

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR 2006

When I came to prepare this report for the AGM, I realised that I'm the only dinosaur on the Committee, still plodding along with transparencies on the overhead projector. I decided that this year I really ought to enter the 21st century and give my presentation on 'Powerpoint' (A software package that delivers a slide show via the PC and data projector.).

I have been reluctant to do this up to now, for three reasons:

1. It seems overkill for the type of data that I present.
2. Some of the worst presentations I have had to sit through have been done on 'Powerpoint', and this has put me off.
3. I've never had to learn it before.

However last year I had to do a general IT qualification and part of that was learning 'Powerpoint'. Hence I delivered a new, improved hi-tech membership secretary's report to the AGM (Before any pedants ask, it was the report that was new and improved, not the membership secretary!).

As it was my debut presentation, the ability to show colour slides was too tempting to resist and I included a few spurious wildlife pictures before the facts and figures were delivered:

Non Payer Letters sent out in November

I sent out 26 letters in November 2006 to people who (apparently) hadn't paid in 2005 and 2006. I received 15 replies, containing five requests for removal and ten payments, of which nine were for both of the outstanding years and five also filled in Standing Order Forms. The remaining 11 people who did not reply were then removed from the membership list in January 2007, before the AGM mailing.

New Members joining in 2005

As I started to do last year, I wrote letters at the beginning of December to any members who had joined in 2005, but who had not paid a subscription in 2006, inviting them to remain in the Society, explaining the two different ways they could pay their subscription, and enclosing a Standing Order form. There had been 24 new members in 2005 and I wrote to 12 of them.

Membership Numbers

The current membership numbers are shown below. I hope that I may be able to prepare something about the pattern of membership for the next AGM. The numbers seem to have kept remarkably stable over the last few years. Although there has been a healthy number of new members joining every year, the total membership seems to hover permanently around the 360 mark.

Wrong Addresses

The current list of wrong addresses goes back to 2000, and so most names have been shown previously at the AGM. If the people involved are either life members, or are still paying the membership subscription, their details have been kept on one side and have not been removed, but no further mail has been sent to them. The Committee has decided that if it is not possible to make any progress in tracing these members within three years, their names should be dropped from the database.

I came onto the Committee in March 1999, and took on the role of membership secretary after the 2000 AGM. It is now March 2007 and I intend to stand down at the AGM in 2009. Two years notice may seem excessive, but given the on-going nature of the work I do, I feel it would be a good idea to spend at least the last year overlapping with whoever takes over this role. If anyone is interested in taking on this role, we shall be looking for volunteers next year.

Our total membership details, the names of the new members for 2006 and our current 'lost members' lists are printed below.

If you need to contact me for a Standing Order Request Form, or can help trace a 'lost member', please give me a ring on 01656 720335 or write to Miss M Shaw (LFS), 49 Blackmill Road, Bryncethin, Bridgend, CF32 9YN.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP DETAILS

Family	71
Honorary	17
Life	79
Ordinary	145
Pensioner	45
Student	2
Total	359

NEW MEMBERS IN 2006 (29)

NAME	TOWN	INTERESTS
Mr S H Blows	Biggleswade	History, Philately
Mr & Mrs J Bowden	Colchester	
Mr & Mrs D R Brock	Torrington	
Mr M D Burridge	Bristol	Lundy
Miss R Cave	Bristol	
Mrs K M Cawthra	Horsham	Gardening, Walking
Mrs J Cloak	Bideford	Gardening, Walking
Mr & Mrs G Davies	Ramsbury	
Mr M Deaton	Bideford	Marine Biology, Marine
Mrs L Dixon-Chatfield & Mr T Newcombe	Westward Ho!	Lundy, Archaeology
Ms J Edwards	Maidstone	Lundy
Dr M E Gillham	Nr Cardiff	Islands, Botany
Mrs P M Hand	Bagshot	Walking, Reading
Dr J & Dr J R Harris	Plymouth	Ecology
Mr J L Harris & Mrs E Trump	Tiverton	Birds, Sea-life
Mr S Hendry	Bideford	
Mr K Howell	Penarth	History, Military
Mr R A Letcher	Paignton	Bird Watching
Ms B Long	Petersfield	

Dr & Mrs P A Madgett	Braunton	Geology, Natural History
Mrs C J Mills	Diss	Archaeology, Birds
Dr B Osthaus	Exeter	Wildlife
Mr & Mrs M Penrose	Penzance	Walking, Volunteer Working
Miss A Roberts	Exeter	Bird Watching
Ms N Saunders	Lundy	Lundy Warden
Mr G K Sherman	Lundy	Guillemots, Puffins
Ms C Tomlinson-Smith	Barnstaple	
Mr A J Wardle	Exeter	Geology, Plants
Dr D Witcomb	Magor	Marine Biology, Fungi

LOST MEMBERS (WRONG ADDRESSES)

NAME	ADDRESS	LOST CONTACT
Ms C Nicholls	3 Melville Terrace, Lostwithiel	2001
Mr & Mrs Murphy	10 Bracken Close, Carterton	2001
Mr J R Bower	45 Stuart Road, Exeter	2003
Mr E G Holt	The Croft, Brent Knoll	2005
Miss H R Bristow	2 Kestrel Avenue, London	2005

MAGGIE SHAW
June 2007