

Membership Secretary's Report 2023

At last year's AGM I reported that we had total of 664 members. I am very pleased to tell you that at the end of September this year we had reached 717 members an increase of 53.

When it comes to attracting new members, we had 146 new members in the year just finished. This is slightly down on the previous year's figure of 157, but I think that during 2022 a lot of people were still catching up on their social life after all the restrictions owing to COVID and this resulted in a big boost in our recruitment.

Last year 6 members sadly passed away while 45 resigned, many of these were due to ill-health or moving away from the area. At the beginning of 2023, 42 became lapsed members as they had not paid their subscriptions.

My five year stint as Membership Secretary comes to an end has come to an end and I have mixed feelings about that. In fact my time in that job is slightly less than that. When I was supposed to become Membership Secretary I was still acting as Social Secretary and I was in the middle of organising our Festive Lunch so Andrew Harper kindly carried on with the Membership role for some weeks until I was able to take up the reins.

I must apologise for not being with you at the AGM as I am currently on holiday and I am very grateful to Rita Dael for looking after things for the last few weeks. I am confident that I am leaving things in Rita's capable hands

Looking to the future, we are looking at the possibility of making it easier for you to pay your membership fees by making a payment straight to our Membership system called Beacon. This should be a big step in the right direction.