



**New Malden
Methodist Church**

*At the **heart** of the High Street*

Lockdown Life

Issue 13

April 2021

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Church Family News

Thank you

To anyone who donated to Crisis through our Christmas tree display, a huge thank you. The £334.56 we raised has now been matched by Vodafone so the final total to Crisis was £669.12.



Nicky Horton

Nicky's funeral is on Wednesday 7th April at 2.00pm. If you wish to watch the service online, please email the family on celebratingnicky@outlook.com and you will be sent a link. If you wish to gather outside the church about 1.30pm as the hearse goes by, please observe social distancing rules.

Margaret Sydney

It is with sadness that we report that Margaret Sydney passed away peacefully in Sycamore Lodge care home on 23rd March. Margaret was very involved in the life of the church before she moved away some years ago, serving on the Property Committee and usually ensuring that the catering was of the highest order at all and any events. We are sure that Rita LeVine has welcomed her with a cheese scone in hand.



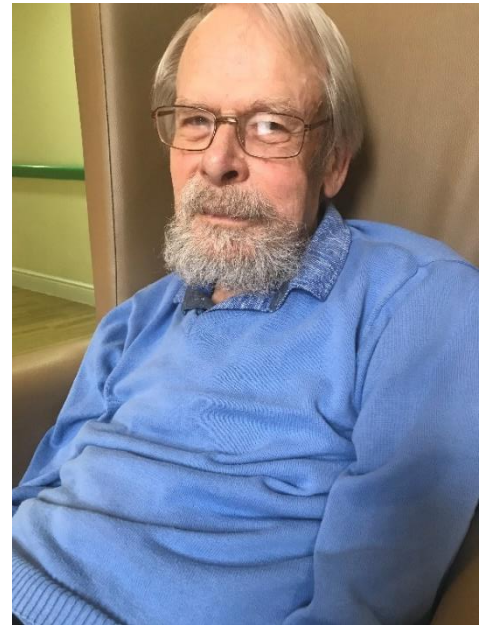
Maurice Chattle

This photo of Maurice was taken recently by one of the carers at Bourne House. I asked Sarah if it could go in Lockdown Life as so many of you ask me how he is. I think you can see he is looking very well, just the beard looking a little wild! At the moment he will not let the scissors near it.

He has now been in Bourne House two years, three months. Today as I write, it is 29th March, our 63rd wedding anniversary. I am able to see him today which will be my second visit since August. I will go with cakes for the staff and a Caterpillar Cake for him.

Whoo-hoo!!

Stella



Day of Reflection 23rd March

To mark the Day of Reflection, we displayed 126 paper candles in the windows of the church. Each candle represented 1,000 people who have died from Covid-19 in the UK over the past year. The wooden cross in the window was draped with lights which were timed to come on at 8pm, the time people were encouraged to light a candle in memory of all those who have died.



The Prayer Web

Would you like to join the Prayer Web?

What is the Prayer Web?

The Prayer Web is a group of people who have offered to receive requests for prayer and to pray for these at home in their own time. Requests are usually sent with the person's consent or in words that do not identify them; confidentiality is respected. There is a real need for prayer; particularly in these difficult times and when we haven't been able to meet with one another at church.

If you would like to join in this ministry of prayer within our church, please contact Rosemarie Lester at rosemarie.a.lester@btinternet.com or 01372 469880.

Rosemarie

Good Friday Music

As many will know, we have held Good Friday Music every year in the Church since 1999, except for last Easter when Covid regulations made gathering together for rehearsal impossible. Of course, this is still the case and we will have to wait some months for live music.

Many will miss coming to hear an appropriate choral work, sung by a choir drawn from all churches in New Malden, and beyond, with an orchestra as part of their Holy Week devotions on Good Friday evening.

To keep in touch with potential choir members and orchestral musicians I prepared a YouTube stream of Haydn's *Seven Last Words* with readings by Karl, our Minister, and I would like to share the link with everyone in the wider church community who might also like to watch it. This link will take you to the stream <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLrHmKgZ9mbRD0bxGjJAx6mcu8x0YAI-Id> though I realise that if you receive a paper copy of *Lockdown Life* you may not have internet access or typing in the URL will be tedious.

