

## **Report to Annual Parish Meeting 2018**

### **North Marston History Club**

Now in its eighth year, the History Club has recently undertaken a major overhaul of its website, which now includes many more items such as our oral history sound files and copies of our storyboards from the Heritage Centre.

Our monthly presentations have gone up a gear as we now commission talks from semi-professional and professional speakers, some of whom give their presentation in period costume and bring genuine artefacts for the period or topic of their talk. Feedback so far has been very positive indeed. The talks are promoted using posters designed for us by a professional graphic artist.

We have recently assured our compliance with GDPR by making changes to the way we manage existing member information as well as the information we collect from new members.

This November sees the centenary of the end of the Great War and we will be mounting a display about how this village paid a heavy price, losing 22 young men in the conflict which triggered the construction of this hall as North Marston's memorial. We plan to co-sponsor a "silent soldier" silhouette from the Royal British Legion that will stand outside the Memorial Hall as a visual reminder of those that failed to return from the First World War.

And finally, we are working on shifting the orientation of some of our future activity to make it more interesting and relevant to children, as we recognise the stewardship of the village history will one day be in their hands. We have recently developed some on-line interactive history quizzes for local children as a way of spear-heading further child-centred activity. We have also worked with specific classes from the school, as well as the local Cubs and Beavers, on history-themed activities.

Our membership is currently about 140 and our AGM is next Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> May.

*John Spargo, Chairman*