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# North Marston History Club **Newsletter**

December 2019

*"Giving the past a safe  
future"*

Welcome to the December 2019 edition of the History Club's quarterly Newsletter. We have a great deal of information in this edition, so it is a bumper four pages!

**We end the year by saying goodbye  
to a dear friend of the History Club:**

**JOY COLBECK 1923 – 2019**



Joy, who sadly passed away in October aged 96, was a very special friend of North Marston History Club. Her young brother, John Wenham, was an air-gunner on the Wellington bomber which crashed into a field next to Carters Lane on 4<sup>th</sup> January 1945 killing all six of the crew. He was just

19 years old. In 2015, on the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the crash, the History Club decided to honour these young men by erecting a plaque to their memory in the church, and we started to trace their relatives. We were delighted when we traced Joy and her family who subsequently all attended our Bomber Memorial Service on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015. (*The photo shows Joy cutting the memorial cake on that day*). She was overwhelmed that her brother was being remembered in this way and told us that she had always believed he had died at Long Marston! It therefore brought her closure. We have remained in contact with her and her family ever since. Last year Joy was well enough to attend our North Marston Remembrance Day Service at the Memorial Hall. She was a wonderful lady who will be sadly missed. Our thoughts are with her family.

## **Our many achievements this year!**

Apart from a programme of six talks from skilled presenters:

- We mounted an exhibition in June marking the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of WARA, the Wing Airport Resistance Association, which

involved this village particularly in the late 1970s.

- We have launched the “Handlebar History” series of short films capturing the history of local features from the perspective of a bicycle. Two films can be viewed using links on our website and a third is in production, hopefully it will be available by early 2020.
- We have given a talk to pupils at North Marston School about the village in the past.
- We have involved local groups of Beavers, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts in walking around the village exploring some of the heritage all around them. You too can find out what they’ve been looking at by buying a Heritage Trail Map from The Shop.
- We have provided considerable support and information to various people researching their family history in the village. For this help, often requested through our web-site, we use our archives of pictures, parish records and village documents (which we are constantly updating) as well as web-based search engines. Jayne Springer is our key internet researcher.
- We have bought and installed four information stands in the church to help visitors to understand the significance of key features there.
- We have re-located the “Forgotten Soldier” silhouette from the “bottom green” to the churchyard where he now stands adjacent to a war grave

commemorating one of the young men from the village who died in the Great War.

- For Remembrance Sunday we were asked to display once again in the Memorial Hall our much appreciated First World War Exhibition giving comprehensive information about the 22 young men from this village who lost their lives in the Great War of 1914-18.
- We contribute a “History Snippets” article in the Parish Magazine each month.
- We have produced a 2020 Calendar based on some of the listed buildings in the village.
- We organised a day trip in June to the Biggin Hill Museum.

The final function we are staging for 2019 is our ***Christmas Curtain Raiser***:



Look out for our posters advertising this event that will be held at the Wesley Centre on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00**

## **All set for 2020**

Our programme of events for next year is now finalised, and we're starting things off with our **AGM on Wednesday January 22nd** at the Wesley Centre. This is when you can renew your membership (***please see the form at the end of this Newsletter***). We shall be showing the film "*Marston's Missing Mansion*" after the official business.

On **18<sup>th</sup> March** we welcome the return of the popular speaker, Martin Sirot-Smith, who will be talking about "*Sulgrave Manor and the Washington Family*". On **27<sup>th</sup> May** we have "*Grandma flew Spitfires*" by Richard Poad and on **15<sup>th</sup> July** "*The Silk Road*" by Dan Boylan. **23<sup>rd</sup> September's** talk is "*The Great Train Robbery*" by John Flewin and on **18<sup>th</sup> November** we will hear about "*Buckinghamshire Workhouses*" from Julian Hunt.

We are in the early stages of planning a major summer exhibition charting "*The Shaping of North Marston*", more details will be circulated in the New Year.

## **But we need you...**

...to renew your membership either before or at the AGM in January. A Membership Form can be found at the back of this Newsletter.

**The more members we have, the more viable the History Club becomes and the easier it is for us to raise funds to stage events, pay for speakers, subsidise day trips or apply for grants.**

If you have an idea for a talk or a place to visit that fits in our general programme, please let us know. As a member, this is YOUR History Club, and we want it to be responsive to things that interest you.

As ever, thank you for your continued support, and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

**John Spargo,  
Chairman NMHC**



## **NORTH MARSTON HISTORY CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

**Full Name and Address including post-code.** (NB If you are applying for joint membership please enter both names on this form).

**Email address:**

**Phone Number:**

*NB We will only use your personal information so we can send you Newsletters or important Club updates. We will not share this information with anyone else and it will be held securely and accessible only to the Chairman, Secretary and Membership Secretary of the History Club. If we need to contact you for other purposes we need you to consent by ticking in this box.*

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**Membership Fee £5.00 for individuals, joint membership £8.00 pa**

*(Cheques made payable to North Marston History Club)*

**Please return this form with payment to:**

*Jennifer Heffer, 2A Marston Fields Road, North Marston, MK18 3PF*