

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2025 will be the last year of our Branch's existence and I write this report with a great sense of sadness. However in 2024 we have had two excellent meetings, the first in Caldbeck in May in the northern Lake District, and in September in Chichester. Both were well attended, and it was lovely to see Rachel Nicholson in Caldbeck, her home village, but most unfortunate that we were unable to see Brian Hopkins in his home town due to a broken hip! Events at both meetings are recorded in this Newsletter – as always.

As I write we await the online publication of Volume 89 of The Nigerian Field, the first we will have received this way. At present it is not clear how we can access this. It is to be hoped the webmaster will be able to sort this out soon. I hope too that other improvements in the website will soon be apparent – it is unfortunate that many of the items on the older one, now unavailable, were not included in this new one.

The committee is now meeting by Zoom and I think we will need to meet this way more frequently as our closure approaches! I am very grateful to all the committee members for their help and support over this last year. We are wrestling with some tricky problems as we move towards closure. Council understandingly are unhappy about this situation and unwilling to recognise its inevitability, in spite of our frequent confirmation. I hope that the Society will thrive in Nigeria and that the current move online will prove successful in spite what we can hopefully term 'teething problems'. It would be comforting to believe that in the future another UK Branch might be formed by Nigerians living in this country – there are certainly many Nigerians here.....

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