**THE ARTS SOCIETY LEICESTER**

**Chairman’s Report to Annual General Meeting**

It has been without doubt a most difficult year for the society. As we start to experience the restrictions of the second lockdown, which began on 5 November, it is impossible to predict where the country, Leicestershire and Leicester, and the Arts Society Leicester might be in twelve months time. Society activities were cut off abruptly in March with the announcement of the first lockdown. All lectures were cancelled as were visits and the three day holiday to Liverpool. The Church Recorders, Heritage Volunteers and the Community Arts Group were unable to function.

Despite this there have been some successes. By fortunate timing, just before the first lockdown Ann Allsop and Lesley Davies organised a workshop where members created silk painted and 3D cards. Nicky and Mike Drucquer have produced a Trail of Discovery at the Great Meeting Unitarian Chapel in the city centre. In October the Church Recorders were able to hand over the completed record for Hoby church. Our thanks are due to Ann Lewis who compiled the final record and was able to hand it over to the church.

Despite the difficulties brought about by the lockdown we have to plan for when we might be able to resume normal activities. Will Gilding is now extending the lecture programme running through to June 2021. Ann Allsop is planning a photographic competition with students from English Martyrs School to be held next summer

We have now held our second Zoom lecture with two more lectures to be held before the New Year. The take up so far has been encouraging and I urge those who have not yet joined a lecture meeting to do so.

Your committee has continued to function, albeit over Zoom. For me as chairman it has been gratifying to see the commitment of the committee to ensure that the society will survive. I am grateful to them all and for their agreement to stay on the committee to see the society through the present difficulties.

**Martin Wragg**

Chairman
10 November 2020