

Kate's Notes for the AGM (29 April 2020)

Chairman's Report AGM May 2020

General Comments

In general, ODFHS has enjoyed a productive twelve months, and I am incredibly grateful for all the time and effort the committee and other members have given to keep the Society running. I am conscious that other family history societies across the country have been going through difficult times (in some cases, they have been wound down completely) so, although our activities have been disrupted in recent weeks, it is encouraging to see that enough people still value the work of ODFHS to make our existence worthwhile.

2019/20 has seen us hold some varied meetings; notably, in April we welcomed members from Australia, and in July our speaker came all the way from Worcestershire. The November quiz was as competitive as ever, and members supported the raffle and very generously, raising around £40. We hope that the speakers originally booked by Dot for 2020 will be able to visit us at some point in the future, when things get back to normal.

Dig Up Your Roots in West Lancashire was a landmark in our 2019 calendar, benefitting from not only a financial grant from the North-West Group of Family History Societies but also the presence of sixteen like-minded groups and societies. Many offered compliments on the day, and expressed interest in attending a similar event in the future. If circumstances allow, this could be considered for 2021 or 2022.

Particular credit is due to Bill Huyton for passing on his meticulous planning notes from the 2011 and 2012 events, which made planning the room layout much easier, to our committee members and our young helpers who gave part or all of Saturday 5 October 2019 to make Dig Up Your Roots a success.

Although there have been recent issues with the Parish Chest website, as of today, I have seen Bill's updates to our section of the site, and think the option to add photos of our CDs etc is a really positive change.