

### **Statement from outgoing President Mark Whittaker:**

I'd like to thank the committee for electing me to the role of President of the society at a time when I was facing surgery and chemotherapy for bowel cancer. It gave a huge boost to my morale and I'm sure this played a part in my recovery and eventual all-clear around a year later. It was great that it coincided with Marple Memorial Park's centenary year too.

I'm very sad to be stepping down after a much shorter period than I'd hoped or expected for private and personal reasons. It is my intention to continue supporting the society as I've done for so many years, especially with the web site, the online archives and the Virtual History Tour.

I wish great success for the committee and new officers elected at today's AGM. I'm sure they will be able to build on the legacy of outgoing Chairman Hilary Atkinson, who steps down having taken the society to a position of significant strength over many years of hard work.