

**ESSEX SOCIETY FOR FAMILY HISTORY**

**NORTH WEST BRANCH**

**2020 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

It's a great shame that we are unable to hold our Annual General Meeting as we usually do but these are exceptional times and I hope you will agree that the email/post solution is the best way of holding a "virtual" AGM. I discussed this option with John Young, the Vice-Chairman of the Society who agreed that this is an excellent solution to our problem. The main Society AGM has been postponed until 17 October and you are all invited to attend by Zoom. It is hoped that future talks will be "broadcast" by Zoom, subject to the speakers' permission.

We were so sorry to lose Colin Francis and John Read this year. Colin and his wife, Dorothy, had been stalwart members of the Society for many years and their daughter Anne has been in touch about his research. John was Branch Chairman when I joined the Society and subsequently he was Treasurer for many years. He transcribed the burial records of our Parish Church and also the Essex Hearth Tax. We shall miss his knowledge of Latin and palaeography. I sent cards from the Branch to the families of both Colin and John.

Olive Newman had a nasty accident. I saw her son Howard recently who said that his mother is making a remarkable recovery. I sent a card to Olive when she was in hospital.

We had our usual Christmas Quiz which we all enjoyed and made excellent progress with the St Mary's baptisms in March but obviously we have been unable to meet since that time.

I have attended Executive Meetings throughout the year, travelling to Galleywood until the corona virus reared its ugly head and since March we have held our meetings by Zoom and will continue to do so in the future.

I should like to thank Mike and Alan for their sterling work as Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

Stay safe

Janice M. Sharpe