



The Bee Story, New Malden

“Once upon a time a long long time ago the area of Malden was famous for its exquisite honey. Malden (Monument Hill) was a tranquil place full of green hills and valleys with flourishing orchards that produced the greatest honey in all the land. Many said it was because the chickens who roamed the hive orchards were the happiest around, never bothered by a single fox, they ate the insects on fallen apples and fertilised the rich soil. Others said it was because the first apple trees came from a seed dropped by a passing bird who had visited the gardens of paradise. Nevertheless everyone agreed, the honey from the apple orchards was exquisite. You could taste the pure white apple blossom and see and feel the warm glow of the sun in the golden nectar of Malden honey. In fact it was so good that even The Kings of England followed Beelines to gather and meet in the Fairfields to sample the elixir of the local bee villages of Southbeetown, Northbeetown and Honey-Coombe. The Kings gatherings were renowned for their celebratory and playful nature, full of laughter, dance and music all fuelled by the sharing of food and drinks such as honey meade, cider, cheese and chutney from the Beegroves. These early community gatherings were vital in the building of relationships after historic battles were lost and wars were won, the celebrations healed and re-connected people, they helped re build community spirit, they helped to create a United Kingdom”



The Skip

In 1866 residents of New Malden, tired of the lack of any action by Kingston upon Thames in dealing with drainage and sanitation, decided to form an 'improvement association' separate from the control of Kingston. This developed into the New Malden Local Board.

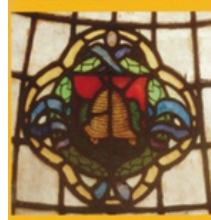
They adopted the beehive, or specifically, a 'skip', as a symbol of the hard-working and industrious nature of the Board's efforts.

In 1871, Richmond purchased 224 acres of Blagdon Farm's fields for sewage disposal.

The New Malden Local Board appealed and, after an enquiry, their objection prevailed. This success earned the town the title of 'Plucky Little Malden'.

The skip symbol is still evident today, although you will have to look for it.

It is on the face of the old Town Hall, behind the war memorial, it is in the glass dome of 'The Fountain' pub bar; it is on the gate to New Malden Bowling Club and it is depicted in the badge of New Malden Tennis Club.



The Malden and Coombe Heritage Society

The Society was formed in June 2012 to record and to promote awareness of the rich history of Malden and Coombe. Its membership and interest in local history has increased steadily.

We meet on a monthly basis at the New Malden Baptist Church in Kingston Road, starting at 7.00pm

Please see our website for details.

maldensandcoombeheritagesociety.weebly.com

The Coat of Arms of the Borough of Malden and Coombe (1936-1965)

The Borough of Malden and Coombe was granted a coat of arms on 14th May 1936 and the imagery has a distinct meaning. The gold cross on the green chevron depicts a cross on a hill, 'Mael Duna' has over time become simply 'Malden'. The red and blue chevrons are for Merton College, which owns land in the area, and the ermine background refers to royalty in Coombe. Green leaves symbolise open spaces, and Richmond Park is represented by the stag. Roman finds in Coombe are represented by the laurel wreath, and the fresh springs of Coombe, which served Hampton Court, are remembered by the circle of water. The coronet on the stag refers to the Duke of Cambridge, once the chief landowner of Coombe. Finally, the Latin motto translates as 'The love of our town leads us', so apt for the Malden and Coombe Heritage Society.