

## **Mere Historical Society**

### **Chairman's Report - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021**

My report to the Society this year is inevitably a short one. At our last meeting in March of last year we foresaw an issue with COVID-19, but had no idea of its consequences and that it would result in the Society being completely inactive for over a year. As a consequence a second successive AGM has been cancelled.

There is now, thankfully, a mood of optimism. Vaccines are available to an increasing proportion of the population and a gradual relaxation of constraints is planned, leading to a probable removal in time for our autumn programme. I must thank David and Julia for maintaining contact with some of our speakers while we have been inactive, so they can be part of the new programme which is being prepared. As soon as we know the date and conditions under which a hall will be available, we will be able to plan and publicise the details.

There has also been activity in other areas. Derek has taken charge of the Society's Archive, which has been temporarily removed from the URC and the cataloguing (financed by a grant from the Lecture Hall Trust, for which we are grateful), has been completed. My thanks to him also.

Finally, my thanks particularly to all the members for their patience and continued support. I find it remarkable that, with the problems we have had this year, we still have had 95 subscriptions. I am sure we will soon return to our usual numbers and things will return to something like normal.

Gerry Cook