

## **Macclesfield Group Leaders Report 2019/20.**

Unfortunately the AGM of the Macclesfield group, due to be held in September 2020, was cancelled due to the coronavirus pandemic.

**Meetings:** The planned programme of meetings for the 2019-2020 season was curtailed in March 2020.

Before that we had had four very interesting meetings

22nd October Not Forgotten a talk by Geoff Archer about how, why, for whom, and by whom, were local war memorials produced.

26th November Quarries, Mines & the Macclesfield Canal a talk by David Kitching about the construction of the canal which allowed industries to reach existing markets more easily and also encouraged expansion to new markets.

28th January 2020 History from Local Sources a talk by Ian Doughty exploring the historical possibilities from family memorabilia and local media.

25th February Wagons West a talk by Ian Cameron about three brothers of a Cheshire ancestor who converted to Mormonism in its early years and in about 1850 set off for the U.S. with their families. They travelled on sailing ships and on wagons across the Great Plains, with three entirely different outcomes.

I am planning to start a programme of meetings using Zoom video conferencing service.

**Membership:** We currently have 150 society members who are members of the Macclesfield group and 29 non-members who receive our newsletter.

**Committee:** I'd also like to thank the committee and all the volunteers who work behind the scenes to help run the group. Special thanks go to Julie Skirvin for making the refreshments (who is still in need of an assistant - there's no washing up involved – please have a word with Julie) and the all the people who do the little things like putting out the chairs without being asked.

Rosie Rowley has stepped down as Treasurer of the group but Mike Fidgett has kindly agreed to take on the roll.

We have a vacancy for a programme secretary - this involves emailing or phoning speakers to arrange dates, reminding them just before their talk and then thanking them afterwards either by email or phone. The committee provide the names of the speakers.

The present committee is:

Group Leader Jean Laidlaw

Treasurer Mike Fidgett

Secretary Gill Parry

Projects coordinator Peter Ramsden

Front of house coordinator Babs Johnson

**Website:** The website has recently been revamped and is now quicker and easier to use. I have added some pictures of Macclesfield and short articles to the Macclesfield group section of the website, but more are needed so if anyone has photographs of historical Macclesfield that they would allow me to use I would be very grateful.

Although I have enjoyed my time as group leader I have decided that this will be my last year. I think after five years a new perspective is needed. Also I think it is time to finally get around to writing up my own family history!

### **Project report**

Unfortunately there is little to report.

The Military hospitals (the workhouse and Infirmary records) transcriptions have been finally checked and are being prepared for publication..

Peter has some new ideas for projects and hopefully you will all get involved with these.