

## Chair's Report

AGM held on 15 April 2024

at Marple Methodist Church at 7.45pm

This has been another successful year with membership up to 161 plus a total of 55 visitors through the year who came to several of the 8 talks that have been provided. This gave an average attendance of 95 although at 3 meetings the attendance was over 100 people. These facts alone describe a successful, well run, well organised Society which is appreciated by the members.

The subject of the talks has been varied and the assumption is that somebody is getting the mix quite right because of the attendance figures but we are always open to suggestions if there are subjects you would like covered.

An exhibition was prepared for the coronation of King Charles III and initially displayed in the Marple library but was also used at St Martin's Church, the Marple Bridge street party and the Methodist church so we got good value for money from it. Coronation memorabilia was loaned from many members of the public and we had items going back to the coronation of Edward VII and Queen Alexandra in 1902 right through every coronation up to Elizabeth II in 1953.

Our newsletter and website are of a high quality and attract a lot of interest and attention. Thanks go to the many people who work so hard to keep up this standard including Mark Whitaker, Martin Cruikshank, Neil Mullineux and David Burrige. The website attracts a lot of enquiries and questions so thanks go to the archive group for keeping all the records and for helping to deal with any enquiries which can be a time consuming job

This Society would not run without the committee and the people you probably see at every meeting like Judith Wilshaw who organises the trips and Neil Derbyshire our treasurer. I also want to recognise the work of others some of who work behind the scenes but their efforts are still important to keeping the Society vibrant. People like Karen Wellings who always has the tea and coffee ready and Philip Singleton who sits at the back and helps Martin with the IT equipment

Thank you all for your efforts and your support through the year. I could not carry out my role without you being there and I appreciate you all.