £3.00 entry for Members. £3.50 entry for non-members. Refreshments included.

Sunday 2nd February The New Year's Lunch at "The Duke of Wellington" Birling Road, Ryarsh ME19 5LS. 12.30pm for 1pm. See below or our website, for details.

Wednesday 11th March "West Malling in Postcards". An illustrated talk by Keith Bullard from WWI, some rare and never seen before, and their historical stories.

Wednesday 15th April "Time Watch: The West Malling X Files – UFO" 1 hour documentary featuring the former RAF West Malling.

Wednesday 13th May "The Story behind Your Cuppa". An illustrated talk by Alan Payne giving the inside story behind our favourite national drink – tea.

Wednesday 17th June "The history of RAF West Malling and the 618 Volunteer Gliding Squadron, RAF West Malling" Fully illustrated by historians Peter Hall and Philip Wickwar.

Wednesday 16th September "Don't Laugh – Gravesend". An illustrated exploration of this hidden gem on our doorstep – a favourite of Victorian holiday makers with so many stories to tell by Alan Payne.

Wednesday 14th October". "Kent Fire Fighting Museum". An illustrated talk by Howard Myers.

The Twitch Heritage Centre Douce's Manor, St. Leonard's Street, will be open from 12pm to 4pm (last entry at 3.30pm) on Sunday 26th April, Sunday 24th May, Sunday 28th June, Sunday 26th July, Saturday/Sunday 19th – 20th September (Heritage Open Days) and Sunday 8th November 2020 (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 Barbara Earl on 01732 847678, at themallingsociety@gmail.com or visit our website : www.themallingsociety.org.uk.

The Annual Meeting of the Malling Society will take place on
TUESDAY 19th NOVEMBER 2019 at 4.30pm At West Malling
C.E. Primary School, Norman Road, 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 2018 AGM
4. Chairman's Report
5. Treasurer's Report and Adoption of Accounts
6. Appointment of Auditor for 2020/2021
7. Election of the Executive Committee: (a) Chair
(b) Vice-Chair (c) Secretary (d) Remaining Members 'en bloc'
8. To vote on a Resolution to amend the Accounting Period forthwith to 6th April 2020 – 5th April 2021 and to hold the next A.G.M. in May 2021
9. Any Other Business
10. Close of Business followed by light refreshments.

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

Gwyneth Barkham, Richard Bowles, Carole d'Silva, Barbara Earl, Chris Mercer, Valerie Valvassura and Eileen Vago.

Further Nominations for The Committee should be made on the new Nomination Form. Please contact Barbara Earl Tel 01732 847678 email: themallingsociety@gmail.com before 12th November 2019.

Subscription Reminder for 2019 – 2020

Can we remind everyone, apart from those who pay by Direct Debit/Standing Order that subscriptions are now due for 2019-2020:
Individual Fees £7.00

You can pay at the AGM or send your cheque made out to The Malling Society to Barbara Earl 3 Epsom Close, West Malling.

Or you can use bank transfer with the following details The Malling Society, Account No 64676218 at National Westminster Bank, West Malling Branch (sort code 55-81-07) Ref: New Membership

With regards to Gift Aid forms [The Malling Society](#) must be informed if Members have had any change of circumstances.

**Please can Members forward their current email address
to themallingsociety@gmail.com**

New Year's Lunch

Sunday 2nd February 2020 The New Year's Lunch will be at "The Duke of Wellington" Birling Road, Ryarsh ME19 5LS. 12.30pm for 1pm.

The menus for January and February 2020 are currently being prepared. The Duke of Wellington only uses the highest quality locally sourced products as many will know. All diets catered for. If you are interested in receiving a copy of the menu and prices in due course please contact Barbara Earl at themallingsociety@gmail.com and a copy will be forwarded to you. Lifts to the Duke of Wellington will be available.