



www.northmarstonhistory.org.uk

North Marston History Club Newsletter

October 2025

Welcome to our October Newsletter to keep you up to date with our activities. This year we have held some very interesting open evenings with talks on Bomber Command, The Black Death, Amersham in World War Two and Schooling in Winslow since 1314. John Spargo gave a talk and tour of the village to Year 3 & 4 pupils from North Marston School highlighting the sites of former village shops, post offices, pubs and significant traders from the days when the village was largely self-sufficient. Through enquiries on our website the club has also continued to help people research their ancestors. We are currently helping to find information on the 17th century Saunders family whose memorials feature on the walls of the church.

Events for the Future

We have one talk left this year to be given by an outside speaker. This is entitled “**The Royal Bucks Hospital**” by John Flewin who is back by popular demand. John gave this presentation to us last year and it was very much enjoyed. So, if you missed it do come along! It comes highly recommended. Our schedule of talks for 2026 is currently being finalised. Although the exact dates are to be determined, each of our talks will take place at the

Wesley Centre at 7.30 pm mostly on a Tuesday.

AGM 2026

Our AGM will be held at the Wesley Centre on Tuesday 20th January at 7.30pm. After the brief business meeting, John Spargo will be showing a short film “Operation Pilgrim” based on the booklet he has recently written about what happened to the pilgrimages to North Marston after John Schorne’s relics had been moved to St George’s Chapel at Windsor. So, please put this date in your diary for next year (or better still on your History Club 2026 calendar!)

2026 Calendar



The History Club Calendar for 2026 is called “**Our Village Communities Through the Years**.”

Each month features a selection of both very old and more recent photographs taken of villagers gathering in different village venues for events. So do buy one as you might feature in it! The calendars cost £8 and are available from Janet Gowin, 2A Church Street (01296 670466) or Jennifer Heffer, 2A Marston Fields Road (01296 670273). Any cheques should be made payable to "North Marston History Club" or payment by BACS to Account No 15310360 Sort Code 30-99-74 (TSB). Please reference this with your NAME and CALENDAR. They are selling fast.

Operation Pilgrim



A chance discovery of medieval floor tiles, a previously hidden section of a medieval shrine and Latin graffiti high up on the chancel arch combined to solve the answer to a question from the late 15th century. Ancient buildings

like North Marston's St Mary's church reveal their secrets slowly and only after a lot of attention to detail. It is therefore something to be celebrated when the answer to a six hundred year-old puzzle comes to light. John Spargo has pieced together the clues and reveals all in his booklet "Operation Pilgrim" that is available from the church or from the History Club (<https://northmarstonhistory.org.uk/>) for £4.00.

Membership Subscriptions

Our membership year runs from January to January so we are a little way off at the moment, but if you'd like to renew your membership for next year we shall be collecting subscriptions at our AGM. Payments can also be made into our account (Sort Code 30-99-74 Account Number 15310360) giving your SURNAME and MEMBER as the reference or in person to Jennifer Heffer, 2a Marston Fields Road, North Marston MK18 3PF. For anyone who would like to join the History Club *for the first time* please contact Jennifer Heffer with your details at jenniferheffer@icloud.com or on 01296 670273. Membership fees this year will be £6 for an individual and £10 for a couple. Membership gives you free entry into the five talks per year by an outside speaker (for which we ask £2 from non-members). Details can be obtained on our website www.northmarstonhistory.org.uk

We continue to be very grateful to all of you who support the History Club by becoming members, attending our talks or buying our publications.

David Bayly
Sue Chaplin