At our Good Friday concerts, the chorus has always nominated a charity to receive the proceeds of the retiring collection and these have been very varied national and international causes over the years. This time, I thought we might support *Helping Musicians* which is a lifeline for many whose sources of income have pretty well dried up for more than a year and who have sometimes received little government support. If you would like to donate, you can do so through *TicketSource*

https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/nmmc_lunchtimeconcerts/t-enxadp

or by searching for NMMC Lunchtime Concerts on their website.

Peter Bullett *Music Co-ordinator*

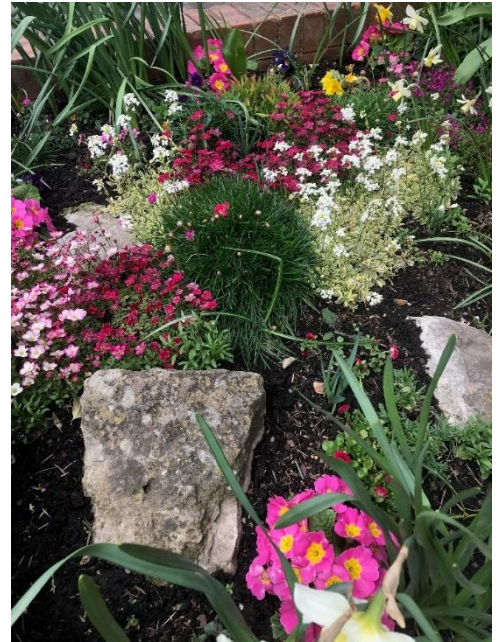
Next Issue

Please send all submissions to Sarah Moore at nmmc@hotmail.co.uk (or in longhand through my door or the church door 😊), no later than Wednesday 28th April. I am happy to receive anything you think might be of interest: memories, lockdown experiences, news of members, advice for life, etc.

Bicycle Available

Gloria Taviner fears her cycling days are over. If anyone is interested in a lady's 'shopper' bicycle, please contact Gloria.

Church Patio



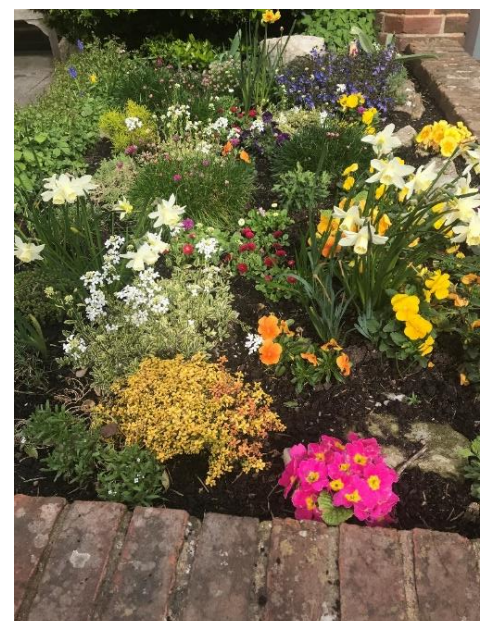
Hopefully many of you will have seen the Patio gardens during this long winter Lockdown and you approve of the new way of planting.

I cannot remember when I took over looking after the gardens when Irene Buckingham moved away. It has to be in the early 1990s because the planting of them twice a year became fixed in the Shell Club programme. We would plant Violas or Polyanthus in October and then Begonias in May. The children did the planting and when we met on Wednesday evenings we always had to make a judgement as to whether watering was needed, only watering cans in those days!

We then move on to 2020, the Spring planting was done with the help of Philip Marsden, but afterwards with all the watering needed I began to think that there must be a better way. In September I talked with Nicky (Horton) about it and she suggested we went to Squires at Long Ditton for inspiration. We looked, we spent and planted.

