

Membership Secretary's Report for the Year Ended 31 May 2023

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	24	0	1	25
C	Individual	102	8	6	116
D	Joint/now family	97	4	7	108
F	Corporate	2	2	3	7
G	Life	22	0	1	23
H	Honorary	8	1	0	9
J	Sister Organisations	20	1	0	21
Totals		275	16	18	309

Comparison to the previous membership year ended 31 May 2022

The total membership has fallen to 309. 10 new members joined and leavers numbered 18 as opposed to 24 last year (eight in category C, eight in category D and two others).

Subscription Renewal

A handful of UK members have still not altered standing orders to the new flat rate of £40 despite sending out new mandates to all who were still paying the old rates but arrears are collected. There is only one member who unfortunately I still have not managed to collect the shortfall from as communications remain ignored. 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 has remained at 29%.

Email addresses are now held for just over 84% of the membership. It is important to notify the Membership Secretary of **any** changes to contact details.

European members: From 1 June 2021 all European members paid via the website in sterling.

Merchandise

Follies products continue to be sold via Alan Terrill, our webmaster, who also oversees the PayPal facility for subscription renewals so 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 yet again we have enjoyed some superb Zoom talks over the winter season.

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 yet again a claim was submitted for this financial year today. Gift Aid Declarations are held for just over 82% of eligible UK members despite all members receiving forms at least once a year with a request to fill it in and return to me. Having said that The Folly Fellowship has received over £1,000 for each year that I have been claiming from HMRC.

Gloria Powell
31 May 2023