



YORK MEDICAL SOCIETY

It is a great honour to have been chosen as York Medical Society's President for its 189th season, and I hope to do the role justice.

On behalf of the members, I would like to thank the outgoing president, Jim Drife. His eloquence, wit, calm good sense and contacts gave us a great year. He has made us all aware what a thriving and valued society we have; to be treasured and nurtured. He remains on the board and is also Honorary Librarian.

Thanks also to David Pring, Bob Adams and Brook Adams as they step down from the board. They have all contributed hugely.

Bob, an ex-President, latterly leading on HR.

Brook, despite his unrelenting NHS commitments has coordinated the Founder's prize for research by junior doctors.

David, also an ex-President, will remain ex officio Curator of Instruments.

We welcome Mark Roman and Tim Hughes on to the committee. Both are local GPs and we look forward to working with them.

As we are now tenants of York Conservation Trust, we are free to focus on our core aims, namely:

- a charitable organisation making regular donations
- base for members to use for their own special events, or just to drop in for respite whilst in town
- a place to meet colleagues across specialities in relaxed, convivial surroundings away from the pressures of the work environment. Somewhere to meet old friends and make new ones
- continued medical education

This has been an interesting few months and you will not be surprised to hear that there has been a lot of activity behind the scenes.

Our Treasurer, Mike, says that he has never been busier and Jane, our Manager, has adapted superbly to whatever the crisis has thrown at her.

We have furloughed staff, cancelled summer events and room bookings. We meet by Zoom.

Due to fiscal prudence, hard work and using government initiatives, our finances remain healthy.

We are investing in IT to make sure our lectures can go ahead. Our website is being overhauled thanks to Sarah Anderson and the website sub-committee.

The lecture theatre and corridors have been redecorated.

We are open for members to drop in and use.

Regulations have been scrutinised for allowing small group bookings and we assess these on a case by case basis.

The Programme of Events is attached below.

All of the speakers are happy to give their talks however will be possible; at the moment, we are planning that they will take place in the lecture theatre with a select, live audience, and broadcast live probably by Zoom. Those wishing to attend will have to pre-book by email on a first come, first served basis and there will be strict adherence to social distancing, hand sanitising, room cleaning etc. There will not be any food after the events.

All meetings will also be filmed and recorded.

The Annual Dinner has been postponed until January 23rd, replacing the Burns Supper.

The Oration will go ahead as planned on October 10th

Our Orator is Dr Clare Gerada, MBE.

A past president of the RCGP and a regular contributor to the BMJ, she is also clinical chair for NHS England's long term planning committee.

The Oration is titled: "Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other", a quote from John F Kennedy.

She tells me that she is "Zoomed out", so is keen to come to York and talk to an, albeit small, live audience.

We shall also be Zooming it and hope to be able to take questions from afar.

Our first social event of the year, the wine tasting on August 14th, will be going ahead – again remotely.

By now you will have had details from Stuart, and I hope that as many of you as possible will support his innovative initiative.

I will continue to keep you informed and can reassure you that we are doing our very best to ride out this storm.

Jonathan Evans

President, York Medical Society