Now we have two very pretty gardens into which I can slip in a new plant if needed. Nicky planted the front bed and I did the back. I am so happy that we did it together and I shall always think of it as Nicky's bed and remember the great fun we had with the Shell Club.

Stella Chattle



Thank you from the whole church and the community of New Malden. Many people sit on our benches enjoying the beautiful display.

Wings of Hope Nursery

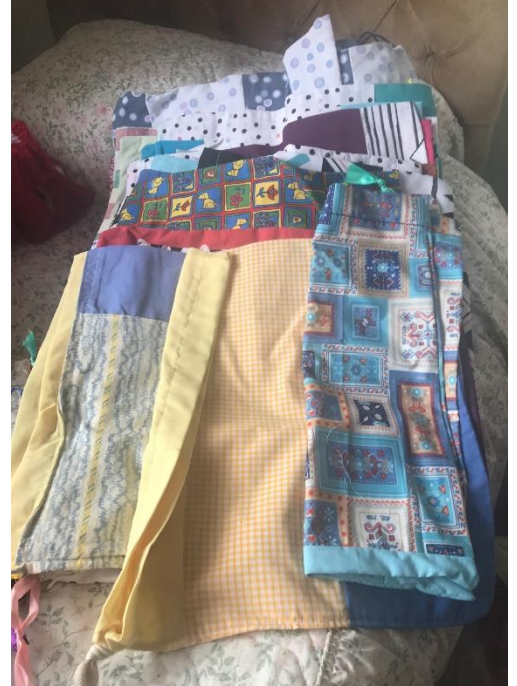
Teddies, hats, scarves and bags.

I am sure all of you who knitted, and Birgit who sewed, will be very happy to read that sixty of each item were posted to the Wings of Hope on the 23rd March.

I had nine 2kg bags to post and I had to enlist my neighbour Gill to help me get them from my car in the multi-story car park in Blagdon Road to the Post Office. All I will say is that it was a complicated procedure and after an hour and half in the PO we were exhausted!

My prayer now is that once they arrive in South Africa they will eventually reach their destination. I cannot track them once they reach SA.

Stella Chattle



Poetry Corner

I wonder where your thoughts turn on hearing the word 'Spring' in the context of poetry. I expect if you're a certain age or older, all sorts of half-remembered poems come floating back from school days ... '**Daffodils**' of course, or 'Oh to be in England now that April's here' ... that sort of thing? 'I remember, I remember' or 'Stands the Church clock at ten to three, and is there honey still for tea?'

'Where are the songs of Spring – aye where are they?' (That one's a trick ... it's the 3rd verse of Keats's **To Autumn**.)

All these are easily found in anthologies to jog your memories, so I thought instead I'd bring a few different ones together here, with a sort of theme, followed by a few Easter hymns, as we approach the second occasion on which we haven't been able to sing them together.



(photo credit David Evans)

Trees by Joyce Kilmer

I think that I shall never see
A poem lovely as a tree.
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed
Against the earth's sweet flowering breast,
A tree that looks at God all day
And lifts her leafy arms to pray,
A tree that may in Springtime wear
A nest of robins in her hair
Upon whose bosom snow has lain,
Who intimately lives with rain.
Poems are made by fools like me,
But only God can make a tree.

The Cherry Tree by A.E.Housman

Loveliest of trees, the Cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride,
Wearing white for Eastertide.
Now of my threescore years and ten
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy Springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.
And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty Springs are little room,
About the woodlands I will go
To see the Cherry hung with snow.



**The Woodworker's Ballad by Herbert
Edward Palmer 1880-1961**

All that is moulded of iron
Has led to destruction and blood,
But the things that are honoured of Zion
Are most of them made from wood.

