

# North Marston History Club

Notes from our (very) informal meeting at The Pilgrim, 25/10/2010

*Those present were: Sue Chaplin, Janet Gowin, Michael Finnemore, Alison Finnemore, Chris Holden, Joan Holden and John Spargo.*

John began by introducing the idea of a history club to capture the history of the village. A recent survey by the parish council indicated there was popular demand for a book about the village's history. John circulated his first thoughts on a range of topics the book might cover and suggested each topic or chapter could form a booklet in its own right. In the course of the discussion, two more ideas for topics or chapters were added: "Sport" and "Bucks words and dialects".

We talked about the importance of capturing memories of growing up in the village from the 1920s onwards and we compiled a list of people who *might* wish to be involved. It was decided that one approach would be to gather a small group together of a similar age range and record their conversation on specific themes (e.g. shops, schooling, wartime), firstly so as not to lose this "living history" but also to provide material for whatever publication(s) we might decide upon in the future.

John offered to record the discussions and Sue offered to assist in helping the recorded conversation "flow" with specific prompts or triggers about the village based on things she recalls her mother telling her.

Alison mentioned a conversation she'd tape recorded several years ago involving 3 or 4 women in the village talking about their schooling etc (including Sue's mother) and she said she'd try and find it.

We also talked of cine films that had been taken at village events such as Fetes, Jubilee celebrations etc.. Janet Gowin offered to lend John a copy of a DVD she has of village fetes 1961-1980. It was suggested John speaks to Mary Franklin who has a collection of old films/videos taken in the village. Alison said she too has copies of Village Fete films and the "Wings Off Wing" event(s).

The list of names of people who might be interested in talking about growing up in North Marston were arranged into two age bands, A and B. (More groups from later generations can follow in due course).

### **GROUP A**

Chris Holden  
Joan Holden  
Clifford Cheshire  
Robin Harwood.....might prefer a home visit (HV)  
Barbara Harwood  
Guy Holden  
Mona Holden (HV?)

Sue Chaplin offered to speak to Ivy Hughes  
Janet Gowin offered to speak to Nancy

### **GROUP B**

Jennifer Heffer  
Graham Ward (Sue C offered to speak to him)  
Tony Franklin  
Peter Moreton  
Michael Moreton  
Jimmy Tattam  
Janet Gowin

Subsequently, Janet Gowin added

June Swayne  
Sheila Grant

It was agreed it would be best to start with Group A. John asked if those present who knew the Group A people would mention this idea to them so they expected to be asked to join "a conversation" and understood what it was all about.

Michael said he was happy for this to take place at St. John's Manor and Alison kindly offered to cook a Cottage Pie if it would help or encourage peoples' participation.

John said he'd get in contact with the Group A people within the next few weeks to set a date and time and liaise with Sue accordingly.