**Report to 2017 Annual Village Meeting: North Marston History Club**

Since it’s inception in October 2010, the History Club has gone from strength to strength. With annual membership now averaging about 100, our turnover since 2013 has totalled £32,000 through grants and income from sales. Our website receives about 1000 hits a year and is an important gateway for enquiries from all over the world.

Of the Club’s achievements in bringing the village’s history to life, the most recent step in this direction has been the creation of the Heritage Centre in the newly-refurbished Wesley Centre in Schorne Lane. This comprises static displays and story-boards, as well as a library of reference books, all offering an accessible window into North Marston’s rich history and a central source of material for anyone undertaking research. These permanent features will be the backdrop to a series of themed displays and exhibitions mounted throughout the year, creating a *pop-up Heritage experience*. To this end, the History Club has equipped the Wesley Centre with signage, furniture, projection and sound equipment. In fact, the Club’s investment towards creating a modern generic meeting place totals more than £6K, over and above the money it has invested in display cabinets and story-boards.

The History Club has an Annual programme of events and publishes a quarterly Newsletter that is widely distributed throughout the village. But our role extends to people from outside the village; we exchange information with other local History Groups to collate a list of speakers who can give talks on a range of subjects associated with local history and rural crafts. We publish a number of guides for visitors to the church, maintain the Village Heritage Trail and host visits to the village from visiting groups such as U3A groups.

We are consulted concerning local buildings and historical artefacts and receive frequent web-site enquiries from family historians. The History Club is a member of the Association of Independent Museums.

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