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North Marston History Club **Newsletter**

April 2018

*"Giving the past a safe
future"*

Onward and Upward

Following the great success of our recent events, we are confident the rest of 2018 will continue with this trend.

The talk on *"Rural Workwear of the 19th Century"* together with the display of H J Holden clothing made a very good start to the year. *"Spices in Medieval Society"* continued with the high standard in May. Also in May, our Murder Mystery evening (*"The Body in the Well"*) raised well over £200 towards the upkeep of the church and Wesley Centre (which houses our Heritage Centre).

Our next event is our **AGM on 23rd May at 7.30pm at the Wesley Centre**. After the brief business meeting, Sue Baxter will be giving a talk entitled ***"An 18th Century Love Affair"*** based on letters found under the floor-boards in a cottage in Marsh Gibbon. Our next talk on **25th July** will be ***"The Spy Who Loved Himself"*** by Michael Kushner. Never let it be said we don't offer variety!

Changes to Membership

The Executive Committee recently decided it would make life a lot easier if our membership year ran from January to December instead of from

AGM to AGM, a bonus for those who are currently members as your membership will have an extra seven months added on and won't need renewing until January 2019.

The Janet Long Project

The money collected at Janet Long's funeral was shared between The Shop, the village school and the History Club. We decided to create something for children, as we felt this would have been something Janet would have appreciated. We are developing a series of history quizzes that children can play on-line. We will link with the school to ensure the quizzes are tailored to the curriculum, the interests and age-abilities of a range of children. We will report more on this project as it rolls out.

Still on the theme of involving youngsters in local history (which is one of the History Club's key objectives): in February Sue Chaplin gave a talk and presentation entitled *"North Marston in the Second World War"* to a class of pupils of North Marston School which was followed by a visit to the Wesley Centre to view the WW2 artefacts from our display cabinets; I recently ran a quiz for Cub

Scouts entitled "*Mystery From History*" which required them to identify and answer questions about five artefacts from the Club's display cases; and I will shortly be taking The Beavers on a tour of the village to find four lost sweetshops. Who knows, we might also end up having some sweets!

Six Young Lives was the name given to our book about the young airmen who lost their lives in a bomber crash in the village during World War Two. You will recall that the service held to unveil the plaque in their memory in April 2015 was attended by a number of relatives from New Zealand.

One relative who was unable to attend that day was Pamela Wade, niece of the New Zealand pilot, Michael Reece. However, later that year she made the trip to North Marston to view the memorial and the site of the crash. Pamela is an award-winning travel writer and has written a beautiful article about the way the village has honoured and remembered those six young men.

This article entitled "*Some Corner of an English Field*" has been published in New Zealand's national monthly magazine *North and South*. She has given us permission to print the article as an appendix to *Six Young Lives*. It completes the circle.

If you'd like to see the article you can either buy a new copy of *Six Young Lives* through our website, or download a copy of the article from our website using the link <https://northmarstonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Some-Corner-of-an-English-Field.pdf>

On the Horizon

On 12th May you might wish to go to **Great Haseley Windmill Open Day** open 2.30-4.30pm. You will have the opportunity to look over the windmill and have tea and cake in Great Haseley village hall.

Would you be interested in a visit to the **Military Intelligence Museum at Chicksands in Bedfordshire**? This houses objects and exhibits from the Intelligence Corps and the Medmenham Collection devoted to aerial photography and image analysis. We want to get a "feel" for the number of people who might be interested before booking a guided visit. We have no specific date in mind; it would be on a weekday during the summer months. You can see more about the museum on www.militaryintelligencemuseum.org If you are interested in this visit, call me on 01296 670225 or email me at john@spargo.org.uk.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support.

John Spargo
Chairman