

FROM THE CHAIR

Richard Feltham

Dear Members

What a great Spring meeting – an amazing two days of wonderful presentations (see pp. 14-16). An outstanding feat, considering that the decision to hold the meeting had only been made two months previously.

After two years of planning for the Convention, and then having Covid causing so much uncertainty that it became impossible to go ahead, the amazing Martin Gilbert, with the help of the others taking part, then managed to shoehorn three days into two days. Several presenters were faced with slashing their performance to fit the new time allowed. Then it was uncertain – even up to the Friday morning – whether Martin would be able to make it with all the equipment, as he had been in contact, the weekend before, with a person who tested positive with Covid. Thankfully he tested negative, much to the enormous relief of the rest of us. I extend my thanks to all who helped organise and present the



show – without their outstanding, and sometimes painful, efforts the event could not have taken place.

As my first meeting as Chair, it was somewhat daunting to be faced with a two-day meeting, being broadcast live, using equipment that many presenters were unfamiliar with, and presentations that were still being adjusted to the new format. It was gratifying to see the members working together to get the event set up and ready to roll. There was inevitably some chaos and not the ideal surroundings for getting ready for a performance. However, it was great to meet and socialise with so many members, and if I didn't get to say 'hello' to

you this time, I hope you will come and say 'hello' to me next time. I would also like to say thank you for all the kind words and emails I have received on taking up my new position as Chair.

I am looking forward to the meeting in Lacey Green on 23 July and hope to see as many of you there as possible.