

Ormskirk and District Family History Society
Chair's AGM Report
May 2021

I would like to thank our members for their support and patience in the past twelve months, even when faced with cancelled meetings, no possibility of the Society attending public events, and delayed magazines; after all, without our members, ODFHS would not exist. The Executive Committee also deserve the very highest praise for adjusting to virtual meetings so readily, and I have been very grateful to have their support, advice and ideas.

In recent years, the Family History Federation has stressed the importance of family history societies moving with the times, and adapting what they offer to suit the twenty-first century world. COVID-19 struck just as we were hoping to make all sorts of plans for our 40th anniversary year, and although 2020 was not what anyone expected it to be, if there is a positive side, I think the pandemic has prompted us to modernise the way we operate as a Society.

It would be impossible to write this report without mentioning the loss of Bill Huyton in January 2021; the fact that the Society received condolences from representatives of many groups who form part of the wider family and local history community only served to prove how hard Bill worked on behalf of ODFHS.

Recently, after attending a Federation Zoom meeting, Pam Richardson remarked that she thought ODFHS was technologically more up-to-date than some other societies; clearly, every volunteer in every society can only offer what they can, but I believe that (as a society) the changes we have made have put us in a better position to move forward into the future.