

Ranmoor Society AGM January 2023 – Chair’s Report

When looking back at the activities of the Society over the past 12 months it is sometimes too easy to think of those areas where we did not do as well as we had hoped (hybrid meetings for example). However, I was much heartened when one of our autumn speakers commented upon the impressive number of members in attendance that evening coupled with the fact that we have kept going throughout the restrictions of the pandemic. This is in contrast to many small local clubs and societies which stopped their meetings and have yet to recommence. This is due in no small part to the willingness of your committee members to continue to be fully involved and to you, as members, to continue to show your support.

Of course, we have been very saddened during the year to have lost the services of two stalwart committee members, Wendy Woodhouse who died in September and Peter Warr who moved into a residential home and is no longer able to be involved. We miss them both. One specific issue that this gave rise to was the housing of the Society’s archive. We appreciated the help of members in identifying a new home for the archive boxes in Broomhill Library. We hope to shortly provide a summary of the material contained in the archive boxes. If you wish to borrow any particular folders then this can be arranged for you

I hope you will agree that our programme of speakers last year gave us a range of topics with new insights into local history. Attendances each month have been slowly increasing (to around 30), though we are still some way off the high numbers we saw in 2019 (in excess of 40). There were 131 members at the start of 2022, either individual or household, and six new members joined during the year. After leavers for various reasons, we start this year with 128 members (60% individual and 40% household).

As well as the speakers at meetings we continue to produce regular issues of Ranmoor Notes which gives another opportunity to learn something new about the history of this area. Particular thanks to Gerald Eveleigh for his leadership of Notes, Peter Marrison for arranging the printing and distribution and to those of you who volunteer to deliver Notes to members. If any member is interested in writing a short piece for Notes then please contact Gerald. Supporting research material from the archive can, of course, be made available

I am pleased to report that we propose to maintain the subscription rate unchanged for 2024 and that all the current committee members are willing to continue for a further year. And please remember that non-members are always welcome at our meetings – at a cost of just £2 it is excellent value.

Mike Killingley, Chair