

Membership Secretary's Report for the Year Ended 31 May 2018

Membership numbers, shown by category and area of residence at the close of the year, were:

Category		UK	Europe	Rest of World	Total
A	Fellow	22	0	1	23
C	Individual	187	21	11	219
D	Joint	65	1	0	66
F	Corporate	4	2	3	9
G	Life	23	1	1	25
H	Honorary	5	1	0	6
J	Sister Organisations	24	2	0	26
Totals		330	28	16	374

Comparison to the previous membership year ended 31 May 2017

The total membership has fallen from 388 to 374. 17 new members joined and leavers numbered 34 as opposed to 19 last year. Two members who left today gave the new rates from 1 June 2018 as their specific reason.

Subscription Renewal

Many UK members responded with their cheque payments to the renewal notices placed in *Follies* magazines during the year and personal contact prompted later renewals but there were instances of no reply being received at all. Due to the ability to join via PayPal on the website subscriptions continue to be received at various times throughout the year. New and existing members using the automatic renewal PayPal facility now available has risen again to over 16%.

As from 1 June 2018 the individual and joint memberships will be replaced by a "one fits all" category. New members will be categorised as D but C will remain for existing members to avoid confusion.

Email addresses are held for nearly three-quarters of the membership. It is important to notify the Membership Secretary of **any** changes to contact details.

European members: Pieter and Rita Boogaart, in post as Regional Secretary, collect subscriptions which are paid in Euros into an account in The Netherlands. I wish to record my thanks to them for their continuing support.

Merchandise

Follies products continue to be sold via Alan Terrill, our webmaster who also oversees the PayPal facility for subscription renewals and outings. My thanks to Alan for administering this facility.

Looking ahead

Renewal notices and reminders will appear in *Follies* magazine, along with current subscription rates. An accurate membership list can only be maintained by close monitoring of renewals, to spot who has not renewed, since many people do not respond to email or postal communications or actively resign. Each member who renews on time on 1 June and at the correct rate reduces the administration involved. All members are also encouraged to participate in the Fellowship's activities and spread the word about membership of your *Folly* Fellowship. Membership as a birthday, Christmas or anniversary present is a great gift idea and, historically, the receiver will join the Folly Fellowship when the year comes to an end.

Gift Aid Declarations provide your Fellowship with an extra valuable strand of income and I am pleased to report that a claim has been submitted for this financial year today at a higher rate than last year. During the year I again contacted all members who had not submitted a declaration previously which resulted in an additional 10.

Gloria Powell
31 May 2018