

## Chairman's Report 2023

I am pleased to report that the Society continues to thrive and our membership has increased to a record 152 members. This season we have enjoyed a wide range of interesting talks including the life of Alan Turing and the High Peak Dambuster. Visits have resumed, as have exhibitions; we have published a new book and our e-Newsletter, website, and Archives continue to prosper.

The Society thrives because of the hard work and commitment given by Committee members and non-committee members, for which I say a big 'thank you'.

However, having been a member of the Society for over 30 years and having completed two periods as Chairman, totalling 14 years, I have decided that now is the right time for me to step down. One of our objectives is to "develop and foster an interest in and appreciation of the history of Marple and the surrounding area" and I believe we fulfil this aim and much more. I am particularly proud that under my Chairmanship we have launched our amazing website, amongst the best that I have seen.

David Burridge, Ruth Hargreaves, Karen Wellings and Mark Whittaker are also leaving the Committee and I would like to thank them for their hard work. Like me, they will still be involved - David continues as Membership Secretary, Ruth and Karen as members of the Archives Team and Mark hosts our website and publishes our extensive collection of over 2,400 photographs on the Virtual Tour of Marple. However, it is important to encourage new Committee Members, with new ideas who will help take the Society forward and I am pleased that tonight we have three members who wish to join the Committee.

I have mostly enjoyed being Chairman and working with the Committee, but I believe it is time for me to take a break and amongst other things, concentrate on writing my next book and working with my friends at Archives.

Hilary Atkinson