

# North Marston History Club

## 2025 Annual Report to Parish Council

This report covers the period from April 2024 to April 2025. As in previous years, the North Marston History Club had a full programme of events with good attendances at our bi-monthly meetings.

We try each year to have a wide range of subjects for our talks and the last twelve months have demonstrated this. In May 2024 we had a talk by Alison Bailey entitled “Revolting Women” about the suffragettes who we learnt were the militant wing of the suffragists, seeking votes for women. In contrast our talk in July, given by Martin Bromiley, was entitled “From Disaster to Safety” and described the measures taken over the last decades to make air travel safer. In September we had an interesting talk about Medieval bee keeping by Liz Tice.

We finished up the year with an enthralling talk by Ingram Murray (incidentally the father of the “Pub Landlord” Al Murray) entitled “Trench Humour in the Great War”. Ingram dealt with verbal and pictorial humour and the important contribution of the pierrot groups who toured the battlefields and had a significant effect in maintaining morale.

The club AGM in January 2025 was particularly well attended despite the atrocious weather. As in previous years John Spargo gave another of his fascinating presentations, this time about Cornelius Holland who it is believed was born and grew up in Granborough. He eventually rose to be one of Oliver Cromwell’s most powerful lieutenants. During his time in power he was responsible for the desecration of many local churches and he was also one of the drafters of Charles the First’s death warrant.

Perhaps our most memorable event of the year was the unveiling of the two bronze plaques commemorating those who died in both World Wars. The plaques were unveiled on 10<sup>th</sup> November by the Venerable Guy Elsmore, Archdeacon of Buckingham, as part of the Remembrance Day Service. This event also marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the opening of the Memorial Hall in 1924. The History Club prepared an exhibition in the Schorne Room of photos and documents relating to the building and the opening of the hall along with photos of the men killed in action, for whom the hall is a memorial.

We continue to give guided tours of the village, hosted by John Spargo to local U3A groups and Sue Chaplin also takes groups from our school on tours explaining about village life in the past. During the year we have also had a number of contacts from people seeking information about deceased members of their family or friends who lived in or were associated with our village.

As reported last year we had hoped, in conjunction with the Parish Council, to renovate the Parish Barn and fit it out as a heritage centre to show what it would have looked like in the 1880s. Unfortunately, upon further investigation, it became clear that this project was rather beyond the capabilities of the History Club and regretfully we have had to abandon it.

We look forward to a continuing series of talks in the coming months with subjects such as “The Black Death” and a reshewing of the film made by John Flewin about the Royal Bucks Hospital which was shown last year but is being reshowed due to popular request.