

## **Chairman's Report Jan 2022**

At the risk of repeating my introduction to last year's AGM Report, 2021 was yet another strange year with the club forced to curtail public gatherings and to concentrate on safer tasks.

As in 2020, we maintained and updated the website (we have lately added the History Snippets from the former parish magazine) produced newsletters and responded to numerous requests for help in searching the history of village families.

Our calendar this year was themed on "The Lost Buildings of North Marston" and sold well. My thanks to the production team of David and Sue, as well as to Janet for spearheading sales.

My own efforts were concentrated on creating the packs of snow-scene Christmas Cards which sold out of its second print run shortly before Christmas. The challenge now is to think of fresh themes for 2022 . We are always open to ideas from club members.

Earlier, I made reference to the former parish magazine. As you will know, the magazine ceased to be printed in 2019 and was produced as a digital magazine from that date. The parish council took the decision to cease producing the digital magazine at the end of 2021

and on my suggestion to disperse the content across three access points: the parish website, the North Marston and Granborough Community Facebook page and the Pew News church newsletter.

For my sins, I am the administrator of the Facebook page which basically looks after the village's news and views. It is a private group and is not for selling items. It is non-political and non-confrontational. It's about the nearest you can get to a village magazine. I urge you to have a look at it. I publish examples of the Village Gallery photographs from time to time (which the History Club inherited from Alan Williams), and of course any information about the History Club and its events. Our schedule of talks will also be promoted on the Facebook page which is currently accessed by over 300 people. This number steadily increases each week. We shall of course continue to email information to club members as well.

This coming year we intend to restart our evening talks and Sue has sent out details of these. We shall also re-start other delayed initiatives such as extending the Heritage Trail, adding a couple of new storyboards to the gallery at the Heritage Centre and continuing with the work already started on creating a war memorial on the outside of the Memorial Hall. Next year sees the centenary of the opening of the Memorial Hall, so a fitting time to achieve this objective.

As ever, I sincerely thank the Club's Executive Committee for all their hard work on your behalf. Although 2021 was another strange year, their commitment has never wavered. David has done a sterling job in his first full year as our Treasurer, as well as providing the hosting for these Zoom meetings and mastering the black arts of on-line calendar production.

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I apologise for introducing a sad note, but it's important to pause and reflect that at the end of 2021, the History Club lost a true friend, Eddie Parsley. Eddie was always keen to help us to sell items at The Shop, and through his efforts, the Club has gained enormously. His cheerful humour created the ideal public face for The Shop and it is hard to imagine how he can be replaced. Thank you Eddie, we always felt we were in safe hands entrusting our books, cards or calendars to your salesmanship.

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And so, forward into 2022 with whatever "new normal" that brings. The world we know has changed a lot in the last year, and no doubt will continue to change. But one constant is people's interest in the

history of this village, which generates motivation for the Club to keep moving forward.

After this business meeting we are showing the film “The Quainton Pilgrims”, the most recent of the numerous films you can access through our website. Making this film reminded me yet again what an amazing heritage we enjoy in this village, and how rewarding it is to search and still find the evidence all around us. We are fully committed to maintaining and protecting that heritage, come what may.

Thank you for your support.