

NORTH MARSTON HISTORY CLUB

DRAFT MINUTES OF AGM

20th JANUARY 2026

The Annual General Meeting of the NMHC was held on 20th January 2026

PRESENT: John Spargo, Sue Chaplin, David Bayly, Jennifer Heffer, Rosemary Morton, Janet Gowin, Tony Franklin, Amy Haynes, David Midwinter, David Body, Val Newby, Dan Boylan, Jackie Lloyd Jones, Jane Derry, Elizabeth Crocker, Val York, Barbara Fisher, Carole Webb, Robert Webb, Clive Dobbs, Clive Robinson, Russ Shearman, Julie Brunswick, Jan Brandon, Mike Brandon, Nikki Day, Teri Selfe, Marc Fraser, Les Penrice, Guy Elsmore, Anne Ketteridge

AGENDA

1. Welcome David Bayly, Joint Chairperson, welcomed everyone.

2. Approval of Minutes of 2025 AGM The Minutes of the North Marston History Club AGM 2025 were approved by John Spargo and seconded by Carole Webb.

3. Election of Joint Chairmen David Bayly and Sue Chaplin were re-elected as Joint Chairmen, nominated by Elizabeth Crocker and seconded by Les Penrice.

4. Election of New Committee Member Clive Dobbs was approved by Robert Webb and seconded by Jackie Lloyd Jones. Clive will undertake the role of Assistant Internet Researcher and Archivist.

5. Re-election of Club Committee The following elections took place for roles on the NMHC Committee:

Function	Nominee	Nominated by	Seconded by
Joint Chairmen	David Bayly Sue Chaplin	Rosemary Morton	Val York
Secretary	Sue Chaplin	*	*
Treasurer	David Bayly	*	*
Technical & Creative Support	John Spargo	Stephen Logsdail David Midwinter	
Membership Secretary	Jennifer Heffer	*	*
Sales Co-ordinator	Janet Gowin	*	*
Archivists	John Spargo Sue Chaplin	*	*
Internet Researcher	Jayne Springer	*	*
Publicity/Distribution	Rosemary Morton	*	*

* These Committee members were nominated, seconded and re-elected on a block vote approved by Val York and seconded by Les Penrice.

6. Treasurer's Report for 2025

David Bayly gave the following report:

There is not a great deal to report this year as we have had another good year of interesting presentations but have had no particularly large financial commitments.

As in previous years the cost of our meetings mainly speakers fees and hire of the Wesley Centre are usually covered by membership subscriptions and entry fees for non-members, the raffle and donations for refreshments.

Our 2026 Calendar entitled "Our village communities through the years" was very well received last Autumn and we have sold all the copies which has given us a profit of slightly over £300. We would welcome any ideas members may have for suitable subjects for the 2027 Calendar.

This year we sold three copies of our history of the village called "The North Marston Story" which provided an additional £90 of income.

In addition John Spargo produced a very interesting pamphlet called "Operation Pilgrim" which he will present at our AGM. These pamphlets, in full colour, are now available for purchase.

The laptop in the Wesley Centre which we provided a number of years ago was getting rather unreliable so earlier in the year we applied to the North Marston Parish Council for a grant to buy a new one. We would like to thank the Parish Council for their generous grant of £200 that covered the cost of a new laptop and software which can now be used for audio visual presentations in the Wesley Centre.

As noted last year we now undertake nearly all of our banking operations by mobile banking and would encourage members to make direct payment into our bank account via BACS, whenever this is possible. Please ensure that your reference identifies what the payment is for.

Having maintained our yearly subscription at £5 for a single membership and £8 for a double membership for many years we felt that a modest increase would be acceptable. Single membership for 2026 is now £6 and double membership £10, I hope you feel that this is good value for money and you will continue to support our club.

A simple profit and loss account for the calendar year 2025 is attached herewith. Our bank account stands at £2878.59 which we believe is satisfactory as we look forward to another year of interesting talks and events.

North Marston History Club

Year Ending 31st December 2025

Statement Balance b/f.	1 st January 2025	£2660.20
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Receipts

Membership and Donations	449.05
Meetings	399.51
"North Marston Story" Ed 2	89.99

Sundry Booklets and badges	17.85
Calendars and Cards	779.40
Sundry items	200.00
	1935.80
	<u>4596.00</u>

Payments

Printing/copying/stationery	47.77
Meeting expenses incl. hire of WC	445.00
Website	236.46
Calendars	480.95
Booklets and Leaflets	207.96
Sundry Items incl. equipment	299.27
	<u>1717.41</u>
Balance c/f	2878.59

Statement Balance as at 31st December 2025 2878.59

J Tait
Hon. Auditor

David Bayly
Treasurer

North Marston History Club Reconciliation 2025

Bank Balance per statement 01.01.25	£2660.20
Bank balance per statement 31.12.25	£2878.59
Cheques uncashed	0.0

Income to be banked	0.00
	0.00

Reconciled bank balance 31.12.25 2878.59

Diff 218.39

Income	1935.80
Expenditure	1717.41
Diff	218.39

Opening Balance	2660.20
Closing Balance	2878.59

7. Chairman's Report

Sue Chaplin gave the following report:

2025 was a quieter year for History Club in that we undertook no major projects as we have done in most previous years. Our membership was very healthy with over eighty members and the new card payment service we introduced has now begun to function well.

We continued our programme of bi-monthly talks which included Cornelius Holland; the Granborough King Killer; Bomber Command: the People; The Black Death in Winslow; Home Fires and Havens; and (back by popular request) The Story of the Royal Bucks Hospital.

Our annual calendar continues to be very popular and back in the summer of 2025 we decided on the 2026 title of Our Village Communities Through the Years. Once again it was virtually sold out by Christmas and our thanks are due again to David Bayly for putting it all together and grappling with the internet to get it produced in time.

Our thanks to John Spargo who, although stepping down as chairman last year, continues to make huge contributions to the club in so many ways, monitoring the steady stream of enquiries which come through our website, promoting the club on social media, and of course doing his own historical research, the result of which we shall be seeing shortly in his film Operation Pilgrim. John has written a booklet to accompany the film which is available to buy here this evening. I know he is also currently investigating the site of the old Saxon churchyard here in North Marston which suggests that there was a church here in the early 800s, three hundred years before a stone church was first built.. John also gave the school pupils from Years 3 and 4 a tour of the village this year looking at old sites such as the shops and businesses. John had to undergo a major operation this year and we are really pleased to see him back to full health.

We are very grateful for the continuing support we receive from people in both this village and beyond, and are always pleased to receive donations of old interesting artefacts related to North Marston. Recently Neil Tuckett presented us with a first edition of The North Marston Magazine from 1870 which is now on display in our cabinet.

This year we have a full programme of talks lined up and these will benefit considerably from the new sound-proofing system which has been installed in the Wesley Centre.

David and I would like to thank the Committee for all their hard work and support throughout the year as well as the band of distributors who deliver our newsletters throughout the village. We are delighted to welcome Clive Dobbs as a new member of the Committee who will be taking on the role of Assistant Researcher and Archivist. I've known Clive since we were pupils at North Marston village school. He has a deep interest in local history and in 2000 co-wrote a book on the history of Granborough. In 2025 David and I were voted in as joint-chairpersons (along with our respective roles of treasurer and secretary) and I'm sure he will agree that this has worked well.

To end, we'd like to thank all our members who continue to support us and help to keep the History Club going.

After the conclusion of the Business meeting a film by John Spargo was shown entitled "Operation Pilgrim".

Refreshments were served and a raffle was held.

Sue Chaplin
Secretary to NMHC