

Ormskirk and District Family History Society - Chair's AGM Report
May 2022

Thank you to all of our members for patiently waiting for our face-to-face meetings to restart. I hope that those who were able to access our Zoom meetings enjoyed the programme we devised; it was a particular pleasure to be able to offer non-local members and speakers an opportunity to give presentations, and to hear some brand new talks. It was just as wonderful to welcome you back to our live meetings in February 2022, and I look forward to both our meetings and the chance to attend outside events again this year. The Executive Committee continue to meet via Zoom, which seems an efficient (and possibly cost-effective?) way to review the Society's activities and make plans. A huge amount of work has been going on behind the scenes, including a brand new memorial inscriptions project for Christ Church Aughton, which should be far more user-friendly format than our existing publication.

Our Zoom Family History Chats draw a small crowd, those who attend them say that they enjoy interacting with other ODFHS members, and a huge variety of topics have been discussed. Our "regulars" come from the UK, Australia and New Zealand, and we plan to continue these sessions in the future.

We have all experienced huge changes since 2020, and after sixteen years, Andrew Scarisbrick has decided to step down from the Executive Committee. Andrew was our Membership Secretary between 2008 and 2014, and has volunteered his time at many events, including Who Do You Think You Are? Live in Birmingham, Ormskirk's Mediaeval Festivals and a Golden Jubilee event in Aughton. Many of you will have enjoyed his presentations at ODFHS meetings, featuring his own research, technology in family history, and Scarisbrick Lodge, in Southport. We truly thank him for his commitment to the Society; his knowledge has been invaluable.

Anyone who is considering volunteering with ODFHS is very welcome to get in touch. Any assistance (from submitting an item for our magazine or digital library to helping out at events) will always be valued. Please feel free to talk to me or send an e-mail to chairman@odfhs.email

Kate Hurst.