

## **Chairman of the Worcestershire Medico-Legal Society's Report for 2019-20**

At the risk of saying what just about everybody else is saying, this was an unusual year. We started well with an excellent and very well attended talk by Prof. Robert Grimer on 'Arthritis, Joint Replacements and the Law'. There was a really good discussion and it was heartening to see such a mix of attendees including judges, university students, lawyers, health care professionals and also members of the University's IMPACT group, most of whom are Associate Lecturers, and who are service users and carers. I thought that this was a really good start to the year but of course in the event that was that.

The next talk, scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> March, was to have been by Dr. Jonathan Leach on 'Military patients: dispelling myths and looking after patients' but this was at the very start of the pandemic and it had to be cancelled. Both this talk and the one scheduled for May on Physician Associates will be rescheduled. The same applies to the talk which was originally scheduled for January on 'Mentally Disordered Offenders in the Hospital System' and so at least we have three excellent talks to look forward to.

In the result we decided not to collect any subscriptions for 2020-21 and at the start of the autumn term we were left wondering if it would be possible at all to hold face to face meetings in the immediate future. When it became clear that this would not be so I asked the University if they would be willing to assist us in holding meetings remotely. They kindly agreed and so your committee met by Zoom and decided on a number of future topics and speakers. For now, these will be remote meetings but personally I cannot wait to get back to actually meeting people and simply being with others rather than seeing them on a computer screen. Thus as the year progresses and the promised vaccine becomes more readily available it may be possible to have an actual meeting. As those who know me are aware, I am an incurable optimist!

May I as ever thank all of our committee members for their constant support and for being such a fertile source of ideas for speakers. The committee members for 2019/20 were: Dr. Tony Cole, Dr. Jonathan Leach, Dr. Helen Taylor, Susan Jarvis, Gill Porter, Erica Wassell and Sherri Ogston-Tuck.

I end as ever by thanking you all for your support and, on the personal level, Lesley Smalman who is an absolute gem as a secretary/treasurer and does all the hard work!!

John Duddington November 2020