



www.northmarstonhistory.org.uk

North Marston History Club **Newsletter**

March 2020

***"Giving the past a safe
future"***

Welcome to the March 2020 edition of the History Club's quarterly Newsletter. First of all, an apology:

Cancellation of the Sulgrave Manor Talk on 18th March

It was with much regret we decided to cancel the planned talk "Sulgrave Manor and the Washington Family" which was due to be given by Martin Sirot-Smith on 18th March. The Coronavirus outbreak forced us to re-think the wisdom of holding the meeting and collectively we felt it was more prudent to postpone it. We have agreed with Martin Sirot-Smith to reschedule the talk as soon as we can.

Grandma Flew Spitfires

....however, we hope the situation will have become much healthier by the time of our May talk "Grandma Flew Spitfires" on 27th May.

Expanding the Heritage Trail

Many of you will be familiar with the History Club's Heritage Trail: the map books are available through the Club's website or from The Shop. The Trail has been greatly appreciated by many visitors to the village and provided an

ideal way of introducing youngsters to village history, with the Brownies, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts all enjoying activities based on the Heritage Trail maps and accompanying history information.

With a recently awarded grant from the parish council, the History Club plans to increase the scope of the Heritage Trail and to add several new "way-markers" to the map, which will be re-printed. When the new Heritage Trail is launched, we will publicise it in the village magazine and elsewhere. Watch this space!

Heritage and the Neighbourhood Plan

The History Club is pleased to be involved in helping to create the Neighbourhood Plan and specifically the section of the plan looking at heritage in our village. With such a rich and important history, there is much to be celebrated, promoted and preserved, so we are making proposals to do just that. When the plan is published for consultation in the village, we hope you'll agree with our policies and proposals. The history of North Marston is its Unique Selling Point (USP) and we hope we have given sufficient emphasis to this

aspect of our village for present and future generations to enjoy and appreciate the heritage.

VE Day Celebration

On 8th May, the whole nation will be celebrating the 75th anniversary VE Day, the end of the war in Europe. This village will be no exception, and for its part the History Club will be mounting an exhibition in the Schorne Room at the Memorial Hall. Club Secretary, Sue Chaplin, has pulled together a wide range of displays and artefacts which reflect life in the village as it would have been during the Second World War. The exhibition will be open from 2.00 until 4.00 and all are welcome.

Films on our Website

We have grouped all our films (there are currently eight) on a drop-down menu on our website, www.northmarstonhistory.org.uk to make them easy to view on YouTube. Look for the tag on the main page toolbar "Films made by the History Club".

Church Display Boards

A vital aspect of the History Club's role is to help promote the history of the village to visitors or to people that have recently moved to the village. St Mary's church is a remarkable Grade 1 listed building that attracts many visitors. The History Club believes it is important that visitors understand the significance of what they are looking at.

A few years ago, the Club provided the church with a rotary leaflet stand,

and some of the leaflets on display for visitors include guide books and pamphlets produced by the History Club. These cover the history of the church, the John Schorne story and guides to elements of church architecture.

More recently, the Club has placed free-standing information panels around the church in locations of particular significance. These have been appreciated by church visitors, whether seasoned "church crawlers" or casual visitors.

The latest contribution from the Club is a set of free-standing information panels that the church will use to display topical information about the function of the church.

The History Club is pleased to have been in a position to provide these resources so as to augment people's understanding of the importance of our parish church and its role in our community.

and finally....Membership Renewal

Our membership year runs from January to January. For those of you who would like to join the History Club or those who would like to renew their membership for 2020, it couldn't be easier. Simply go to our website www.northmarstonhistory.org.uk where you can download a membership form or contact Jennifer Heffer on 01296 670273. Our annual membership fee is £5.00 for individuals or £8.00 for couples.

Many thanks for your support.

John Spargo, Chairman NMHC