Stone can be chiselled to Beauty
And iron shines bright for Defence,
But when Mother Earth pondered her duty,
She brought forth the forest, from whence

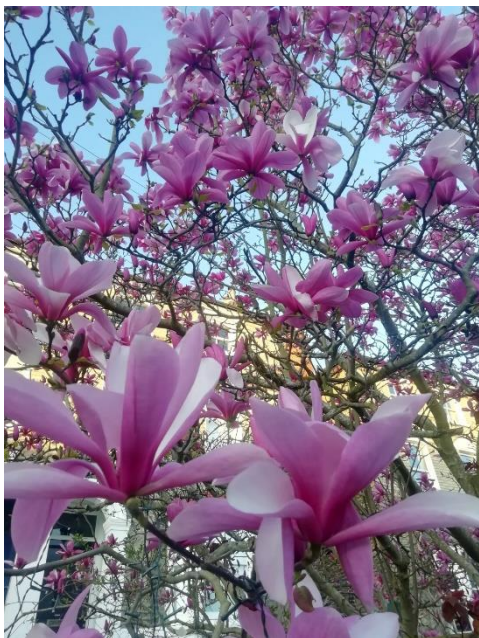
Come tables and chairs and crosses,
Little things that a hot fire warps.
Old ships that the blue wave tosses
And fiddles for music, and harps.

Oak boards where the carved ferns mingle,
Monks' shrines in the wilderness,
Snug little huts in the dingle,
All things that the sad poets bless.

King Arthur had a wood table
And our Lord blessed wood, for you see,
He was born in a wooden stable
And died on a wooden tree.

And he sailed in a wooden vessel
On the waters of Galilee
And he worked at a wooden trestle
At his wonderful carpentry

Oh all that is moulded of iron
Has lent to destruction and blood,
But the things that are honoured of Zion
Are most of them made from wood.



The Loom of Time Anon

Man's life is laid in the loom of time
To a pattern he does not see,
While the weavers work and the shuttles fly
Till the dawn of eternity.

Some shuttles are filled with silver threads
And some with threads of gold,
While often but the darker hues
Are all that they may hold.

But the weaver watches with skilful eye
Each shuttle fly to and fro,
And sees the pattern so deftly wrought
As the loom moves sure and slow.

God surely planned the pattern;
Each thread, the dark and fair,
Is chosen by his master skill
And placed in the web with care.

He only knows its beauty
And guides the shuttles which hold
The threads so unattractive
As well as the threads of gold.

Not till each loom is silent,
And the shuttles cease to fly,
Shall God reveal the pattern
And explain the reason Why.

The dark threads were as needful
In the weaver's skilful hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
For the pattern which He planned.



The Secret by Ralph Spaulding Cushman

I met God in the morning
When my day was at its best
And his presence came like sunrise
Like a glory in my breast.
All day long the presence lingered
All day long He stayed with me,
And we sailed in perfect calmness
On a very troubled sea.
Other ships were blown and battered,
Other ships were sore distressed,

But the winds that seemed to drive them
Brought to us a peace and rest.
But I thought of other mornings
With a keen remorse of mind
When I too had loosed the moorings
With the Presence left behind.
So I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way:
You must seek Him in the morning
If you want Him through the day.

Easter Music

Hopefully you will find the link to this year's Good Friday Music elsewhere in this mailing and will enjoy an hour's worth of quiet contemplation as we reflect on the past year and look forward to the future.

Did you know that every year Classic FM has a 'Classic Countdown' over the Easter weekend? Listeners vote for their three favourite pieces of music and when all the votes are counted, a list of the 300 top choices is compiled and played in reverse order until the year's Number One is reached and revealed.

A cynic might observe that there are few surprises. You can generally bet that R Vaughan Williams's 'The Lark Ascending' and Rachmaninov's second piano concerto will be somewhere in the top ten, but a bit further down the list there is also likely to be the Easter Hymn from Mascagni's opera *Cavalleria Rusticana*. I still have never seen this, but we do have a friend who somehow was able to get married on Easter Sunday several years ago, and this is one of the things we sang, very appropriately and memorably. You can find any number of versions on YouTube, though the ones where the participants are all in the same building tend to be slightly more successful than some of the Compiled-from-many-phones versions! Do tune into Classic FM to see how your favourites have fared in this year's listeners' poll. And remember classical music is not just for Easter: you can be sure of hearing plenty of the top 300 in the coming months on this station.

