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# *North Marston* *History Club* **Newsletter** *July 2019*

Welcome to our *July Newsletter*: an opportunity to catch up with what we've been doing and what's in the pipe-line.

## **Sad Farewells**

But first, we pause a moment to acknowledge and remember two people who were both keen members of the History Club and strong supporters of our events: **Guy Woollett** and **Celia Jones**, both of whom died in June.



Guy loved coming on our day trips and always attended our evening talks.

Celia was also a keen day-tripper and very much enjoyed our evening events. She was one of the distributors who deliver copies of our Newsletter to households in the village.

They will both be greatly missed.

## **WARA Exhibition**

Fifty years ago, the Wing Airport Resistance Association (WARA) began its campaign to fight the creation of London's third airport planned to be sited at Cublington, then Hoggeston.



Our exhibition held on 15<sup>th</sup> June, skilfully created by our secretary Sue Chaplin, charted the events as they unfolded, revealing how an intense programme of protest and awareness-raising fought off the threat.....twice! We showed the award-winning documentary "*Over Our Dead Bodies*" which was compiled from local footage filmed at the time. Most

people coming to the exhibition were amazed at the scale of the threat to the village and the huge, co-ordinated programme of resistance overseen by WARA. It is now regarded as the first major environmental campaign of its type in the country.

### **Treasures from the County Museum**

In May, Will Phillips, Curator of Social History, treated us to a fascinating insight into the amazing artefacts stored in the museum's archive at Halton. The huge variety of different items whose stories he told included furniture, lace, costume, historic photos and the Cubitt Car.

### **Richard Washington, the Tudor Time Traveller**

For our evening talk on 10<sup>th</sup> July, Martin Sirot-Smith, in the guise and costume of the Tudor lord of the manor, Lawrence Washington, told us all about daily life in Tudor times, bringing with him many artefacts from the period.



Martin gave a spell-binding performance as Richard Washington, and impressed upon us the contrasts

between life then and life now. Suffice to say that few present that evening particularly yearned to be transported back to the 16<sup>th</sup> century!

### **Get Ready for the Ice Age!**

Our speaker in September is Mike Palmer, Curator of Natural History at the County Museum (some of you will recall his fascinating talk last year on the Aylesbury Duck and Prune). Mike will be talking to us about ***Bucks in the Ice Age*** on **11<sup>th</sup> September at The Wesley Centre at 7.30pm**. His talk will centre on southern Britain with Buckinghamshire examples given throughout.

### **Biggin Hill Trip**

We were blessed with lovely weather for our trip to the Biggin Hill Museum on 6<sup>th</sup> June. The museum is newly opened and we particularly enjoyed an illustrated talk given by a local volunteer sharing his memories of being a schoolboy at Biggin Hill during the war years.

**And finally.....** Our talk in November is by Michael Kushner and is entitled ***"A Journey to Station X"***. Michael is one of the guides at Bletchley Park and so is well placed to give us the story of the development of WW2 Signals Intelligence and Code-Breaking that culminated in the employment of over 10,000 staff and the development of Bletchley Park and, subsequently, GCHQ. **Michael's talk will be at The Wesley Centre on 13<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 pm.**

Many thanks for your continuing support.

**John Spargo**  
**Chairman NMHC**



