

## **Chairman of the Worcestershire Medico-Legal Society's Report for 2020-21 for the AGM held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2021 held remotely.**

In my report for 2019-20 I began by saying that 'At the risk of saying what just about everybody else is saying, this was an unusual year.' This was of course due to the pandemic and this similarly affected the programme for 2020-21.

The committee met again after the first lockdown on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2020 and agreed on a provisional programme and also agreed to ask the University if they would be willing to assist us in holding meetings remotely. (They kindly agreed to this).

The programme was to have been a varied one including one on Covid-19 and maternity issues, another on religion, autonomy and dementia and another one on DoLS and care home/nursing home residents during Covid-19 times. Unfortunately through a variety of circumstances, partly Covid related, none of these took place. However, one which is scheduled to take place is that by Dr Peter Unwin, Principal Lecturer in Social Work University of Worcester, and Ms Becki Meakin, General Manager, Shaping Our Lives. This was entitled 'The Equality Act 2010 – Experience of Disabled Foster Carers and Disabled Gypsy, Roma, Travellers' Communities'. We are looking forward to this on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

Following this we are hoping to resume the programme on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2021 with Dr Peter Unwin giving another talk on - 'Child Criminal Exploitation -Victims or Choosing a Lifestyle?'

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 2020-21 were: Dr. Tony Cole, Dr. Helen Taylor, Susan Jarvis, Gill Porter, Stephen Hurley and Sherri Ogston-Tuck.

I end as ever by thanking you all for your support and, on the personal level, Lesley Smallman who is an absolute gem as a secretary/treasurer and does all the hard work!! At times such as this, when so many small societies found great difficulties in surviving, it is a great tribute to Lesley that we kept going and are still in business!

John Duddington November 2021