Where does one start with choosing Easter Hymns? Unlike at Christmas, there is only one occasion in the year when we sing them, so if your favourite is not picked on one particular Easter Day, you know it will be a year or so before the next chance of singing or hearing it.

As with poetry, everyone will have their favourites, whether it be Wesley's 'Hail the day that sees him rise', no. 300 in *Singing the Faith* (StF), with its 24 Alleluias, or a more gentle recent composition. There is a wide choice, from songs of triumph and victory to the more contemplative and 'accessible' style of more modern writers. I think 'Low in the grave he lay,' no. 305, rests somewhere in the middle, offering simple straightforward words and a tune in two sections: the solemnity of the verse contrasting with the joyful bouncing rhythm of the refrain 'Up from the grave he arose.' Robert Lowry, 1826-1899, wrote both the words and the music to this hymn, which is an unusual and rather modern thing to do.

I also think no. 296 deserves a wider audience... I didn't know it. It is by John Bell and Graham Maule from the Iona Community. Perhaps the unfamiliarity is due to the minor-key tune, which for some people may not sit very comfortably with the traditional atmosphere of Easter morning. There are many other tunes of this metre, however, (8787 D), and John Bell is very well represented elsewhere in StF. Again, the words have a contemporary feel without being simplistic. These are just the first and last verses; there are two more for you to discover.

Christ has risen while earth slumbers,
Christ has risen where hope died,
As he said, and as he promised,
As we doubted and denied,
Let the moon embrace the blessing,
Let the sun sustain the cheer,
Let the world confirm the rumour,
Christ is risen, Christ is here!

Christ has risen, and forever
Lives to challenge and to change
All whose lives are messed or mangled,
All who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present,
Making us what he has been –
Evidence of transformation
In which God is known and seen.

It is now roughly a decade since the appearance of StF and the consequent almost complete disappearance of Hymns and Psalms from our services. I try not to think in terms of losses and gains, or make any predictions about which new hymns will stand the test of time, but if a well-known hymn has not featured in worship for a while, this could be the reason. Copies of H/P are still available at Church if you would like to have one, however, and if you have a spare half hour it is interesting to compare the Easter sections in the two books; they are very different.

To give just one example; H/P 195 is not in StF and I never sang it in H/P days, but I include it here as a further 'thread' to my earlier theme of Trees and Wood. It is set to an arrangement of the traditional Cherry Tree Carol and I think gives a simple poetic message in language which speaks directly to the heart while relying on the ear and not bypassing the brain. The words are by Alda M. Milner-Barry (1875-1940).

Good Joseph had a garden, close by that sad green hill
Where Jesus died a bitter death, to save mankind from ill.
One evening, in that garden, their faces dark with gloom,
They laid the Saviour's body within good Joseph's tomb.
There came the holy women, with spices and with tears,
The angel tried to comfort them but could not calm their fears.

Came Mary to that garden, and cried with heart forlorn.
She seemed to hear the gardener ask 'Whom do you seek this morn?'
She heard her own name spoken, and then she lost her care,
All in his strength and beauty, the risen Lord stood fair.

Good Joseph had a garden; amid its trees so tall
The Lord Christ rose on Easter Day; He lives to save us all.
And as he rose at Easter, He is alive for aye,
The very same Lord Jesus Christ Who hears us sing today.
Go tell the Lord Christ's message, the Easter triumph sing,
Till all his waiting children know that Jesus is their King.

Some thoughts on Worship in the Pandemic

From the preface to Hymns and Psalms:

'Hymns and Psalms.... are distinctive features of Christian worship. They unite the intellect, the emotions, the will and the voice in the human response to God's grace; and they also point beyond our human faculties and abilities, for God addresses us in them, and through them applies the good news of Jesus Christ in our lives. Their combination of music and poetry provides a medium for God's word, and a way in which our hearts and minds may become open to that word.'

