**North Marston History Club Annual Report 2022**

2021 was yet another strange year with the club forced to curtail public gatherings and to concentrate on safer tasks.

As in 2020, we maintained and updated the website: we have added the History Snippets from the former parish magazine, produced newsletters and responded to numerous requests for help in searching the history of village families.

Our calendar this year was themed on “The Lost Buildings of North Marston” and sold well. The Club also created packs of snow-scene Christmas Cards which sold out of its second print run shortly before Christmas.

The parish magazine ceased to be printed in 2019 and was produced as a digital magazine from that date. The parish council took the decision to cease producing the digital magazine at the end of 2021 and agreed to disperse the content across three access points: the parish website, the North Marston and Granborough Community Facebook page and the Pew News church newsletter.

Apart from being the Chairman of the History Club I am also the administrator of the Community Facebook page which basically looks after the village’s news and views. It is a private group and is not for selling items. I publish examples of the Village Gallery photographs from time to time (the History Club inherited these from Alan Williams), History Snippets and of course any information about the History Club and its events. Our schedule of talks is also promoted on the Facebook page which is currently accessed by over 500 people. This number steadily increases each week. We continue to email information to club members as well. Maintaining contact has been essential during a period when face to face meetings have not been possible. Our committee meetings were held via Zoom during the year.

This year (2022) we have restarted our evening talks and we are also making progress on other delayed initiatives such as extending the Heritage Trail, adding a couple of new storyboards to the gallery at the Heritage Centre and looking to continuing with the work already started on creating a war memorial on the outside of the Memorial Hall. Next year sees the centenary of the opening of the Memorial Hall, so a fitting time to achieve this objective.

Our Facebook posts, especially some of the village photographs of events or school classes has attracted much interest and participation in “putting a name to the face”. One of our Club’s objectives is to broaden the age range of people aware and interested in the history of North Marston, including its social history. Social media like Facebook is an ideal way for us to reach a wider audience.

**John Spargo**

**11th May 2022**