

## **NMHC Chairman's Report to the AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020**

As I say every year, it beggars belief that another year has gone by since I last gave my Chairman's report to the AGM.

This is a milestone year for the club as October 25<sup>th</sup> marks our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we will be planning a celebratory event nearer the time. We could not have imagined, ten years ago how successful the club was to become. Our sights in those early meetings were very much set on producing a village history book, which we achieved in the summer of 2014.

2019 was been a busy year for us with a diverse range of speakers and topics from the Ice Age to the events of the 1970s when this village came under real threat from a proposed international airport at Cubblington. Along the way we were treated to a demonstration of Tudor cod-pieces by Martin Sirot-Smith and a surprise strip-tease by Queen Victoria. The whole year was rounded off by The Marston Mummers. Never let it be said the History Club is set in its ways.

And 2020 promises another interesting mixture. Sue Chaplin has prepared a list of forthcoming events that you will have found with the papers circulated tonight. As you can see, in 2020 we shall journey from the Silk Road to the Great Train Robbery, and hopefully manage a local day trip or two during the summer, as well as possibly co-producing an exhibition about a key aspect of the history of the village.

We are heavily engaged with and committed to the preparation of the North Marston Neighbourhood Plan which we see as an exciting opportunity to further protect and explore this village's unique history. We have some exciting ideas for the future that will find the light of day in the Neighbourhood Plan.

We are also hoping to spearhead a project to create a stand-alone war memorial in the village, more information on that in the next month or so.

I will launch the third of my Handlebar Histories in the next few weeks. This one is called "Gate to Gate" and takes the viewer on a journey

through history from the village gate at Portway to the gate along the Granborough Road. It is pleasing to have received positive feedback concerning these short films, which I hope make local history interesting to non-historians. All these films, as well as the film I am showing tonight, can be accessed through our website.

And finally, a big thank you to the Executive Committee, without whom none of this would be possible, and to you all for your continued support.

Thank you.

There will now be a short break while I light the magic lantern for this evening's film.

John Spargo, Chairman  
Jan 2020