From the preface to Singing the Faith:

'Singing the faith has been at the heart of the Methodist story from its beginnings. ... Charles Wesley wrote the first hymns of the Evangelical revival of 1738 when he and his brother John were 'filled with the Spirit'. Ever since that time, **Methodists have never ceased to sing**. Our history and experience bear witness to the power of music in worship. It speaks to the heart, mind, soul and will, allowing us to respond to God's grace and the glory of God's creating and redeeming love in Jesus Christ. Singing hymns in worship assists us in meeting with the living God and helps us to grow in faith, discipleship and fellowship.'

Wait a moment! '*Methodists have never ceased to sing?*' Yes we have, for a whole year. What is the pandemic doing to us? We have to get back to our history and experience or we will have none of either. Now that things are gradually easing their way out of Lockdown, it is surely time to make the rules and guidelines of the pandemic work for us, not against us; to think not what we Can't do, but what we Can. So, whether we have to be distanced, outdoors, behind a screen – whatever it takes – let us start to explore ways in which we can bring our Church back together in song, revive our heritage and identity and get back in touch with who and what we really are as God's people. If we wait until there is no risk, we risk everything.

Alison Bullett

Everyone Sang

Everyone suddenly burst out singing
And I was filled with such delight
As prisoned birds must find in freedom,
Winging wildly across the white
Orchards and dark-green fields; on; on; and out of
sight.

Everyone's voice was suddenly lifted,
And beauty came like the setting sun.
My heart was shaken with tears; and horror
Drifted away... O but everyone
Was a bird; and the song was wordless; the singing
Will never be done

Siegfried Sassoon 1886-1967

News from The Joel Community

Dear Friends,

We are delighted to announce that the Joel Centre will be reopening from next week, as a residential home for up to seven people who have experienced homelessness and face issues around drugs and alcohol.

The new residents will be offered 1-2-1 and group support, with the emphasis on rebuilding self-confidence through a programme of activities, based on their individual strengths and interests. A major focus will be on building a caring community to help guests on their recovery journey, honouring the vision of the late Rev Peter Holmes.

The Joel Trustees are delighted to provide the shelter space for this essential new initiative, which is led and managed by our friends at Kingston Church Action on Homelessness (KCAH).

We believe that Jesus is the Light of the World, and the Joel Centre will be the light of Christ for some of the most vulnerable people in our community. Please hold this new venture in your prayers, remembering particularly the guests, staff and supporters. And look out for news very soon about how you can volunteer in the Joel Centre!

Every blessing,

Rev David Candlin
On behalf of the Trustees
Joel Community Services



The Development of the Tudor Williams Site

53-59 High Street, New Malden KT3 4BU



In response to a request from the developers, Rocco Homes, the Church Council asked the Property Committee to form a group to meet with them and subsequently keep the congregation informed of the progress of the development proposals. Karl, Hilary, John Meredith and I Zoomed for an hour with five from the developer's team on 5th March who addressed a list of topics we had given them in advance and answered our questions. With their agreement, this meeting was recorded and a link is given at the end if you would like to watch the video. A list of significant points to emerge is on the next page. This meeting followed three webinars open to pre-registered members of the public in late February and one

of these is available to watch on their website – again a link at the end.

A recent communication indicates a planning application was submitted last Friday (19th March) and there will now be 2-3 weeks for planning officers to validate the application before it and all supporting documents become available on-line and a period of consultation begins.

We have established a contact with Connexional Property Support, sought informal professional advice on a number of aspects of the project as presented to us and now await necessary detail which will become available with the publication of the planning application just after Easter.

As a group, we have been trying to approach discussion with the developers and planners in an open and objective way. We are pleased the former Tudor Williams site has been bought with a view to redevelopment so it will not stand empty, becoming dilapidated, however as one of the nearest neighbours of a planned 9-storey building of retail units with 49 flats (including 88 bedrooms) above, we naturally have concerns about aspects of the proposal – for example, overshadowing and traffic generation – whilst recognizing the scope of others to benefit the community – for example, an element of affordable housing. It is estimated that the construction phase of the projected scheme would take up to 20 months, which would also have implications for us.

