



NWMMOC visits Malmesbury Saturday 6 April 2019 Report by Gill Waters

13 of us descended on Malmesbury to see the Moravian Church that had been renovated to a high class meeting place.

Sharon Nolan (Bill, our Chairman's partner and Chair of Athelstan Museum) introduced us to the building, showing us how the church, no longer used as a place of worship, had been changed and expertly renovated, including the glass topped well in the centre of the hall, revealing the stream that ran beneath. The room was surrounded by wood panelling which concealed space for tables to be stored. Tea and coffee were provided for us.

Above was a balcony which was a store for artefacts for the Athelstan Museum with beautiful, glass sliding doors underneath which led to a kitchen and toilets.

Bill then told us about the "Malmesbury Voices" project he is carrying out to record interviews with local people, telling of memories of Malmesbury's past. These were very interesting and we enjoyed seeing photographs of times past of the High Street and other areas. We heard from a solicitor from the town who had watched the town grow to what it is today. One of the photographs was of the supermarket in the main street which started life as Fine Fare, a building that didn't really fit in with all the other beautiful architecture in the surrounding area. We were also told about characters of the town, remembered by many.

After Bill's talk we left the church and walked around to the Museum where we saw many artefacts from years ago including ancient coins. A very interesting museum, a jewel in Malmesbury's' crown. Members then walked around to the "Whole Hog" for lunch which was delicious. We all agreed that this trip was a very informative and interesting, many of us had not seen Malmesbury in such depth before.

A great day out.

