



[www.northmarstonhistory.org.uk](http://www.northmarstonhistory.org.uk)

# North Marston History Club **Newsletter**

October 2020

*"Giving the past a safe  
future"*

Welcome to the October 2020 edition of the History Club's quarterly Newsletter. Whilst public gatherings are off the agenda, we are maintaining as much activity as we can within the Covid restrictions.

## **2021 Calendar**

As you will know, every year the club produces a calendar showcasing aspects of the history of North Marston. Our calendars are always popular and sales have already been brisk. The latest calendar is a real trip down memory lane and highlights "The Lost Dairy Farms of North Marston" including the smallholders as well as the larger farms. Dairy was once the mainstay of local farming but disappeared when it became uneconomical.



If you'd like to order a copy, they are £7.00 (£8.70 if you require postage). Cheques are preferred. They can be

bought from Janet Gowin, 2A Church Street, North Marston, Buckingham MK18 3PH (on 01296 670466 or at [jangowin@btinternet.com](mailto:jangowin@btinternet.com)).

## **Talks On-Line**

In common with many other clubs and societies offering talks of interest, we are looking at ways of providing a programme of local history talks through our website, so anyone with access to the internet can enjoy our annual programme of offerings from guest speakers. We are researching the installation of "live video streaming" to achieve this and anticipate this facility should be available before the end of the year. We have contacted some of the speakers who had been booked to give talks at the Wesley Centre prior to the Covid outbreak, and many have created on-line talks for this purpose.

## **The Wheatsheaf**

Many of you will know The Wheatsheaf has been sold, having been the home of the Long family since 1957. Throughout that period, the family found artefacts in the garden or in the house, for example during renovation work, and Bridget Long has carefully photographed and

catalogued this large array. Some of the items go back centuries. To see the picture gallery of these artefacts please visit our website at [www.northmarstonhistory.org.uk](http://www.northmarstonhistory.org.uk).

Whilst on the website, have a look at Bridget's delightful film about growing up at The Wheatsheaf.

### **10<sup>th</sup> Birthday!**

Amazingly, the History Club is ten years old this month. Our inaugural meeting was in The Pilgrim on 25<sup>th</sup> October 2010. Although we can't hold a party, we're running a Birthday Quiz and offering one of our much sought-after hardback original copies of "The North Marston Story" as first prize. The two runners-up will receive a free 2021 calendar. If you'd like to have a go, all the details are in the October Parish Magazine.

### **The Village Gallery**

A former resident of North Marston, Alan Williams, who sadly died this August, set up a village website and was passionate about presenting a new picture of the village every day. In the course of a few years, and with the help of a few other local resident photographers, he amassed a huge collection of pictures capturing every aspect of the village through all the seasons over several years. Everyone thought these pictures had been lost, but remarkably they have recently come to light, and the History Club hopes to make good use of them so everyone can continue to enjoy the fruits of Alan's labours yet again. Watch this space.

### **Membership Holiday**

Finally, and so as to acknowledge that club members aren't getting the range of benefits they might expect from the

club in "normal" times, the Committee has decided that for the year 2021 (ie January 2021 to January 2022) our membership fees will be free. If you wish to join the club as a new member please contact Jennifer Heffer on 01296 670273.

Clearly, this has implications for the Club. We've already seen a reduction of the funding we'd normally get through raffles and refreshments at our Wesley Centre meetings; also we will need to spend money for the recorded talks from our guest speakers, which means we will need to create additional income through the sales of items such as our 2021 calendar. Your help to this end will be most welcome.

Many thanks for your continued support.

**John Spargo, Chairman NMHC**