

Ladies and Gentlemen

It was with a little trepidation that we restarted our meetings last September. The COVID rules were challenging at times, for example, making the Committee rethink how we dealt with enrolment, social distancing, ensuring that people moved safely through the foyer to the church etc.

However, it was worthwhile. We have 115 members and there have been 61 visitors, with an average meeting attendance of 73. I think I can confidently say that the Society has emerged safely from lockdown. However, we are always looking for new members. It would be nice if we could emerge from the various lockdowns with a new record membership. We need thirtyone more members. Who do you know who would like to join?

Last October, Mark Whittaker who runs the Marple Website accepted the Committee's invitation to become President. Mark isn't here tonight but he has asked me to read the following to you:

**I'm sorry not to attend the society's AGM.**

**I'm well on the road to full recovery following an operation in November and a course of chemotherapy finished just over a week ago. However, my doctors advise that my immune system will take around 4 to 6 weeks to fully recover and I need to avoid large groups as a precaution until then.**

**I would like to thank the committee for inviting me to become President of the society, it's a great honour that I was very pleased and proud to accept.**

**I'm looking forward to working with the committee going forward and would like to thank them for the wonderful job they've done in keeping the society going throughout the pandemic. It looks to me like things are in good shape for the future of Marple Local History Society.**

At the beginning of lockdown we decided to increase the content of our Newsletter and we have also expanded the Website. We regularly receive praise for both. I would like to thank everyone involved but particularly David (Newsletter editor) and Martin (Webmaster). Articles from existing and new contributors are always welcome.

The Archives group continues to meet on Thursday mornings and current projects include cataloguing, researching and checking files for Data Protection. However, our priority at the moment is putting together an Exhibition to commemorate the centenary of the dedication of the War Memorial Park. The exhibition will be held at the Library from the 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> July. It is part of a series of events to mark the centenary. Have you memories of Marple Park that you would like to share? We'd love to hear from you and include them.

And finally, we are always looking for new ideas. If you feel you can contribute to our development by joining the committee we would welcome your help.

Hilary Atkinson  
25<sup>th</sup> April 2022