

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2020

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Corona virus pandemic has affected all our lives quite dramatically. For the Society, it meant cancelling our March and April meetings as well as visits and Summer strolls whilst at the same time, hoping that it would not be too long before things were back to normal.

Our initial response to this difficult situation was to maintain contact with members via our regular Newsletters, which continued through the Summer months when we would normally take a break. I know from the positive feedback received that these communications have been, and continue to be, welcomed.

The 6 talks that took place from September to February were well attended, average attendance being 127. Subjects included the History of the Ordnance Survey Map and 90 years of Swizzels-Matlow - there won't have been many in the audience who did not recall the sweets of their childhood, Parma Violets and Love Hearts to name but two. February's meeting, the Leghs of Lyme, had the highest attendance at 129.

We replaced our guided Summer evening strolls with 3 'virtual strolls', all in Marple: Judith Wilshaw's Rubbing Tile Trail from Mellor Mill to the aqueduct, Neil Mullineux's Brabyns Park and canal trail, and Steve Gent's Tramway Wharf and its related industries. The guides to these walks are available on our website.

Archive enquiries have increased probably because more people with time on their hands decided to research family history. The Archives team have risen to the challenge. The team resumed Thursday morning meetings in July but these have been suspended again during local lockdown.

Our president, Ann Hearle, has had health issues this year and we wish her well and hope that she continues to make progress. I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their commitment to the Society during these difficult times and finally to thank Ann Williams, our Treasurer for the last 3 years who is stepping down from this role.

I hope it is not too long before some sort of normality returns and we are able to meet at the Methodist Church. In the meantime, stay safe.

Hilary Atkinson
Chairman