I fear you can expect regular updates in our newsletters and we will be seeking a virtual meeting with planners when there would be the opportunity for us to give feedback and ask questions about this development and its place in the Council's plans for the future development of the High Street as a whole.

Peter Bullett March, 2021

Video of NMMC meeting with Rocco Homes 05MAR21: <https://youtu.be/uZ0z5uKvCrg>
Developer's website: 53-59newmaldenhighst.co.uk, scroll down for the webinar video.

Redevelopment of the Tudor Williams Site

Key points from a meeting with Rocco Homes on F05MAR21

For NMMC:

Karl Rutledge, Hilary Warner, John Meredith and Peter Bullett

- below ground-level basement for bins, bike storage, plant etc.
- DRP feedback on sunlight and daylight – every time of daylight – Felicie offered to send us the information (18:44) Greg said available at planning [I have requested it now] – the officers have said the overshadowing is "reasonable"
- 3m set back of 9 storey section on High Street, but not in Cambridge Road
- (22:27) Design-led approach to height of buildings. Discussion with RBKuT officers concerning the future development of the High Street – height and massing will change over time - existing consent for future developments taken into account. London Plan helps develop to a sustainable level, fits the future. Various distant views of the buildings considered.
- (28:08) Microclimate company SRE 3D model for impact of wind – study part of planning application.
- (30:00) An unusual opportunity: few heritage elements nearby, provide more housing which is what is required, affordable housing, commercial space, car-free, improves public realm, tidy up the surroundings all leads to height, which affects the quantum.
- (33:30) In an *Opportunity Area* (?); Kingston and London Plan support higher density development and RBKuT are struggling to meet their housing targets. [NM has one of the lowest densities in the borough.]
- Planning Application to be made in the week beginning 8th March, if all goes well. Supporting documents will be made available to public 2 – 3 weeks after that. These will be online. Valentine will send links.
- discussion with the LA about the maintenance of the planting.
- (36:35) Will investigate potential overlooking of the nursery and safeguarding: it seems quite distant, but it will be assessed.
- (40:30) Construction Management Plan, New Malden company firm part of Considerate Constructors scheme (used for Rocco Homes's Colliers

Wood tube station library development with 60 flats above [45 administered by housing associations]. (59:00) Useful for NMMC to provide a list of the community use of its premises, particularly during construction and developers to give a construction plan.

- (42:30) No on-site car-parking. Location will tend to reduce car ownership, a travel plan will be provided. Car Clubs for "pay as you go" use. Cycle parking in the basement. 2 disabled vehicle spaces off Sussex Place.
- (46:30) 2011 Census does not provide much information about car ownership of those living in properties without a parking space. TfL have done some studies which will be included with the Transport Plan at application. Car-parking assessment undertaken for RBKuT. Leases make sure CPZ applications cannot be made by tenants. Highway safety, accessibility and traffic impact have all been considered – part of national strategy to reduce congestion.
- (50:00) Delivery bay for development? No, but an IT system to allow quick drop-off of white van deliveries. Delivery and service management plan will be provided when planning application is submitted.
- (53:10) Community space an inside/outside area to be used by those retailers who take on the smaller units. Operating during shop hours. Not a space to be hired. Alcohol licence is not seen as complementary with residential units above, though licencing distinct from planning and usually limited to 10pm. Coffee shop might be a possibility, but not got that far in planning yet.
- (55:40) Quantity of affordable housing relates to viability – to be agreed. On-site, shared ownership, offered by Housing Associations and other providers. Work hard to keep annual service charges down.
- Valentine will be our contact for future discussions. He will let us have contact details for the RBKuT Planning / Case Officer (Harsha Bhundia), further information about over-looking of our nursery and possibly DRP shadow diagrams.

Peter / Hilary 15MAR21

[The numbers in brackets refer to times in the video.]